

Name of Practice: Continuous High Residue Minimal Soil Disturbance Tillage System
DCR Specifications for No. SL-15A

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's high residue minimal soil disturbance system best management practice, that are applicable to all contracts, entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will implement continuous high residue minimal soil disturbance tillage systems and nutrient management technologies resulting in the reduction of non-point source pollution to state waters from nutrients and sediments. It will also increase biomass/soil quality and recognize nutrient management indicators and manage the movement of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediments and runoff with the use of no-till planting.

To encourage the conversion of minimum and conventional tillage fields to a continuous high residue minimal soil disturbance tillage system.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility

- i. All eligible fields must be converting from a minimum till or conventional till systems to a high residue minimal soil disturbance tillage system.
 - ii. All eligible fields must have a cropping history two out of the past five years.
 - iii. Multi year multi-crop rotations that include at least two crops of small grain in five years are eligible. All required small grain crops may be harvested for grain only. Straw must remain on the field. Permanent grass or hay land is not considered cropland (for this practice).
2. If the planting of a cover crop is needed to maintain biomass, producer is eligible to plant cover under SL-8B, or WQ-4.
 3. Producers must be fully implementing a current nutrient management plan prepared and signed by a certified nutrient management planner. Cost-Share payments shall not be made until a current nutrient management plan is on file with the SWCD. SWCD staff should utilize the NMP maps, nutrient balance sheets, and summary sheets to confirm conservation practice implementation. A comparison between crop recommendations and in field conditions shall be used when certifying conservation practice compliance. The plan must include all agricultural production acreage contained within the tract that this BMP will be implemented on and must be on file with the local SWCD.
 4. All crops must be planted using no-till methods.
 5. State cost-share will be provided only one time per field.

6. Fields that have received payment in federal continuous no till or conservation tillage programs are not eligible to participate in this practice. However, fields that have received cost share payment through this practice are not restricted by this practice from participation in Federal or State conservation systems programs.
7. Biomass requirements for all crop rotations must maintain a minimum of 60% residue cover on the enrolled acres for the lifespan of the practice.
8. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 340 Cover Crop, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 590 Nutrient Management, and 595 Integrated Pest Management.
9. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit for this practice the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the SWCD throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost share and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

1. As set forth by Virginia Code § 58.1-339.3 and §58.1-439.5, Virginia law currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain BMP practices. The current tax credit rate, which is subject to change in accordance with the Code of Virginia, is 25% of the total eligible cost not to exceed \$17,500.00.
2. If a cooperator receives cost-share, only the cooperator's eligible out-of-pocket share of the project cost is used to determine the tax credit.
3. For participants who certify in writing (*see language on next page*) that they will not utilize the tax credit set forth above with regard to the implementation of this practice and who are not receiving payment for a continuous no-till system from any other source on the same acreage, the state cost-share rate is a one time incentive payment of \$70 per acre.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and SWCD staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE . Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above, and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA), for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised March, 2016

Certification from an Agricultural Best Management Practice Participant that
a Tax Credit will not be Utilized

I, _____ hereby certify that I will not claim the tax credit which is available for participation in the Continuous High Residue Minimal Soil Disturbance Tillage System, SL-15A practice, and therefore I am eligible for cost-share funding available under that practice for participants who do not wish to utilize the tax credit. I understand that any cost-share funds received must be returned should I claim the tax credit.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

