

Part 404 – Pest Management

Subpart B - Policy

ID 404.11 Certification.

(a) As a minimum, each NRCS office will include one NRCS staff person as a certified Pest Management Planner. The Certification requirements are cited in (b) below.

(b) Certification will be required to develop, revise and approve pest management components of NRCS conservation plans. The Idaho certification process contains three parts:

Part 1: Complete the following National Employee Development Center (NEDC) courses (or equivalent education or training, such as Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits in the appropriate subject areas):

- NRCS Introduction to Water Quality
- NRCS Conservation Planning Modules 1 – 5
- Pest Management Track of Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning

Part 2: Attend a session provided by the State Office or Area Resource Conservationists (or other approved source) to receive training in the application of the Idaho Pest Management Standard (595) for conservation planning, and the use of WinPST for environmental risk analysis of pesticides.

Part 3: Prepare one pest management plan in the context of a complete conservation plan, which is reviewed and approved by the Area Resource Conservationist or the State Agronomist.

(c) All persons who approve pest management components of NRCS conservation plans must be certified specialists in pest management in accordance with Title 180, GM, Part 409, Conservation Planning Policy. Once pest management planners are certified, they meet the minimum requirements of a pest management specialist. They may self-certify all other plans they prepare. They MAY NOT certify plans prepared by others. The State Agronomist and the Area Resource Conservationists (or others designated by the State Agronomist) are the only individuals who may certify planners, or certify the plans of individuals not currently certified. Certified planners may, however, certify practice application on any plan developed by a certified planner.

(d) Pest management plans developed and approved by certified planners will be subject to periodic quality reviews. Any plan which becomes part of a cost share implementation program will be subject to the annual status review process as required by the program. Plans will also be subject to review as part of the on-going field office technical quality review process. Plans failing to meet quality assurance will be reviewed with the planner, and they will be required to submit their next pest management plan for review by the State Agronomist or Area Resource Conservationist in order to maintain certification.

(e) The required elements in a pest management plan are outlined in GM Part 404, Subpart D, 404.30 (b). Pest management plans generated using the most current Idaho Pest Management Worksheet meet these requirements.

Part 404 – Pest Management

Subpart D – Pest Management and Technical Assistance

404.31 Pesticide Management Application.

(c) NRCS does not develop pesticide recommendations or change label instructions or recommend specifications for pesticide application. Anyone offering technical advice or recommendations regarding the use of agricultural pesticides MUST be licensed with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture as a Professional Applicator.

(h) Federal and State (or equivalent) level restrictions on the use of certain pesticides in designated areas (e.g., public wellhead protection areas, adjacent to sensitive crop areas, adjacent to endangered species habitat, etc.) must be followed. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is the lead agency in developing the Idaho Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) for ground water protection. The PMP outlines responses to pesticide detections in the ground water based on the concentration of detection. ISDA can establish areas of pesticide restriction or pesticide prohibition in response to higher detection levels, and ISDA can also require the use of Idaho NRCS Pest Management Standard (595) in such areas.

(i) On NRCS-operated properties, such as plant material centers, personnel who apply or supervise the application of approved pesticides must follow all label instructions and be trained and certified according to Idaho statutes. Any NRCS personnel who apply restricted use pesticides must be licensed with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) as a private applicator. In order to perform chemigation, personnel must certify that the equipment and system meet ISDA standards. Personnel must understand the Idaho rules for chemigation, and operate and maintain the chemigation system according to those rules. Idaho rules governing pesticide use and application are explained in IDAPA 02.03.03 – “Idaho Department of Agriculture Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application” (<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa02/0303.pdf>).