

EQIP 2008 Practice Guideline - NRCS California

Pest Management (595) - Reduced Risk - Level 2 - Cost share \$95/ac

Producer reduces use of higher risk pesticides (defined as organophosphate, pyrethroid, or carbamate materials) and follows UC IPM procedures as described in the applicable Pest Management Guideline (PMG) on the UCIPM website <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/crops-agriculture.html> for at least one major annually recurring insect pest. In addition, the producer will utilize an optional higher cost IPM practice identified in the PMG. The practice must cost approximately \$65 per acre at a minimum to implement. Example practices may be beneficial insect releases, pheromone disruption, soil solarization, strip planting of alfalfa in cotton, or other use of plant materials to manage pests. Local NRCS staff should work with local UCCE staff to identify high cost practices appropriate for the local area and crops.

In order to qualify, an organophosphate, pyrethroid, or carbamate insecticide must have been used within the last 2 years by the producer on the offered field to control the pest selected for management. Producer will provide a record of pesticide applications to control all pests for the last 2 years for permanent crops, or the last 2 years the seasonally planted crop was grown on the offered field. This is the baseline number of pesticide applications. Payment will be based on implementing the IPM program, the higher cost practice and reducing organophosphate, pyrethroid, and carbamate pesticide applications from the lowest number used in the baseline two years.

Minimum information needed by NRCS to prepare the EQIP contract is 1) the history of all pesticide applications for the two baseline years for all fields to be contracted (pesticide use report), 2) the insect to be managed using the UCIPM Pest Management Guideline protocols during the contract, 3) the PCA that will be assisting to implement the program, 4) a description of the high cost practice to be applied. The high cost practices must be an alternative found in the applicable UCIPM Pest Management Guideline and be locally appropriate. NRCS staff will consult with local UCCE IPM specialists to determine the high cost practices eligible for cost share.

Payment will be based on implementing the high cost practice and reducing the total number of uses of high risk pesticides on the field from the baseline years, regardless of target pest. To be eligible for payment the first year, the total number of uses of pyrethroids, organophosphates, and carbamates must be at least one less than the lowest number of uses in the baseline years, and a reduced risk non- pyrethroid, non-carbamate, or non-organophosphate insecticide was used as described in the WaterTox feature of the Pest Management Guidelines on the UCIPM website listed above. It is also acceptable to not apply a high risk pesticide, without substitution, based on evidence from monitoring undertaken as described on the applicable Pest Management Guidesheet and the use of economic thresholds. To be eligible for the second year payment there must be at least 2 less high risk pesticide applications from the baseline, for year 3 payments there must be at least 3 less high risk pesticide applications from the baseline.

To receive payment producer must submit Pesticide Use Reports with date, rate, and location of pesticide applications, receipts for materials and professional services as needed, monitoring records, and other information as required to document application of IPM and the high cost practice. Records need not be retained by NRCS.

When IPM technology, including but not limited to monitoring methods, will deviate from that described in the applicable Pest Management Guidesheet the producer (or PCA) will provide a written explanation and description of the change prior to preparing the contract. The change must be approved in advance by NRCS. NRCS may consult with the local UCCE IPM expert.

Final

Prepared by R. Fry 09/2007

Producers practicing or transitioning to organic production are not eligible for Chemical Substitution Level 2. Producers in the three year transition period prior to organic certification may be eligible for the 595 practice “Transition to Organic Certification”.

Field office staff should use WIN-PST to evaluate likely chemical usage by each producer to determine if mitigation is needed. This may be postponed until a list of likely alternative chemicals can be determined. Follow requirements of the 595 standard.

To limit negative impacts on air quality, emulsifiable concentrate formulations of chemicals will not be used when other formulations are available that will adequately meet the pest control objectives.