

Direct Seed cost-share program

- Trial Direct Seeding over 3 crop rotations on your farm with Foster Creek Conservation District's cost share support of \$28/acre for up to 250 acres for each rotation.
- Program assists with cost of renting a drill or custom seeding.
- Provides one-year of basic membership for the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.
- So far, over **6,695 acres** have transitioned to Direct Seed systems in central Washington through this program.

Our work is made possible by:



Learn more

To participate, get more information, or join a Foster Creek Conservation District contact list for regular updates, please contact:

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www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/direct-seed/

Other resources

- **Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association:**

Direct Seed information by direct seed producers

www.directseed.org/

- **Meeting the Challenges of Soil Health webinar:**

Watch a presentation about integrating

Direct Seed and cover crops in central WA

www.conservationswebinars.net/webinars/meeting-the-challenges-of-soil-health-in-dryland-wheat-systems-in-the-west

Direct Seed and cover crops in central WA

- **Ray Archuleta videos:**

Learn more about soil health.

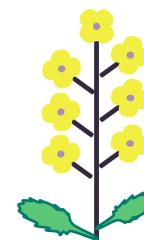
<https://soilhealthconsultants.com/ray-archuleta>

DIRECT SEED FARMING

Improving soil health is good for business and good for your land



Learn more about Direct Seeding



Learn more about Direct Seed farming

- **WHAT:** A system that leaves most of the soil undisturbed after 1 or 2 passes over the field, and often plants seed and fertilizer in the ground at the same time. Also called no-till farming.
- **HOW:** Undisturbed roots and plant material from the old crop (residue) improve soil aggregates, create pathways for water to enter, and encourage beneficial microbial activity.
- **WHY:** Improve soil health through increasing organic matter and soil's water holding capacity. Soils are more robust to combat drought. Improve air and water quality by decreasing soil erosion with each season.

“Sustainable agriculture supports rural economies, the environment and the overall quality of life in the Pacific Northwest.”

-Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association

Compare Direct Seeding and conventional tillage:



Conventional tillage field



Direct Seed field 1st year after seeding completed.



Direct Seed field after many seasons with wheat seedlings.

Point of comparison	Conventional tillage	Conservation (Direct Seed) tillage
Operating equipment	Needs more than 4 ground-turning operations a year	Minimum soil disturbance, 1-2 passes a year
What is left of the crop after harvest	Residue incorporated into the soil	More than 30% crop residue left on surface
Soil organic matter (SOM)	Decreases SOM over time	SOM increases over time from standing residue
Soil water storage	Soil water lost to evaporation and runoff	Reduced evaporation, increased infiltration, more moisture below soil surface
Erosion	High risk of soil loss to wind and water erosion	Reduces gully formation, soil run-off, and dust storms
Labor and fuel	Higher costs because of multiple trips over the field	Lower fuel and labor cost
Weed control	Tillage used to control weeds	Herbicide, cover crops, grazing, and/or crop rotation
Start-up cost	Machinery widely available and on most farms	Direct seed equipment costs more, improved technology

Text and table source: Bista, P. et al. (2017). Conservation Tillage Systems. G. Yorgey and C. Kruger (Eds.), *Advances in Dryland Farming in the Inland Pacific Northwest* (pp. 99-124). Washington State University.