

24% of cropland has conservation tillage

FT. WAYNE, Ind. — Over 94 million acres of cropland in the United States were under some form of conservation tillage last year according to new information released here by the Conservation Tillage Information Center. The figure represents nearly 24% of total U.S. cropland and is part of the Center's "1982 Survey of Conservation Tillage Practices."

"We are encouraged by the number of acres that are being put

into conservation tillage practices," says Richard Foell, Chairman of the Center's Executive Committee. "This survey will be useful to anyone interested in how and where our nation's farming practices are shifting from conventional forms of tillage to those that protect our soil and water resources."

Survey results showed that Iowa had the largest acreage (13,633,500) in conservation tillage

and Delaware had the largest percentage of its areas in conservation tillage (79%). Other highlights showed that Kentucky had the largest number of cropland acres in no-till (1,389,500) and Delaware had the largest percentage of their cropland in no-till (32%). Kansas had the largest acreage of ridge-till (974,273).

The 83-page National Survey provides the number of acres of conservation tillage (including no-till, strip-till, mulch-till, ridge-till and reduced-till) in each state. It gives national and regional totals for each of these categories and provides a ranking of the states by the number of acres in each conservation tillage system for all major crops. States are also ranked by each conservation

tillage system compared to total cropland within the state.

The survey was undertaken by the Conservation Tillage Information Center to get a broad national perspective of the status of the various types of conservation tillage in all regions of the country. According to Foell, a key to the survey was the development of a set of national definitions, that include soil erosion control objectives, to make sure that information collected was comparable from state-to-state and region-to-region.

Information for the survey was collected from the state Soil Conservation Agencies, state offices of the Soil Conservation Service and the Cooperative Ex-

tension Service. Computer print-outs of state results were returned to these offices for re-evaluation and correction to assure that results represent an accurate assessment of the various types of conservation tillage currently being used on major agricultural crops produced in the United States.

The National Survey may be purchased from the Conservation Tillage Information Center - One page, individual state summaries are also available. For more information, contact James E. Lake, or Bruce Julian at (219) 426-6642 or write: Conservation Tillage Information Center, 2010 Inwood Drive, Executive Park, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46815.

Conservation tillage definitions

Conservation Tillage

For the purposes of the Center, conservation tillage is defined as those methods of farming which maintain adequate plant cover on the land to conserve vital national resources of soil and water, while reducing the labor, energy, and capital needed to maintain the economic vitality of American agriculture. Within this general definition, the following subcategories are defined:

No-Till

Preparation of the seedbed and planting is completed in one operation. Soil disturbance at planting time is limited to the area contacted by the rolling coulters. A minimum of 90% of the previous crop residue is left on the soil surface immediately after planting.

Ridge-Till

Preparation of the seedbed and planting is completed in one operation on ridges. Ridges are usually 4-8 inches higher in elevation than the row middles. Ridges are maintained and rebuilt through prior year cultivation. A minimum of 66% of the previous crop residue is left on the soil surface immediately after planting.

Strip-Till

Preparation of the seedbed and planting are completed in one operation, with tillage limited to a narrow band centered on the growing row. Area between rows, exclusive of tillage bands, is disturbed. A minimum of 50% of the previous crop residue is left on the soil surface immediately after planting.

Mulch-Till

Preparation of the seedbed involves loosening and/or mixing the soil and incorporating a portion of the previous crop residue into the soil. Tillage tools include: chisels, wide sweeps, discs, harrow, etc. A minimum of 33% of the previous crop residue is left on the soil surface immediately after planting.

Reduced-Till

The reduction of conventional tillage trips as a result of vegetative chemical control, combined tillage operations, or multi-function tillage tools. A minimum of 20% of the previous crop residue is left on the soil immediately after planting.

Nuclear booklet available

MIDDLETOWN — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has announced that farmers living in the Three Mile Island area will soon receive a booklet printed by GPU Nuclear entitled, "Farmers' Emergency Information: What You Should Know About Nuclear Power Plant Incidents."

Hallowell said the booklet contains general information on the needs and care of livestock and poultry. Where and when to shelter animals, how much space they require and their food and water requirements are some of the things discussed in the booklet.

"Specific information on what farmers will be asked to do and where they can receive information and answers to their questions should an incident occur are included," Hallowell said.

"Farmers' Emergency In-

formation" was compiled by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for farmers. "The information in the booklet is specific for farmers but it is not meant to be a farmer's only source of information," explained Hallowell. "The booklet was intended to supplement the emergency information given by the Emergency Management Agency and the information contained in 'What You Should Know About Nuclear Power Plant Incidents' which has already been distributed by GPU Nuclear in the Three Mile Island area.

"I urge all farmers to read the booklet carefully and make sure they understand all the information given. Make suggested emergency plans and discuss them with your family. Remember the most important thing in an emergency situation is to be prepared," said the Agriculture Secretary.

If you live within ten miles of Three Mile Island and do not receive a copy of the booklet, or if you lose your copy, write: GPU Nuclear, Three Mile Island, P.O. Box 480, Middletown, PA 17057, or

phone 717-948-8740. Copies are also available at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, County Extension Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Service Offices.

"Be prepared - read the booklet and plan ahead," concluded Hallowell.

Farmers Emergency Information

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INCIDENTS



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expresses gratitude and thankfulness to

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and the over 500 people from 9 counties in PA and MD who attended and watched the chopping of haylage and the filling of the Energy Pak which went smoothly at

THE OPEN HOUSE
held June 29 at the Moyer's Farm.

We would also like to thank all exhibitors and their staffs for their fantastic contribution and a job well done.

Special thanks to the gals of Keystone Energy Pak who did a fine job at the food stand.

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