

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program
2010 Practice Implementation Sheet
Pest Management /Bat Habitat
Organic Production (595)**



EQIP Participant

EQIP Contract Number

Purpose: Utilizing environmentally sensitive strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases and other pests that cause damage to organically produced crops while having a minimum of adverse effects on health or the environment. It includes the development, maintenance and monitoring of bat houses. The planned cropping system will be evaluated to ensure that the transition or organic system plan does not result in soil erosion by wind and water exceeding the soil loss tolerance (T) on the fields enrolled. Synthetic substances used for crop protection will be consistent with National Organic Program (NOP) standards.

NRCS will:

- Prepare a map showing all fields or treatment units where pests will be managed. Include all wells, abandoned wells, waterways, and watering facilities suitable for bats.
- 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 TCE Publications.
- Assist with the completion of Pest Management Job Sheets and plans.
- Assist with the planning and implementation of conservation/management practices that may be needed if the planned pest management system presents a potential resource concern.
- Assist participants in preparing soil loss and soil condition evaluations for each field enrolled, using erosion prediction models. Soil loss must not exceed the tolerance value (T) for the predominant soil in the field.

Participant will:

- Provide the location of wells, abandoned wells, waterways, mixing, loading and storage facilities. The location of suitable watering facilities for bats will also be provided if the bat habitat option is selected.
- 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 is below established tolerances (T).

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- 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.
- 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 595 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 Appendix 2 of the NRCS Pest Management Practice standard.
- Agree to install and/or maintain appropriate conservation or management practices if indicated by the Pest Management Plan. If the bat habitat option is selected, bat houses will be installed in the winter or early spring of the first year of the practice incentive. Criteria for installing, maintaining and monitoring bat houses is included in Attachment B.
- Complete a Pest Management Job Sheet and Plan for each field or treatment unit. Perform Operation and Maintenance as indicated on page 3 of the Pest Management Job Sheet.
- Follow Pest Management Plan throughout contract period by implementing IPM strategies documented in plan. Notify NRCS **prior** to any deviation from 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 and national and state organic certification programs, as part of the Pest Management Plan.
- Submit field scouting and pesticide application records at the end of the crop year to NRCS for verification of practice completion.
- **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**

A Pest Management Payment of will be paid for three consecutive years in which the Pest Management Plan will be implemented.

*****Annual implementation will be considered complete and payment made when records (including scouting and bat monitoring reports) of the final pest management decisions and treatments for the year are submitted. This may be the year after the practice was begun, meaning the first payment could be made the year after practice implementation.**

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

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 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 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.