



Are YOU ready?

TAKE THE

**NO-TILL
CHALLENGE**



Whether part of your conservation plan or not, long-term no-till offers many environmental and economic benefits:

- Reduced soil erosion
- Increased soil quality
- Improved water infiltration
- Reduced fuel, labor and machinery costs

Many producers think they are capturing those benefits, but they are not.

ARE YOU?

**Does your conservation plan
include no-till?**

**Do you consider yourself
a no-till farmer?**

CAN YOU PASS THE
**No-Till
CHALLENGE?**

Turn the page to find out!

1

Do you use a
rotary harrow on
your no-till ground?

YES: turn to
pg. 7

NO: turn to
next pg.

2

Do you use a
row crop cultivator
on your no-till
ground?

YES: turn to
pg. 7

NO: turn to
next pg.

3

Do you use
a vertical tillage
tool on your no-till
ground?

YES: turn to
pg. 7

NO: turn to
next pg.

4

Do you incorporate
manure with
disk covers
on your no-till
ground?

YES: turn to
pg. 7

NO: turn to
next pg.

5

Do you till your
ground every
other year or
once in four years?

YES: turn to
pg. 7

NO: turn to
pg. 11



7

Sorry!

You failed the

No-Till

CHALLENGE

Since you answered yes to at least one of the previous questions, this indicates you are not following the NRCS requirements for no-till. Please visit your local NRCS office to find out how you can fully benefit from a no-till system.

8

Why did I fail?

There is a misconception that if you leave a field covered with residue, you are a no-till farmer.

No-till is not just about leaving residue on the soil surface. It is also about stopping the disturbance of the soil structure. Any tillage, regardless of its depth, will undo all the benefits of any previous no-till farming if it fractures the consolidated soil and breaks the macropores. This includes losing any improvements in soil quality gained by previous investments in no-till.

9

Looking for help?

If you need additional information about no-till farming, your conservation plan or other conservation-related questions, please contact your local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Our trained staff can help you determine if you are following the requirements in your conservation plan as well as provide more information about no-till farming methods. If you are not following your plan, you may lose eligibility for USDA benefits. You may also visit NRCS on the web at:

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov



11

Way to go!

You passed the

No-Till CHALLENGE

Based on the questions in this challenge, you are following basic NRCS no-till requirements and capturing the economic and environmental benefits of a no-till system. For verification, visit your local NRCS office.





Helping People Help the Land
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.