**Soil Erosion Control Module Outline**

[LHS menu bar that stays constant for all modules]

[photo of skidsteer work in the field in the background]

Objective of this module:

* Costs associated with erosion control are typically not considered by farmers on a per acre basis. Use of cover crops should help limit soil erosion and thus decrease costs. User will provide base information which can be utilized to calculate potential cost savings.

Notes:

* This module should be relatively straight forward, however there are at least two issues that need to be resolved:
  + There is no dozer or trackhoe as part of the Minnesota database. Can we add those power units to the database?
  + If the farmer contracts soil erosion repair, how do we account for these costs? Specifically, if a dozer operator is hired once every 4 to 6 years how should we account for these costs on a per acre basis? Or should we try to account for these costs on an annual per acre basis?

Text on page:

Using cover crops has been documented to provide benefits with controlling soil erosion. Select the “Resources” button at the bottom of this page if you would like to read more about which cover crops can provide strong erosion control benefits. This portion of the ***Cover Crop Economic DST (Decision Support Tool)*** will help quantify potential cost savings. Please answer the following questions:

Note to Rick — populate the name of the field and number of acres prior to asking the questions – same as on Tillage module.. This information will be from the “Field and Farm” module values provided by the user.

Questions

1. “Are there typically soil erosion issues associated with this field that require time and expense to repair?” — [yes/no]
   1. If no, goto next module
   2. If yes, goto Q2
2. “How will soil repair activities be conducted on this field? (have a dropdown)
   1. Skid steer (put a custom rate of $80/hour if this is chosen).
   2. Trackhoe (put a custom rate of $100/hour if this is chosen).
   3. Dozer (put a custom rate of $125/hour if this is chosen).
3. “On average, estimate the annualized number of hours to repair tile outlets, fix erosion issues, repair terrace breakovers or other issues for this particular field. (have a box for them to enter hours.)
4. Calculation of cost savings (include in the Summary at top right of module and in the Revenue Impact module):
   1. Annualized hours (from Q3) x cost/hour (from Q2, dependent on equipment selected) ÷ number of acres in the field (from Field and Farm module)
   2. Have a “more info” button behind this question that pops up the following instruction “If erosion repair occurs less than once/year, estimate the time it takes when done and divide by the number of years between repair activities.”

Question: HOW DO WE WANT TO HANDLE CONTRACTED SERVICES WHEN THEY MAY ONLY BE HIRED ONCE EVERY XX YEARS?

* 1. OR DO WE EVEN WANT TO INCORPORATE THESE COSTS?