

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL13 – High Level Integrated Pest Management to Reduce Pesticide Environmental Risk

Louisiana Criteria

In order to demonstrate to NRCS that a high-level IPM program will be utilized, producers requesting assistance with this enhancement must follow guidance presented in the Water Quality Enhancement Activity Sheet WQL13. In addition to this, any high-level IPM plan will provide information required in the NRCS Pest Management Standard (595) and Job Sheet, as well as:

1. Pest prevention techniques
2. Pest avoidance techniques
3. Pest monitoring techniques
4. Economic pest thresholds
5. Pesticide environmental risk analysis (WIN-PST)
6. Pesticide application records with the specific management techniques that were utilized to reduce pesticide environmental risk.

Producers must either utilize an appropriately trained professional consultant to measure pest economic/action thresholds before control measures are used, or demonstrate that scouting techniques and economic/action thresholds being used were provided by a credible source. Examples of credible sources for proper scouting techniques and economic/action thresholds include producer organization publications, extension service publications, university research publications, ARS publications, and handbooks. Scouting techniques and economic/action thresholds for pesticide use or other pest management techniques must be documented in the IPM plan.

Producers must also demonstrate in their IPM plan that they are following all product labels and Land Grant University recommendations for pesticide use. Finally, producers must demonstrate in their high-level IPM plan that they are using mitigation techniques for any pesticide interaction, identified in WIN-PST, listed as Intermediate, High, or Very High. Pesticides with interactions of Very Low or Low, or other environmentally friendly pest control techniques, must be used whenever possible.

Before any enhancement payment is released, the producer must bring NRCS personnel records documenting that all parts of the IPM plan were followed. This includes, but is not limited to, scouting information and pertinent pest count and/or inventory information, pesticide application information, other pest control method application information, and site condition information when pest control methods were implemented.