

Conservation Tillage Panel

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Mark Reiter	VT
Jeff Sweeney	EPA
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Existing CT Practices

1. Conventional Tillage:
Model base condition expressed as a land use. Range of residue values from 0 to 29% at planting.
2. Conservation Tillage:
Annual BMP expressed as a land use. Range of residue values from 30%+ at planting.
3. Continuous No-Till:
Annual BMP expressed only as an effectiveness value with the CT land use. Incorporates cover crop and NM BMPs. Minimum 5 year CNT crop rotation required.

Draft Recommendations

1. Conventional Tillage:
No changes suggested.
2. Conservation Tillage:
Suggest annual BMP represented as an effectiveness value. Range of crop residue values reduced due to new higher residue categories.
3. Strip Tillage:
Potential new annual intermediate category expressed as an effectiveness value. TBD.
4. Annual No-Till:
Suggested new annual intermediate category for higher crop residue levels expressed as an effectiveness value.
5. Continuous No-till:
Suggest annual BMP represented as a effectiveness value. Allow stacking of cover crops and NM with separate effectiveness values. Continue existing BMP definitions including minimum 5 year CNT crop rotation.

Draft Recommendations Cont.

- Implementation data for new proposed categories are currently available from several sources including CTIC, USDA-NASS, and PA.
- Phase 5 model recommendations will be limited for CT, but are open for CNT and potential new categories above CT level.
- Phase 6 model recommendations would be open to full recommendations.

AgWG Comments/Suggestions

- Encouraged to review NRCS standards (practice codes 329, 345, 346) as potential definitions for tillage “categories”
 - States can develop interim standards
- Verification: required and should be consistent
- “Stacking” of BMP’s
- Review tillage practices interaction/eligibility with various land uses (specialty crops)