

THE FOUNDATION OF ALL CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES IS A CURRENT PLAN FOR YOUR FARM.

Pennsylvania farmers have long done their part to protect the environment while growing the food and fiber that supports our state, nation and world. With the recent passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, Pennsylvania has a unique opportunity to build upon existing efforts to protect the legacy of our farms for future generations.

This pamphlet provides information on a suite of core conservation practices that farmers can implement based on their specific needs. Used individually, these core practices can increase production, decrease fuel use, and protect your farm's resources – but when used together they function as key components of a whole-farm conservation planning system.

For more information on these core conservation practices, contact your county conservation district (listed on the back panel), any NRCS office, or your private sector agricultural consultant. As with many aspects of managing your farm, sound technical assistance and advice will prove to be invaluable.

Partner Organizations

- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Farm Service Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- PennAg Industries Association
- Penn State Extension
- Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc
- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
- Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance
- Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
- Pennsylvania State Grange

PA Conservation Districts by County

Adams.....(717) 334-0636	Lancaster.....(717) 299-5361
Allegheny.....(412) 241-7645	Lawrence.....(724) 652-4512
Armstrong.....(724) 545-3628	Lebanon.....(717) 272-3908, ext. 4
Beaver.....(724) 378-1701	Lehigh.....(610) 391-9583
Bedford.....(814) 623-7900, ext. 4	Luzerne.....(570) 674-7991
Berks.....(610) 372-4657	Lycoming.....(570) 433-3003
Blair.....(814) 696-0877, ext. 5	McKean.....(814) 887-4001
Bradford.....(570) 265-5539, ext. 6	Mercer.....(724) 662-2242
Bucks.....(215) 345-7577	Mifflin.....(717) 248-4695
Butler.....(724) 284-5270	Monroe.....(570) 629-3060
Cambria.....(814) 472-2120	Montgomery.....(610) 489-4506
Cameron.....(814) 486-2244, ext. 5	Montour.....(570) 271-1140
Carbon.....(610) 377-4894, ext. 4	Northampton.....(610) 746-1971
Centre.....(814) 355-6817	Northumberland.....(570) 286-7114, ext. 4
Chester.....(610) 925-4920	Perry.....(717) 582-8988, ext. 4
Clarion.....(814) 226-4070	Pike.....(570) 226-8220
Clearfield.....(814) 765-2629	Potter.....(814) 274-8411, ext. 4
Clinton.....(570) 726-3798	Schuylkill.....(570) 622-3742, ext. 5
Columbia.....(570) 784-1310, ext. 102	Snyder.....(570) 837-0007, ext. 5
Crawford.....(814) 763-5269	Somerset.....(814) 445-4652, ext. 5
Cumberland.....(717) 240-7812	Sullivan.....(570) 928-7057
Dauphin.....(717) 921-8100	Susquehanna.....(570) 278-4600, ext. 280
Delaware.....(610) 892-9484	Tioga.....(570) 724-1801, ext. 5
Erie.....(814) 825-6403	Union.....(570) 524-3860
Elk.....(814) 776-5373	Venango.....(814) 676-2832
Fayette.....(724) 438-4497	Warren.....(814) 563-3117
Forest.....(814) 755-3450	Washington.....(724) 222-3060, ext. 105
Franklin.....(717) 264-5499	Wayne.....(570) 253-0930
Fulton.....(717) 485-3547	Westmoreland.....(724) 837-5271
Greene.....(724) 852-5278	Wyoming.....(570) 836-2589
Huntingdon.....(814) 627-1627	York.....(717) 840-7430
Indiana.....(724) 463-8547, ext. 4	
Jefferson.....(814) 849-7463	
Juniata.....(717) 436-8953, ext. 5	
Lackawanna.....(570) 281-9495	

The 2008 Farm Bill has increased federal farm bill funding for important conservation efforts across the nation. Contact your County Conservation District if you would like to learn more about these core conservation practices and how to make them a part of your conservation plan, or for available funding for your farm.

For more information, contact
the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
(717) 787-8821 • www.agriculture.state.pa.us/scc

CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR YOUR FARM

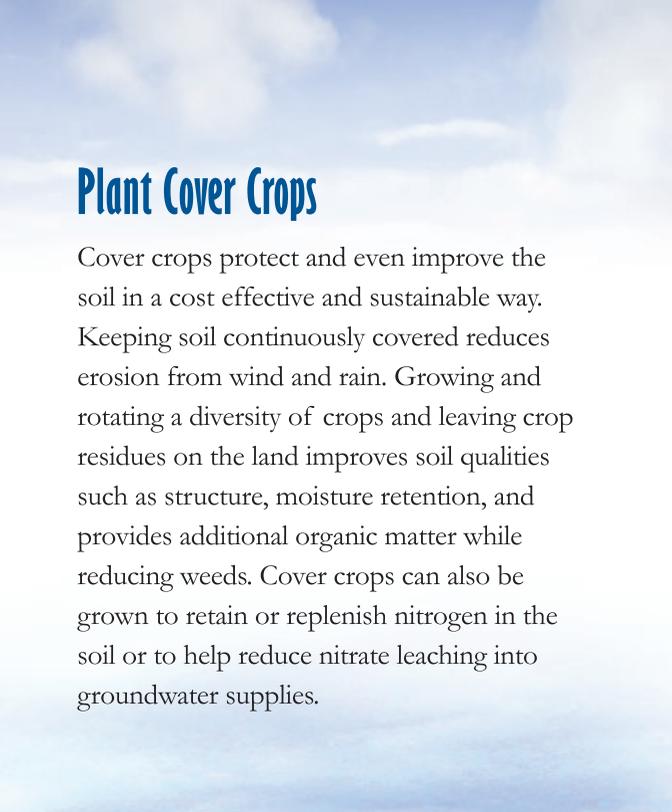
Installing a system of conservation practices that will

- Improve production
- Decrease fuel use
- Protect your farm's resources



Create a Nutrient Management Plan — And Follow It

Nutrient management is precisely that — balancing the nutrient resources on your farm so they are not wasted and introduced into waterways. Developing and implementing a nutrient management plan for your farm provides a key tool to efficiently and effectively manage nutrients to enhance growing conditions and improve on-farm profitability. Managing nutrients in animal agriculture can include precision feeding, manure and fertilizer application on fields, barnyard management and manure storage. Correct implementation can save money and improve productivity while reducing the nutrient load that leaves the farm, improving the local and regional environment.



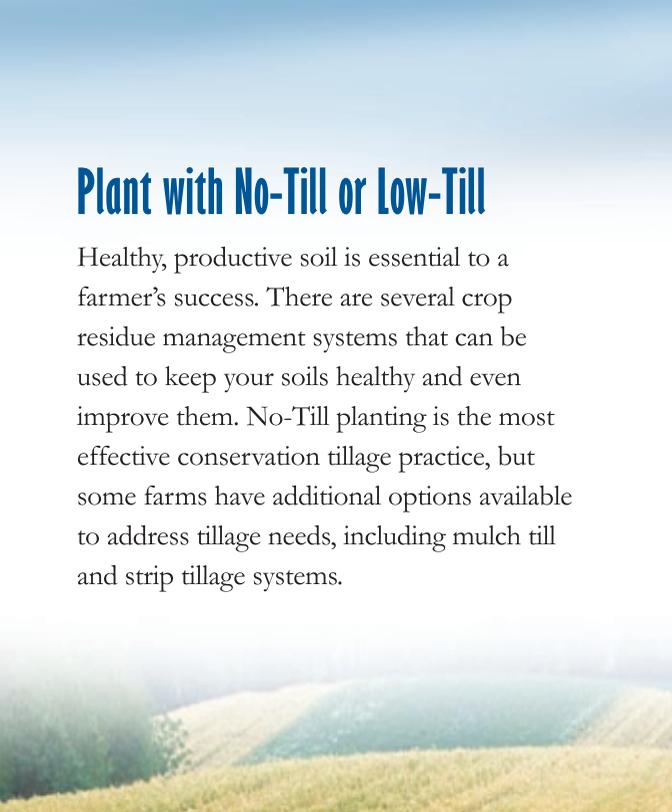
Plant Cover Crops

Cover crops protect and even improve the soil in a cost effective and sustainable way. Keeping soil continuously covered reduces erosion from wind and rain. Growing and rotating a diversity of crops and leaving crop residues on the land improves soil qualities such as structure, moisture retention, and provides additional organic matter while reducing weeds. Cover crops can also be grown to retain or replenish nitrogen in the soil or to help reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater supplies.



Establish Streamside Buffers

Keeping stream banks surrounded by permanent vegetation reduces non-point source pollution entering Pennsylvania's waterways from agriculture production. Grassed and forested stream buffers trap sediment, mitigate pesticides, filter out nutrients, and provide habitat and corridors for fish and wildlife. Fencing livestock out of waterways may also be a necessary part of establishing and maintaining stream buffers and protecting animal health. Streamside buffers also play an important role in reducing damage to property during flood events by absorbing some of the energy of floodwaters.



Plant with No-Till or Low-Till

Healthy, productive soil is essential to a farmer's success. There are several crop residue management systems that can be used to keep your soils healthy and even improve them. No-Till planting is the most effective conservation tillage practice, but some farms have additional options available to address tillage needs, including mulch till and strip tillage systems.