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## EC63-153 What is Stubble Mulch Farming?

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EC 63-153

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

### What Is Stubble Mulch Farming?

By Harold H. Gilman

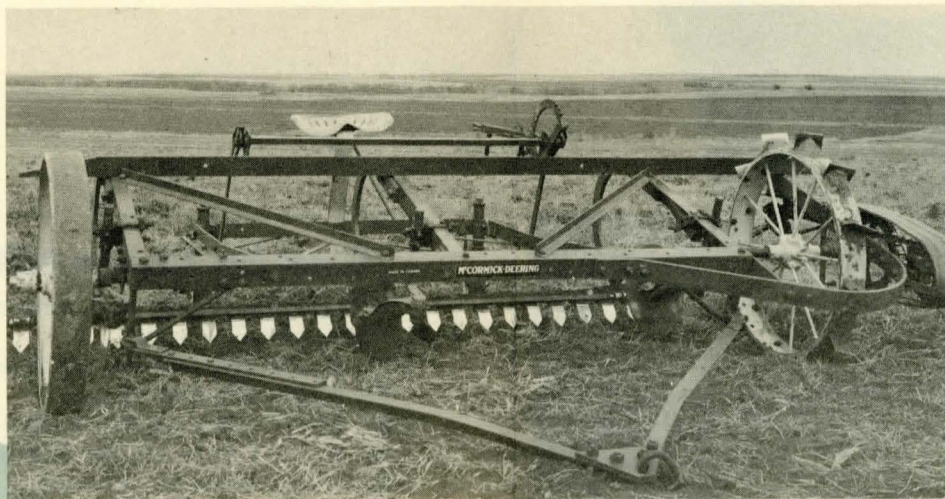
Stubble is that part of a plant left after the seed has been harvested (wheat or oats straw, cornstalks or milo stubble). Keeping sufficient quantities of straw or stubble on the soil surface in the form of a mulch is a very effective way of preventing wind and water erosion. This is called stubble mulch farming.



A good stubble mulch.

EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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Machines used in stubble mulch.

## How Long do You Keep Stubble Mulch on the Ground?

The system of managing straw or stubble is on a year round basis. The ground should be covered all of the time.

## How Much Residue is Necessary to Control Erosion?

The amount of stubble or plant residue needed to control erosion varies with the soil type. Sandy soils need about 1,750 to 3,000 pounds per acre, other soils need 750 to 2,000 pounds per acre.

## What Kind of Equipment is Necessary?

There are a number of machines available. They are usually referred to as sub-surface tillers, and are blades that go underneath the ground but do not turn the ground over. These implements are of three types: (1) tillers with V-shaped sweeps, (2) straight blade tillers, (3) rod weeders.

## **Conservation Education Publications**

The following circulars form the conservation education series.

- EC 63-139 What Causes Soil Erosion?
- EC 63-140 Kinds of Erosion
- EC 63-141 What Causes Gullies?
- EC 63-142 Can Gullies Be Controlled?
- EC 63-143 What Is a Terrace?
- EC 63-144 What Is a Grassed Waterway?
- EC 63-145 What Is Wind Strip Cropping?
- EC 63-146 How Should Farm Ponds Be Managed?
- EC 63-147 Conservation Practices in Eastern Nebraska
- EC 63-148 Conservation Practices in Western Nebraska
- EC 63-149 Conservation Practices in the Sandhills
- EC 63-150 Shelterbelts?
- EC 63-151 Who Helps Nebraskans With Soil and Water Conservation?
- EC 63-152 Grass in Soil and Water Conservation
- EC 63-153 Stubble Mulch
- EC 63-154 Conservation Rotation
- EC 63-155 Bench Leveling





**Snow is held by cornstalks. Plowed ground is bare.**



**Snow held by the stubble.**