

# 10 FARMING TIPS

## LOW-TILL FARMING



- ✦ Bare soil and frequent tilling results in **soil erosion from wind and rain, increased water loss, and lower soil productivity** over time.
- ✦ Reducing tillage can **improve soil moisture retention, add organic matter to the soil, and reduce fuel/labor costs**.
- ✦ Lowering soil disturbance may also help **support native bees** and other beneficial insects that nest or overwinter in the ground.
- ✦ **No-till/slot planting** plants seeds directly into the seedbed with minimal soil disturbance.
- ✦ **Ridge-tilling** and **strip-tilling** require tilling some of the soil surface but leave the rest undisturbed.
- ✦ **Stubble mulching** and **shallow disking** undercuts crop residue and weeds and incorporates the organic matter into the soil.
- ✦ **Cover crops** can further reduce erosion from wind and rain, and if unharvested can provide organic matter/mulch for the soil.
- ✦ Use **integrated weed management** to control weeds effectively, and always **follow the label** when applying herbicides.
- ✦ Try **reducing tillage as a first step** from conventional farming, rather than transitioning immediately to no-till.
- ✦ Consider applying for a grant from NM Dept. of Agriculture's **Healthy Soils Program** to fund your next soil-improving farm project!