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Farm Bill Program Participant

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Contract Number

**Purpose:** Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff and adsorbed runoff losses. Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to soil water, air, plants, animals and humans from drift and volatilization losses. Prevent or mitigate on-site pesticide risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans from drift and volatilization losses. Prevent or mitigate on-site pesticide risks to pollinators and other beneficial species through direct contact. Prevent or mitigate cultural, mechanical, and biological pest suppression risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans.



- The application of the practice shall be consistent with the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service National Organic Program standard.
- Where applicable, cover crops will be used to reduce weed competition and build soil health to aid in control of harmful organisms and propagate beneficial organisms.
- IPM strategies (Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression or “PAMS” shall be employed to prevent or mitigate pest management risks for identified natural resource concerns.
- For identified natural resource concerns related to cultural, mechanical and biological pest suppression, (e.g. air quality concerns with burning for weed control or soil erosion concerns with tillage for weed control), natural resource concerns shall be addressed to FOTG quality criteria standards.
- Organically approved chemicals may be used to control pests so long as they are approved prior to use by the state organic certifier. When used a WIN-PST evaluation will be used to document the risk to resource concerns.

**NRCS will:**

- Assist participants in preparing a plan for the control of weeds, diseases, and organisms consistent with NOP standards utilizing prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression.
- Assistance in preparing an integrated pest management jobsheet where the combined total mitigation index score for leaching, adsorbed, solution, and drift meets the minimum level of mitigation required for each resource concern based on the final “WIN-PST Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Ratings” Table. Refer to Agronomy Technical Note 4: Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process, located in Section I of the Texas FOTG.
- Assist the participant to prepare planting plans for field borders and/or filter strips that will benefit pollinators and/or beneficial insects.

**Participant will:**

- Ensure that the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) will be followed for implementation of this practice.
- Plant adapted species at proper rates within designated times for cover crops and field borders or filter strips.
- Haying, grazing, or crop management will be managed to maintain sufficient residues or growing crop on the land to keep soil erosion at or below soil loss tolerances, according to the current erosion prediction modules for wind and water erosion.
- Provide information about planned planting and harvest dates, methods, anticipated yields, and field operations. **Participants will submit a tillage worksheet for the system proposed for EQIP.**
- Provide the NRCS with a copy of the Organic System Plan (if already certified). For non-certified organic acres, a producer “self certification” letter must be signed stating the producer’s intent to become a certified organic operation.
- If Bat Houses are integrated into the system they shall comply with ‘appendix B’ for installation.
- **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**

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

I have read this Integrated Pest Management fact sheet and my questions concerning the practice implementation have been answered. I understand that failure to follow the practice standard, this fact sheet, and the contract provisions could jeopardize any and all payments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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/repared 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.