CONSERVATION TILLAGE DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF SYSTEMS

Conservation Tillage

Any tillage and planting system that maintains at least 30 percent of the soil surface covered by residue after planting to reduce soil erosion by water; or where soil erosion by wind is the primary concern, maintains at least 1,000 pounds of flat small grain residue equivalent on the surface during the critical erosion period.

Types of Conservation Tillage

1. No-Till
The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. Planting is completed in a narrow seedbed or slot. Weed control is usually accomplished with herbicides.

2. Ridge-Till
The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. Planting is completed in the seedbed prepared on ridges, generally 4-6 inches higher than the row middles, with sweeps or row cleaners. Weed control is accomplished with a combination of herbicides and cultivation. Cultivation is used to rebuild ridges.

3. Strip-Till
The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. Tillage in the row may consist of a rototiller, in-row chisel, row cleaners, etc. Weed control is accomplished with a combination of herbicides and cultivation.

4. Mulch-Till
The total soil surface is disturbed by tillage prior to planting. Tillage tools such as chisels, field cultivators, discs, sweeps, or blades are used. Weed control is accomplished with a combination of herbicides and cultivation.

5. Reduced-Till
Any other tillage and planting system not covered above that meets the 30 percent residue requirement.