# Conservation Tillage/Crop Residue Use

**Crops BMP #3**

**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/KAFPC)**
- 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).