

What should be done with CRP in Macon County?

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Objective:The objective is to determine how CRP lands in Macon County should contribute to ecosystem services (C sequestration, erosion) by considering likely land use scenarios: retention in CRP with and without biomass removal; conversion to row crop agriculture with and without conservation tillage practices and with and without residue harvest.

Scenarios:



Retention in CRP



Biomass removal of CRP



Row Crop production with various corn/soybean rotation with and without conservation tillage



Row crop with the addition of rye as a cover crop



Row crop with the addition of hairy vetch as a cover crop

RUSLE 2, a program developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, will be used to carry out all scenarios and results obtained will include the soil erosion and the soil conditioning index. The U of I Agronomy Handbook was used to obtain yield information and NRCS provided information about normal tillage practices.