



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION FIELD OFFICE
4050 Crums Mill Rd, Harrisburg PA 17112



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 with Updated Alfalfa Seedings and Final Acreages

HARRISBURG, PA, January 20, 2015, -- USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Northeastern Regional Field Office, completed its 2014 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the Commonwealth in June 2014. The tillage survey is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS's annual June Agricultural Survey. Acres seeded to alfalfa and final field crop acreages were published on January 12, 2015 in the *Crop Production Annual Summary*.

In 2014, conventional tillage was used on 16.2 % of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, down slightly from the 16.6 % recorded in 2013. No-till was practiced on 66.0 % of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 17.8 %. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 17.0% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 65.9% of the acreage, and the remaining 17.1% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 10.0% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 73.0% of the acreage, and the remaining 17.1% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2014⁹

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	1,460,000	962,000	65.9	250,000	17.1	248,000	17.0
Soybeans	610,000	445,000	73.0	104,000	17.1	61,000	10.0
Barley	70,000	51,000	72.9	14,000	20.0	5,000	7.1
Winter Wheat ⁵	185,000	129,000	69.7	35,000	18.9	21,000	11.4
Oats	90,000	27,000	30.0	21,000	23.3	42,000	46.7
Total⁶	2,415,000	1,614,000	66.8	424,000	17.6	377,000	15.6
Alfalfa Seedings ^{7/8}	85,000	35,000	41.3	21,000	25.0	29,000	33.8
Grand Total⁸	2,500,000	1,649,000	66.0	445,000	17.8	406,000	16.2

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 2014. ⁸ Includes alfalfa seedings published January 12, 2015. ⁹ Tillage acres are derived by multiplying the % of practice by total planted acres and rounding to the nearest 1,000 acres.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2013 ⁹							
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	1,480,000	888,000	60.0	321,000	21.7	271,000	18.3
Soybeans	540,000	397,000	73.5	104,000	19.3	39,000	7.2
Barley	75,000	50,000	66.7	17,000	22.7	8,000	10.7
Winter Wheat ⁵	185,000	122,000	66.0	39,000	21.1	24,000	13.0
Oats	95,000	27,000	28.4	29,000	30.5	39,000	41.1
Total ⁶	2,375,000	1,484,000	62.5	510,000	21.5	381,000	16.0
Alfalfa Seedings ⁷	80,000	36,000	45.0	18,000	22.5	26,000	32.5
Grand Total ⁸	2,455,000	1,520,000	61.9	528,000	21.5	407,000	16.6

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