Data Collection Options

Practice information collected--

Data Gathering System	Who	How	C/S Fed	C/S State	C/S Other	Non C/S Meeting NRCS Standards	Non C/S Adaptive, Performance functional equivalent	Installation date	Requirements, Remarks	Data Quality, Quantity, Ease of data gathering
1. Farm by farm inventory	Trained or Certified Personnel	Farm Visits	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Need a certification procedure, access to C/S records	High quantity and quality, time intensive and costly
2. Farmer Self Certification with onsite verification	Trained or Certified Personnel	self knowledge , farm visits	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe, if known	Need a certification procedure, access to C/S records, training for farmers, spot check procedures	High quantity and quality, time intensive and costly
3. Farmer Self Certification	Farmer	self knowledge	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe, if known	Need training for farmers, penalty for false reporting, spot check procedures	Lower quantity and quality, less costly
4. Use of existing federal, state or district records	District personnel	review of in office plans and documents	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	No	Yes		Partial information on practices on the ground, time consuming for existing office staff
5. Transect of County or Watersheds	Trained or Certified Personnel	Point evaluations	No	No	No	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe, if known	C/S status will be unknown, have to cross reference other databases to eliminate double counting in NEIEN	Good quality, statistically valid if designed properly, low public acceptance
6. Farmer reported at USDA FSA Office	Farmer	self knowledge	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	No	No	Farmer knowledge is important, training may be needed, need to spot check	Lower quantity and quality, less costly
7. NASS Survey	NASS and Farmer	self knowledge	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	No	Maybe, if known	Ground truthing needed	Could be lots of double counting with current methods of collecting data
8. Aerial Photography, remote sensing	Photo Interpreters	Photo interpretation	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	C/S status will be unknown, have to cross reference other databases to eliminate double counting in NEIEN, Management practices can not be determined.	Good quality, statistically valid if designed properly, low public acceptance
9. NRI Point or some other statistically selected sites	Trained or Certified Personnel	Field Spot Visits	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	Maybe, if known	C/S status will be unknown, have to cross reference other databases to eliminate double counting in NEIEN, Management practices can not be determined.	Good quality, statistically valid if designed properly, low public acceptance