



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### E595F

#### Improving soil organism habitat on agricultural land

#### Conservation Practice 595: Pest Management Conservation System

**APPLICABLE LAND USE:** Pasture, Crop (Mixed & Annual)

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED:** Pest Pressure, Soil Organism Habitat Loss or Degradation

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN:** 1 Year

#### Enhancement Description

To reduce or eliminate the use of seed treatments in corn and soybean cropping systems to promote beneficial organism populations and pest control. Beneficial organisms such as the Carabidae beetle are very important in the population control of common agricultural pests like the grey garden slug. Slugs are a common pest in no-till and heavily cover cropped fields. Slugs are mollusks and can ingest some treatments with no adverse effects. Beneficial organism populations can be negatively impacted when they consume slugs exposed to seed treatments. The reduction or elimination of routine seed treatments in these cash crop systems may increase beneficial insect populations.

#### Criteria

- Producers will reduce or eliminate treatments used in their crop rotations. Treatments on corn or soybean may not be replaced with another routine treatment, such as in-furrow applications.
- If a participant determines after contracting that a targeted seed treatment or other early season treatment is necessary on a contracted soybean or corn field (i.e., within three weeks of planting), the participant will not be penalized, but will forego an incentive payment provided he or she can provide documentation of needed control (e.g. scouting report).

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- Documentation of producer’s record of integrated pest management meeting all Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS 595) general criteria

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

**Participant will:**

- Prior to implementation, provide documentation for review showing producer’s record of integrated pest management meeting all Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS 595) general criteria.
- Provide documentation to demonstrate prior seed treatment use.
- Provide any historical pest scouting reports.
- During implementation, keep documentation, such as seed labels, records, plans, receipts, showing the implementation of the activities selected.
- After implementation, make documentation available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS595) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- As needed, provide technical assistance to the participant as requested.
- After implementation, verify implementation by reviewing records kept during enhancement implementation.

**NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_



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NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

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Date

