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CCX Conservation Tillage Guidelines May, 2008

The Chicago Climate Exchange (“CCX”) defines Conservation Tillage by reference to the Natural Resources Conservation Service National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These definitions are: No-till/Strip-till – Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the surface year-round while growing crops in narrow slots or tilled or residue-free strips in soil previously untilled by full width inversion implement. Practices and implements not found below may be considered on a case by case basis by either reference to your local NRCS field agent to determine compliance with their published guidelines or by CCX on a case by case basis. Ridge till is not eligible.

1. Continuous cotton, soybeans and pulse crops (i.e. beans, peas, lentils, etc.) are eligible only if there is a cover crop;
2. In general, two-thirds of the soil surface must be undisturbed and two-thirds of the residue should be remaining on the field;
3. Eligible Implements include but are not limited to: no-till drill, no-till and strip-till planters, rolling harrows, low disturbance liquid manure injectors, anhydrous ammonia applicator, manure knife applicator, sub-soil ripper with at least 24 inch shank spacing;
4. Ineligible implements include but are not limited to: field cultivators, tandem disk, offset disk, chisel plow, moldboard plow;
5. In general, if the implement would require that a leveling or smoothing activity follows, it would likely result in too much soil disturbance;
6. Alfalfa is generally eligible as a no-till crop provided the appropriate practices are followed and may be hayed or grazed.
7. Fallowed acres are not eligible;
8. No XSO’s will be issued in years in which residue removal and/or burning occurs, except that grazing of livestock is allowed;
9. No XSO’s will be issued for years in which flax is a crop;
10. Ridge till is not an eligible practice;