

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT, RIDGE TILL

(Acre)
Code 329C

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:

The following specifications provide additional guidance to ensure proper implementation of this practice and meet planned objectives.

1. Following crop harvest and any secondary residue removal, residue shall be maintained until planting with no additional disturbance.
2. Maintain ridge height throughout the harvest and winter seasons by controlling equipment operations.
3. Residue shall be maintained in the furrows during planting operations. Ridges shall be rebuilt to their original height and shape during the last row cultivation.
4. Loose residue to be retained on the field shall be uniformly distributed on the soil surface. Cultivators and planters with ridging attachments shall be used.
5. Partial removal of residue by means such as baling or grazing, shall be limited to retain the amount needed for the identified purpose(s).

Sheet and Rill Erosion:

- a. Planting and/or fertilizer placement shall disturb no more than one third of the row width. Soil and residue removed from the top of the ridge shall be moved into the furrow between the ridges.
- b. After planting, the top of the ridge shall be maintained at least 3 inches higher than the furrow between the ridges.

- c. The ridge shall be shaped to encourage residue accumulation in the furrows and direct water away from the planted rows down to the furrows.

Soil Organic Matter and Tillth:

Cultivation to rebuild ridges shall be done using implements which maintain residue in the surface layer.

Managing Snow to Increase Plant Available Moisture:

- a. Stubble shall be left standing as high as possible over winter by the harvesting operation but no less than 6 inches.
- b. In cases where the minimum 6 inch stubble height cannot be achieved, ridges shall be oriented not to exceed 45 degrees from perpendicular to the prevailing erosive wind direction.

Cool Wet Site Conditions:

Ridge height prior to planting shall not be less than 6 inches. After planting, the top of the ridge shall be maintained at least 3 inches higher than the furrow between the ridges.

Food and Escape Cover for Wildlife:

Stubble shall be maintained standing over winter. Residue will not be removed unless it is determined that removal will not adversely affect habitat values.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Operation and Maintenance:

1. Special considerations for Pest Management:
 - a. Special precautions must be taken to ensure that perennial weeds such as bindweed, johnsongrass and blueweed are not allowed to build up.
 - b. Appropriate actions must be taken as needed for insect control, particularly around field boundaries, fences or other infectious sites.
2. Special attention is needed to ensure that eroded areas are repaired in a timely manner.
3. Proper operation and maintenance of equipment is needed to enhance this practice.