

Conservation Tillage and No-till

Grant Rate	Maximum Grant
30%	\$2,000

Rationale:

To reduce soil erosion impacts to water quality, such as sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen and fecal bacteria loads to streams, lakes and wetlands. These projects also protect fertile top-soils.

Eligible Projects:

- Conservation tillage/No-till equipment for farms with cropped-fields adjacent to streams, wetlands, and lakes to reduce sediment entering the watercourse
- Projects must show a direct improvement to water quality and overall stream/wetland health.

Conditions:

- Tillage system must reduce the current environmental risk of erosion, and sedimentation to waterways and wetlands.
- The farm must have cropped fields that are adjacent to natural waterways.
- The project must be maintained in good condition for its intended purpose for at least 10 years.
- Projects need to be designed to improve water quality and overall stream health.
- Written permission of the landowner(s) must be given on the grant application and agreement.

Eligible Costs

- Equipment modification or purchase (from registered company): No-till drill, no-till planter, single disc openers (e.g. coulters, residue clearance devices, openers for fertilizer placement, high-residue fertilizer placement systems
- Contract labour (from registered company) to modify equipment



Conservation and No-Till makes sense, both economically and environmentally.

OMAFRA estimates that no-till reduces:

- fuel costs by > 50%
- labour by > 40%

(Compared to moldboard tillage system for corn, soybeans and winter wheat).

On average, conservation tillage systems cost per 15% less acre than the moldboard system.



Compared to conventional tillage, no-till fields are worm friendly and have 6-times as many worms! Chisel plowing keeps 3 times as many.

Ineligible Costs:

- Global Positioning Systems (GPS) systems: yield monitors, mapping software, computer guidance, manual/variable rate controllers (We endorse all these, and think they are cool! But regrettably they are not eligible for funding).
- Continual operating costs
- Labour and equipment use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Grants will not be provided for costs of in-kind labour and machine time, and personal expenses of the applicant(s), the applicant(s) business, or family members



The image displays three covers of OMAFRA Best Management Practices guides. The first cover, 'No-Till: Making It Work', features a green field background and a yellow banner. The second cover, 'Soil Management', has a red field background. The third cover, 'Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm', shows a green field with a road and a blue sky. All covers include the OMAFRA logo and the text 'BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES'.

If you are considering implementing a conservation tillage or no-till system, pick up OMAFRA's best management practices guides on tillage. Learn from research and the experiences of farmers, like you, that have successfully implemented no-till and conservation tillage systems.