

2007 Amendment National Crop Residue Management Survey

For the 2007 Amendment of the National Crop Residue Management Survey, a total of 374 counties in 8 states submitted data. Indiana and Iowa obtained data for all counties, while Minnesota collected data from 93 percent of all acres, Virginia collected from 75 percent of all acres and Florida collected from 46 percent of all acres. Illinois submitted 2006 tillage data for all counties. The total number of acres represented by the 2007 Survey is 73.5 million acres, which is 27 percent of all cropland acres in the U.S.

Summary of all counties which submitted data

- No-till acres increased from 23.3 percent to 25.5 percent
- No-till acres from these counties increased 900,000 acres or by 5 percent
- Little change in other tillage systems

Highlights from the 2007 Survey:

Indiana

The Conservation Partnership in Indiana worked together to conduct the tillage transect method and collect data for the Survey. Results indicate that corn acres increased by 750,000 acres and soybean acres decreased 1 million acres from 2006 to 2007. No-till corn acres for that same period increased by 440,000 acres of from 21 percent to 25 percent of corn acres (an increase of 29%). No-till soybeans from 2006 to 2007 decreased slightly in acres due to fewer soybean acres planted, however the percentage of soybean acres in no-till increased from 63 to 68%.

Iowa

In Iowa, corn acres increased by 2 million acres from 2006 to 2007. The data also shows that no-till corn acres decreased from 16 percent to 13 percent for total reported corn acres.

Soybean acres declined 1.3 million acres from 2006 to 2007, however, no-till soybean acres increased from 35 percent to 41 percent, an increase of 600,000 acres.

Minnesota

Nearly all cropland acres in the state were surveyed in 2007. Corn acres increased by 1 million acres and soybean acres declined by 1 million acres from 2006. The state also saw a minor change in no-till acres – There was a slight decrease in both no-till corn and soybeans.

Virginia

Data about tillage usage and crop planted were collected on three-quarters of the cropland acres in the state in 2007. Compared to 2004 (the last year data are available for Virginia), corn acres increased by XX and no-till corn acres increased from 65 percent to 75 percent of all corn acres. No-till soybean acres, for the same time period, increased from 59 percent to 70 percent of all soybeans. Total no-till acres in Virginia (all crops) increased from 56 percent to 67 percent in the three-year period.

Illinois

The Illinois State Department of Agriculture leads the tillage transect efforts and ensures that data is collected in even years. From 2004 to 2006, Illinois agriculture saw an increase in no-till corn acres from 14 percent to 15.5 percent of all corn acres. No-till soybeans increased by 473,000 acres from 45 percent to 50 percent of all soybean acres.

CTIC is currently exploring possibilities for improving the Crop Residue Management Survey. New software is being developed to make data collection simple and more comprehensive. New partnerships for data collection are also being built. CTIC continues to work closely with several research projects that are exploring the use of satellite imagery to estimate crop residue levels.