



PEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS

Individuals with EQIP contracts containing pest management components must fully implement items 1-16 listed below by the last year of the contract. Implementation can be phased in for multi-year contracts. The payments are released in each year scheduled for payment after the producer has certified completion of all pest management operations planned for that year.

1st year of scheduled pest management for multi-year contracts

1. Read and follow all label requirements when using chemical control treatments (for example: setback and rate reductions for atrazine or restrictions based on depth to water table for acetachlor).
2. Calibrate application equipment before mixing and loading pesticides at the beginning of each season and any time nozzle type is changed. Replace worn nozzle tips and hoses and faulty gauges.
3. Keep field specific detailed pest management records which indicate fields, soil type(s), soil test results, crops, identified pest problem, control applied, date applied and results of control. Also indicate brand name, EPA registration number, active ingredient and rates applied if pesticides are used.
4. Store, handle, transport, mix, and dispose of all pesticides, pesticide containers, unused pesticides and rinsate in accordance with state law and safe handling procedures. This includes the following:
 - a. Prevent backsiphoning of pesticides into wells and other water supplies by utilization of a fixed airgap or other MN. Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) or Mn. Dept. of Health approved anti-backsiphoning device.
 - b. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean application equipment near wells. Follow Minnesota Rule Chapter 4725 (Well code) for safe separation distances (150 feet without safeguards).
 - c. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean equipment within 150 feet from a sinkhole, streambed, lake, wetland, water impoundment, river or similar area.
 - d. Store pesticides only in the original labeled container, separated from other products such as food, feed and seed, and in a locked building having appropriate warning signs.
 - e. Recycle triple rinsed or pressure rinsed rigid plastic containers through the Empty Pesticide Container Collection and Recycling Program (If available in your area).
5. Conduct a self-assessment of farmstead susceptibility to chemical handling by using **AG-PC-5696-S FARM*A*SYST Fact Sheet 2. Reducing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination by Improving Pesticide Storage and Handling** and **FARM*A*SYST Worksheet #2. Assessing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination from Pesticide Storage and Handling**.
6. Identify sensitive areas or features where special care will be necessary when managing pests. Those areas or features include: a. shallow soils over water tables and fractured bedrock, b. coarse textured soils and other soils with a high NRCS pesticide leaching or runoff rating, c. wells, d. sinkholes, e. surface waters, f. tile inlets, and g. other areas identified as sensitive in wellhead protection plans, local comprehensive water plans, county geologic atlases or regional hydrogeologic assessments.
7. Follow recommended BMPs when using pesticides designated by the MDA as common detection.

Remaining years of scheduled pest management

1-7 above.

8. Use NRCS' Soil Pesticide Interaction Screening Procedure (SPISP) to determine relative potential for planned pesticides to move off-site.
9. Have a Certified Crop Adviser regularly scout to properly identify pest conditions, need for control and timing of control (frequency dependent on pest).
10. Select plant varieties resistant to pests and adapted to growing seasons and hardiness in respective areas of the state. **Varietal Trials of Selected Farm Crops**, published annually by the Mn. Ag. Exp. Stations/UofM can be consulted for information on hardiness and resistance to certain pests.
11. Use product effectiveness or efficacy tables to help select most effective control if pesticides are used. The Univ. of Minn, Extension Service (UMES) annually publishes bulletins describing control effectiveness of various pesticides (e.g. **Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops**).
12. Consider economic injury level (EIL) and economic treatment level thresholds when determining if control is necessary. EILs and treatment level thresholds are available from UMES for select pests.
13. Promote crop and forage tolerance to pests by a.) planting in a timely manner; and b.) providing proper nutrients, water and soil conditions that favor rapid establishment and vigorous growth.
14. Use disease and weed free seed to prevent introduction of pests into fields.
15. Change pest management procedures if current or proposed a.) high acute toxicity and b.) high potential to move off-site as determined by using SPISP. Changes include one chemicals have both or more of the following: a. using low end of label rate ranges, b. timing of applications to reduce potential for movement in runoff or leaching, c. band applying or spot treating where appropriate, d. using companion crops, cover crops and crops residues, when appropriate, to suppress weed growth, e. using crop cultivation and shallow tillage operations to control annual and biennial weed seedlings, f. installing additional erosion and runoff control measures to minimize off-site movement of applied pesticides, and g. establishing vegetated buffer areas which separate normal crop production practices from sensitive features such as sinkholes, wells, streams, lakes, waterways and tile inlets.
16. Consider and select multiple pest control techniques based on effectiveness, cost and environmental impact. Options include chemical, biological and mechanical. Evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques used.

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