



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tillage Practices Released

HARRISBURG, PA, July 2, 2009 -- USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Pennsylvania Field Office, has completed its 2009 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the Commonwealth. The first survey of tillage practices was conducted in 2007. The survey is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS's annual June Agricultural Survey.

In 2009, conventional tillage was used on 21.4% of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, down significantly from the 30.1% recorded in 2008. No-till was practiced on 57.7% of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 20.9%. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 23% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 57% of the acreage, and the remaining 21% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 10% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 70% of the acreage, and the remaining 20% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices. Barley showed the biggest change, with conventional tillage decreasing from 33.3% of the total acres planted to only 16.7% of the acres planted.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2009

Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,350,000	770,000	57.0	270,000	20.0	310,000	23.0
Soybeans	450,000	315,000	70.0	90,000	20.0	45,000	10.0
Barley	60,000	33,000	55.0	17,000	28.3	10,000	16.7
Winter Wheat ⁵	200,000	110,000	55.0	50,000	25.0	40,000	20.0
Oats	110,000	25,000	22.7	26,000	23.6	59,000	53.6
Total ⁶	2,170,000	1,253,000	57.7	453,000	20.9	464,000	21.4
Alfalfa Seedings ^{7/8}	-	-	36.0	-	24.0	-	40.0

¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Conventional Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. ⁷ New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2009. ⁸ Alfalfa seeded acres will be available in January 2010.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2008

Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,350,000	650,000	48.2	286,000	21.2	414,000	30.7
Soybeans	435,000	269,000	61.8	78,000	17.9	88,000	20.2
Barley	60,000	29,000	48.3	11,000	18.3	20,000	33.3
Winter Wheat ⁵	195,000	95,000	48.7	40,000	20.5	60,000	30.8
Oats	105,000	30,000	28.6	18,000	17.1	57,000	54.3
Total ⁶	2,145,000	1,073,000	50.0	433,000	20.2	639,000	29.8
Alfalfa Seedings ⁷	110,000	45,000	40.9	25,000	22.7	40,000	36.4
Grand Total ⁸	2,255,000	1,118,000	49.6	458,000	20.3	679,000	30.1

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