United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS FARM BILL PROGRAM
2012 Practice Implementation Sheet
Integrated Pest Management (595.2)
RTK

_____ _____

Farm Bill Program Participant Contract Number

Purpose: Utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases and other organisms that cause damage to pastures and crops. Implementing will prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff and adsorbed runoff losses. Implementation will prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks soil, water, air, plants, animals, and humans from drift and volatilization losses. On-Site pesticide risks to pollinators and other beneficial species through direct contact will be prevented or mitigated. "**Smart Sprayer" technology will be used with RTK GPS equipped application equipment to incorporate the latest technology in mitigating off-site, pesticide risks.**

Payment Rate – Payment rates will be according to the regional payment rate. Practice implementation will be considered complete when pest management records are submitted for each grown crop in the fiscal year of the scheduled practice.

Participant will:

- Provide the location of wells, abandoned wells, waterways, mixing, loading and storage facilities.
- Provide the crop rotation for each field or management unit. Attachment A.
- Manage field operations to ensure that soil loss from sheet, rill, and wind erosion meets FOTG quality criteria for the resource concern.
- Provide information about planned planting and harvest dates, methods, anticipated yields, and field operations. **Participant will submit a tillage worksheet for the system proposed for EQIP.**
- List the pests that typically cause economic injury to each crop that will be grown and, provide an inventory of pesticides that are used or are intended to be used.
- Develop a field scouting plan for each pest. Include treatment threshold information for pests having established scouting/threshold information. Scouting plans and treatment thresholds will be developed for all crops and pests anticipated during the EQIP contract period. **NOTE: Weeds will be controlled in a manner that meets the NRCS 595 Integrated Pest Management Standard in fallow period (when applicable) as deemed necessary by the producer.**
- When applicable, provide a scouting plan and/or treatment strategy for pests that do not have IPM-specific information.
- Develop prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression strategies according to NRCS 595 Integrated Pest Management Practice Standard.
- Agree to install and/or maintain appropriate conservation or management practices if indicated by the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

- Complete an Integrated Pest Management Job Sheet and Plan for each field or treatment unit. Perform Operation and Maintenance as indicated on page 9 of the Texas IPM Job Sheet.
- Follow Integrated Pest Management Plan throughout contract period by implementing IPM strategies documented in plan. Notify NRCS **prior** to any deviation from Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- Maintain field scouting records with associated treatment thresholds to show why fields were treated.
- Maintain necessary records in accordance with Texas Department of Agriculture Guidelines as part of the Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- Submit field scouting and pesticide application records at the end of the crop year to NRCS for verification of practice completion. **This will include shape files of pesticide applications using "smart sprayer" technology to the RTK level of accuracy.**
- If biological suppression methods are selected and Bat Houses are used in this technique the producer will construct and deploy according to the guidance in Attachment "B".
- **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**

NRCS will:

- Prepare a map showing all fields or treatment units where pests will be managed. Include all identified sensitive areas where direct contact with surface or ground water could occur, or where drift of pesticides are a resource concern due to the proximity of sensitive areas such as population centers, surface water, or groundwater entry points.
- Provide a soil map and legend for each field where pests will be managed.
- Provide commodity specific pest scouting and economic threshold information, if requested. NRCS information will primarily be based on Texas AgriLife Extension Service publications.
- Assist with the completion of Integrated Pest Management Job Sheets and plans. This will include completion of windows pesticide screening tool (WIN-PST) to determine minimum Mitigation Index Scores needed for each resource concern based on the final "WIN-PST Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Ratings" Table located in Agronomy Technical Note 4: Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process, in Section I of the Texas FOTG. NRCS will assist the producer to select Pesticide Mitigation Conservation Practices and Pesticide Mitigation IPM techniques to meet the minimum score required. **One of the strategies must be the use of "Smart Sprayers" equipped with green sensors, GPS variable rate controlled and computer controlled spray nozzles, with accuracy to the RTK level of accuracy.**
- Assist participants in preparing soil loss and soil condition evaluations for each field enrolled, using the current erosion prediction models. Soil loss must not exceed the tolerance value (T) for the predominant critical soil in the field.

*****Annual implementation will be considered complete and payment made when the IPM plan is fully implemented and documented by NRCS.**

I have read the Pest Management Incentive Fact Sheet and my questions concerning the pest management incentive have been answered. I understand that a failure to follow these specifications may constitute a contract violation and may jeopardize any and all payments.

_____ _____

Participant Signature Date

Attachment A:

Tillage/Irrigation Worksheet

Producer ______________________________ **Farm** _______________

Row Spacing ______________________________ **Field(s)** _______________

Drill Spacing ______________________________

Crop Rotation

Year	**Crop**	**Average Yield**
1		
2		
3		
4		

Date	**Operation**

List net irrigation by month (inches)

Crop 1	
Month	**IW Applied**
Crop 2	
Month	**IW Applied**
Crop 3	
Month	**IW Applied**

Attachment A:

2012 IPM Implementation sheet
Integrated Pest Management –Bat Houses

Attachment B

Installation, maintenance and monitoring of bat houses will be implemented according to the following criteria:

- Permanent watering facilities must be located within one mile of any field receiving this incentive. Water sources may be ponds, lakes, rivers or livestock troughs that are free of obstruction that impedes bat flight while drinking.
- One bat house will be installed and maintained for each 20 acres of crop, orchard or pastureland enrolled in the IPM incentive.
- The first two bat houses may be installed back to back on one pole or they may be attached to buildings constructed of wood, brick or stone. If attached to buildings, the building must be adjacent to or no more than 100 feet from the field enrolled in the incentive.
- Bat houses attached to buildings will be mounted so the bottom of the house is at least 12 feet above the ground. Those on poles will be mounted so that the bat house is at least 15 feet above the ground.
- Houses will be placed at least 25 feet from the nearest tree branches, wires or other potential perches for aerial predators.
- Bat houses must consist of at least 3 chambers, be at least 29" tall, 19" wide and 5" deep and have a landing area extending below the house 3 to 6". Roost partitions will be spaced ¾" to 1" apart. Partitions and landing areas will be roughened or grooved.
- Houses will be properly vented and interiors and exteriors painted based on average daily high temperatures in July.
- Exterior grade materials and hardware will be used.
- Constructed houses will meet additional guidelines included in Bat Conservation International's "Criteria for Successful Bat Houses". Commercially purchased houses must be purchased from a vendor certified by Bat Conservation International.
- Bat houses will be inspected at least semi-annually and maintained/repaired as necessary. Houses will be checked in the late winter for wasp nests and other debris prior to bat re-occupation.
- Bat houses will be monitored for occupancy and signs of predation. Houses may be relocated one time during the contract period if not occupied within 24 months of installation, but they must remain within or immediately adjacent to the contracted acres. NRCS will be provided with an annual report each year prior to practice certification. The report will include bat house occupation by location, estimated number of bats occupying each structure, notes on predation and a record of inspection and maintenance activities.