

# Walsh County No-till Project Summary

The Walsh County No-Till Committee is looking for two or more participants to enroll acres into No-Till or Strip-Till demonstrations sites. The main goal of this project is to demonstrate the utilization of no-till/strip till cropping systems with sugar beets in a four-year rotation. Cover crops will also be incorporated into the project to reduce erosion and enhance soil health. Technical support will be available to producers via the committee, which includes Extension, NRCS, Walsh County Three Rivers SCD, an area agronomist, and an area farmer.

The following management practices and treatments will be the basis for these demonstrations:

- Each site is committed to 40-acres of no-till or strip-till for a period of four years starting this fall (2019). In addition, 40-acres of conventionally farmed acres will be monitored throughout the project period and would be farmed as the producer normally would. The conventional field acres will be located immediately next to the no-till acres and should possess nearly identical characteristics.
- Cover crops will be implemented at each site utilizing recommendations of the committee. Cover crops can be planted through interseeding or post-harvest planting, depending on the cash crop. Sugar beets must be planted one year out of the four-year plan agreement. Members of the committee will work with the producer to develop a rotation that works for the producer's operation.
- General growing season parameters will be assessed as determined by the committee, including soil moisture, infiltration, residue, and compaction.
- Soil tests deemed beneficial by the committee will be conducted on both the conventionally tilled land and the demonstration site.

The selection of operators will take place in September of 2019 by the Walsh County No-Till Committee. The project will begin with zero tillage this fall. Preference may be granted to producers farming within the Park River Watershed, as this initiative is a part of the Park River Watershed Program at the Soil Conservation District.

## Participation

Because participation by the producer is key to demonstrating the use of these practices, the producer is expected to be a part of tours and meetings where the project is discussed, likely twice per year. Interviews by media can be anticipated. Committee members will do field checks from time to time, and it is up to the producer if he/she would like to be present.

## Compensation

Funding for this project is provided by General Mills. Payments will be processed through the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District office annually with the first payment to participants prior to July 30, 2020.

Producers will be compensated at the following rates:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Sugar Beets- 1 year:                     | \$325/acre up to 40 acres x 1 year = \$13,000* |
| Small grains or row crop- 3 years:       | \$90/acre up to 40 acres x 3 years = \$10,800  |
| Total Compensation Package per Producer: | \$23,800                                       |

\*Beets may occur in any year of the project (planted 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023).

Beets are anticipated to be strip tilled. Payment is on the 40 acres being treated, with no payment on conventional acres used for comparisons. Preference is for no-till these years instead of strip-till. Producers are responsible for costs for all equipment and practices.

# Park River Watershed No-Till Demonstration Sites Application

## Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Mailing/Farm Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Property & Farming Information

Legal Description of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Soil Type(s) present on property: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own the property? YES NO  
   
YES NO

>> If no, do you have control over the property for four (4) years? YES NO  
   
YES NO

Are you currently using cover crops? YES NO

What crop rotation has this site had in the past few year? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your future crop rotation in the next four years? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you used conservation practices in the past? YES NO  
   
YES NO

Would you be willing to document practices on both sections (No-till/Strip-till)? YES NO  
   
YES NO

Do you have access to No-Till equipment/machinery? YES NO  
   
YES NO

Are you willing to present data, results, and/or show property for future tours? YES NO

**Please submit application no later than August 30, 2019**

Mail applications to:

Walsh County Three Rivers SCD  
13351 Hwy 17  
Park River, ND 58270

**-OR-**

Email applications to: [scdwatersheds@polarcomm.com](mailto:scdwatersheds@polarcomm.com)

**-OR-**

Stop by our office. Hours: Monday-Friday from 8am-4:30pm, or by appointment at (701) 284-7363.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_