

NRCS **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
607 9TH ST NE Long Prairie MN 56347 • (320) 732-6618 ext. 3
Web: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov> & http://www.co.todd.mn.us/departments/soil_water/nrcs

Contact:

[Russell Kleinschmidt](#), District Conservationist, (320) 732-6618 ext. 3

Keeping It Covered

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has a vision of a productive nation in harmony with a quality environment. Crop residue management fits into that vision as a low cost, highly effective, erosion control measure. Crop residue is ground coverage by means of dead plant material, usually from the previous year's crop remains. The more residue left on the top of the surface means there is more matter to intercept raindrops. This interception prevents the mud splash that leads to erosion, surface sealing, and compaction. Residue can also decompose on the soil surface to add soil organic matter, thus providing increased habitat for soil organisms. These soil organisms provide key nutrients to plants while also aerating the soil to allow for better water infiltration, less evaporation, and less runoff leading to increased water availability for crops.

Crop residue management systems are available to farmers who want increased soil productivity while spending less time and labor in the fields, which translates into lower fuel bills and less wear and tear on machinery. Farmers can use it as a cornerstone to total resource management systems and producers from across the country have found numerous ways to farm with crop residues. The key to success is developing a system that works for you and fits into your total operation. That is where we can help. If you'd like to learn more about soil health and the technical and financial assistance available to you, contact the Long Prairie NRCS field office at 732-6618.

#

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer