



Boost your bottom line by Going No-Till

The benefit to your farm:

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you qualify for funds that decrease the cost of implementing a continuous no-till system of crop production, which can boost your bottom line by:

- Reducing fuel and maintenance costs.
- Improving long-term soil quality and crop yield.
- Giving you more time to pursue other activities.

Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

How it works:

Continuous no-till systems reduce non-point source pollution by preventing soil erosion, reducing fertilizer use and limiting nutrient runoff. Crop residues shield the earth from wind and rain, while fixing nitrogen in the soil so it is available to subsequent crops.

Because they increase biomass, no-till systems yield the greatest economic benefits when they are applied to soils that are low in organic content. It's easier than ever to adopt no-till, because methods now have been developed for a variety of cropping systems.

The payoff:

In State Program Year 2023, the Virginia Cost-Share reimbursement rate is:

- **\$70/acre** for Continuous High Residue Minimal Soil Disturbance Tillage Systems, which are defined as a combination of minimal-till planting methods and nutrient management technologies and maintained for a minimum of five years.
- **\$35/acre** for Continuous No-Till Forage Production Systems, which are defined as a combination of no-till planting methods and nutrient management technologies applied to established forage production fields and maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

District staff can direct you to additional opportunities that fit your operation, including cover crop programs that can enhance the effectiveness of your no-till system.

Next steps:

Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement no-till best management practices. They also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.

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