

AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

CONSERVATION TILLAGE/CROP RESIDUE USE

CROPS BMP #3



Strip tilling -Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Description:

Any tillage and planting system in which enough of the soil surface is covered by plant residue after planting to minimize soil erosion by water.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Adopt any tillage or planting system to maintain an adequate cover (at least 30% of the soil surface covered by residue after planting) to reduce soil erosion to acceptable levels.

Recommendations:

Reduced tillage and no-till should be selected in soils and cropping systems where practical.

For corn, soybean, and wheat in Kentucky, no-tillage generally results in yields better than or equal to yields in tilled systems.

Technical References

University Publications

- [University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Extension publications](#)

USDA/NRCS Publications

- [Practice Code 329 Residue and Tillage Management](#)
- [Practice Code 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till](#)

Funding Assistance Options

State Cost Share

- See your local Conservation District to [apply](#).

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (🌊-🌊🌊🌊🌊): 🌊
(KEY: 🌊=good, 🌊🌊🌊🌊=best: see [STEPL Model](#))

Wildlife Benefits

- Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Habitat Improvement Program](#) on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).