



EQIP 595 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: Reduced-risk options to current methyl bromide use in fumigated fruits and vegetables

EQIP 2008 Cost list item: (1) 595—VIF or metallic film mulch (maximum 15 acres per operation for FY 2008)

Name/EQIP Contract #: _____

General description/Purpose of practice: VIF is a relatively new type of plastic mulch that will reduce soil-to-atmosphere fumigant gas flow. The use of this tarping will result in reduced use of methyl bromide or fumigant alternatives due to greater gas retention and efficiency.

Applicant initials

Conditions for Practice Eligibility: To be eligible for this practice, producer must have utilized a soil fumigant without a retentive management tarp during the previous crop growing season. This practice is allowed for use with methyl bromide and other alternative fumigants.

**If alternative fumigants to methyl bromide are being utilized, then a producer may be eligible to receive cost-sharing under the “Reduced-risk Alternative to Methyl Bromide” incentive in addition to this incentive. Practice criteria and recordkeeping for alternative fumigant use must be in accordance with practice guidelines provided for the “Reduced-risk Alternative to Methyl Bromide” incentive.*

Practice procedures and criteria:

- Mulch must be VIF or metallic-type film with equally low permeability to methyl bromide, and it must be installed properly for maximum effectiveness.
- Methyl bromide or alternative fumigant application rates must be a minimum of **25% lower** than the maximum labeled rate for the crop to be grown.
- Documentation of a reduced rate of fumigant use must be provided to the designated conservationist in order for practice to be certified as complete. The table below may be used for recordkeeping.
- This management system may be implemented and cost-shared **annually** on the same acreage for **up to 3 years**, and is capped at 15 acres per operation for FY 2008 (same 15 acre crop area each year for 3 consecutive years). A producer is eligible to receive the incentive only once—if a producer elects to implement this management system for only one year instead of the maximum 3 years, he cannot receive the incentive again.

EQIP RECORDKEEPING FOR RETENTIVE TARPING (Annual practice)

<i>Type of retentive tarping used (VIF or equal alternative)</i>	<i>Date(s) tarping installed</i>	<i>Area treated(tract, field, acres)</i>	<i>Crop to be grown</i>	<i>Maximum labeled MB or Alternative fumigant rate</i>	<i>MB or Alternative application rate with tarping</i>	<i>Date applied</i>

****If producer is also participating in the *Reduced-Risk Alternative Fumigant Incentive*, then recordkeeping and certification for that incentive should be completed on the form provided in practice guidelines for that incentive.

I certify that I have installed VIF or equivalent tarping meeting specifications detailed in these practice guidelines.

PRODUCER SIGNATURE **DATE**

2 nd year certification (if applicable)	3 rd year certification (if applicable)
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I have determined that this practice has been implemented to meet NRCS 595 standards and specifications, and meets requirements set forth in these practice guidelines.

Designated Conservationist **DATE**

2 nd year certification (if applicable)	3 rd year certification (if applicable)
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