



EQIP 595 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: Precision Agriculture Incentive— Pest Management Track

EQIP FY 2008 Cost list item: 595—Pest Management—Precision Ag Pest Management Track, annual for 3 years (\$24 per acre per year for 3 years—capped at \$15,000 alone or combined with Precision Ag Nutrient Management Track per operation)

Name/EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Incentive Practice:

- To improve water quality by targeting pesticide applications to meet field-specific cropland yield capabilities
- To improve water quality by reducing pesticide inputs through avoidance of overlapping and end row/turn row applications
- To reduce surface runoff and subsurface loss of pesticides through decreased inputs
- To enhance soil quality through repeatable field travel pathways, thus reducing soil compaction and erosion
- Energy conservation through precisely controlled cropping equipment, resulting in less fuel being used

Conditions for practice eligibility:

To be eligible for this practice, a producer must not currently be practicing pest management on cropland through use of precision agriculture equipment such as GPS plus "light bars".

Practice requirements (the \$24 per acre per year incentive rate includes all practice requirements):

- Development and implementation of a pest management plan that meets NRCS standards (recommend use of NC NRCS Pest Mgmt job sheet)
- Pest scouting for all enrolled fields that includes a detailed scouting plan that defines the survey methods, list of targeted pests to be scouted, scouting seasons, survey frequency, pest assessment results, and any other applicable information specific to the crop (can be completed by anyone other than the producer that meets NC Pesticide Law requirements)
- Implementation of GPS-guided navigation with *producer-owned* precision ag equipment to prevent pesticide application overlap and unneeded applications on end rows/turn rows
- Field specific pesticide application records that reflect consistency with scouting results

Considerations for implementation of simple precision agriculture:

- Consider pairing nutrient management track with pest management track for controlling and reducing nutrient cropland inputs resulting in additional water quality benefits
- Consider implementation of a conservation cropping system of no-till with cover crop mixes or sod-based rotations with perennials to reduce field erosion, surface runoff and enhance soil quality.
- Precision agriculture could also yield long-term economic benefits through potential fuel savings as well as reductions in fertilizer costs
- Producers are encouraged to consider a long-term goal of a comprehensive precision agriculture system that includes variable rate applications of nutrients and pesticides

Certification checklist of practice outcomes:

- Pest Management plan developed by NRCS or TSP that meets requirements set forth by NRCS Pest Management job sheet (kept in case file)
- A detailed scouting plan that defines the survey methods, list of targeted pests to be scouted, scouting seasons, survey frequency, pest assessment results, and any other applicable information specific to crops grown on enrolled fields (kept in case file)
- Proof of purchase and installation of Precision Agriculture equipment for GPS-guided navigation provided to Designated Conservationist (kept in case file)
- Precision ag equipment for GPS-guided navigation must be installed on predominant pesticide application equipment for enrolled fields
- Field specific pesticide application records that reflect consistency with scouting results (kept in case file)

Producer certification
(initial/date)

(Year 1) I certify that precision agriculture incentive—Pest Management track has been completed per practice guidelines and NRCS 595 pest management standard.

Designated conservationist

Date

Year 2 Certification/Comments

Year 3 Certification/Comments