

RESIDUE & TILLAGE MANAGEMENT: REDUCED TILL



Residue & Tillage Management- Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345) is a 3-year practice that manages the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round. It limits soil disturbing activities in systems where the field surface is tilled before planting .

Part of California Farm Bureau's Healthy Soils Block Grant Program, learn more online at: cfbf.com/HSP

This practice aims to:

- Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion.
- Reduce tillage-induced emissions.
- Improve soil health and organic matter content.
- Reduce energy use.

Criteria

- This practice cannot overlap with filter strip, windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, hedgerow planting, and conservation cover practices.
- This practice encompasses tillage methods known as mulch tillage or conservation tillage, where tillage operations such as chisel plowing, field cultivating, tandem disking, or vertical tillage may disturb the entire soil surface.
- Ensure uniform distribution of residues across the field. Removing residue from the row area for planting is allowed.
- Do not burn residues.
- The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) must account for all soil-disturbing operations from post-harvest of one crop to the harvest of the next, including fallow periods.
- The STIR should not exceed 80, avoiding primary inversion tillage tools like the moldboard plow.

Implementation Guidelines:

- Tillage methods (mulch/vertical tillage, chiseling, or disking) that limit soil disturbance or fewer tillage operations.
- Plant residue covering soil surface during winter-spring period.
- A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance dates of activities and equipment used.

Appendix A: Standard Payment

Reduced till : \$40.74 per acre

Verification Requirements:

- 3-4 geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year.
- A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met.
- Verification at the end of the project year.