

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Transmitted via Email

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 450-7-1

SUBJECT: TCH – TILLAGE TRANSECT

Purpose. To inform NRCS field offices a new BWSR initiative for the 2007.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

Over the course of many years NRCS, SWCDs and BWSR have collaborated in an effort to collect conservation tillage data in the spring after planting. Most recently this effort has been sponsored nationally by the Conservation Tillage Information Center (CTIC) as the “tillage transect survey”. The data obtained in these annual surveys has been valuable, but after 2004, NRCS decided that we could no longer devote the time or resources to continue this effort.

This year, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has allocated some of their state Clean Water Legacy funds to contract with the Water Resources Center (WRC) at Minnesota State University, Mankato, to coordinate and conduct a tillage transect survey. They have plans to contract with as many as 70 SWCDs to complete the work on this survey. Selected SWCDs will be contacted directly by Shannon Fisher from the WRC.

The following is an overview of how this process will work:

1. The WRC will provide a request for assistance to the SWCDs in the selected counties. This would be a contractual agreement between the WRC and the SWCD to gather the tillage data. The WRC already has the maps of the routes that were used for previous transects.
2. SWCDs will receive a fixed rate of \$1,000 for staff time plus \$115 for mileage.
3. If the SWCD declines participation in one of the selected counties, the WRC will seek other local entities to perform the task.
4. The WRC will be generating a statewide tillage transect route GIS layer, handle all data management once collected, and complete various evaluation on the data.

NRCS is not involved in providing direct technical assistance to complete the 2007 tillage transect. However, we do support this effort and, when requested, NRCS staffs are authorized to provide training on the proper technique for measuring residue and allow use of NRCS residue measuring equipment. Questions on this bulletin may be directed to Robin Martinek, State Agronomist, at (651) 602-7866 or Paul Flynn, SRC, at (651) 602-7870.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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