

# USDA Farm Bill Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) &  
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

IPM Opportunities through NRCS

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# USDA Farm Bill

- 1985 & 2002 Farm Bills
  - Conservation Programs: EQIP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, CAPs & others.
  - Authority for Technical Service Providers (TSP) or third party providers using Technical Assistance funds.
- 2008 Farm Bill
  - New authorities for EQIP.
  - Authority to support development of conservation plans using Financial Assistance funds.
  - Conservation Activity Plans or CAPs.

# Farm Bill Opportunities for IPM

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 595 Integrated Pest Management Standard** offers cost-share payments and technical assistance for growers to implement IPM. Use NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WinPST) to evaluate pesticide uses; mitigate if high risk.

**IPM Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)** provide an opportunity for Technical Service Providers (TSPs) and growers to work together to identify, prioritize and address resource concerns impacted by pests and pest management activities.

**Conservation Stewardship Program** provides cost-share rates and technical assistance for growers to implement conservation practices while maintaining practices already in place. Growers who practice IPM receive credit, increasing their chances of earning a CSP contract.

## What is EQIP?

- EQIP created by the 1996 Farm Bill to provide voluntary, incentive based program to address environmental impacts of agriculture and related land uses.
- Conservation practices eligible for cost sharing are found in Section 4 of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

## NRCS Practice Standards

Only eligible conservation practices recognized by the NRCS may be implemented under EQIP.

- Practice 560 - Access Road
- Practice 340 - Cover Crop
- Practice 330 - Contour Farming
- Practice 590 - Nutrient Management
- **Practice 595 - Pest Management**
- Practice 329 - No Till
- Practice 578 - Stream Crossing
- Practice 386 - Field border (Pollinator habitat)
- Practice 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

## EQIP 595 Practice Standard

Utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases, animals, and other organisms that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance to agricultural crops.

What Farm Bill Program provides a financial incentive to encourage grower adoption of IPM?

## How EQIP Works

1. NRCS announces annual sign-up periods;
2. Producers submit an application;
3. Applications are ranked on their ability to address local resource concerns;
4. Contracts are awarded;
5. Growers accept contract to implement Practice Standard.
  - 595 is a three year contract.

## Opportunities for Consultants

- Inform growers of signup periods and assist with application process
- Provide Technical Service Provider (TSP) services
  - IPM plan writing, annual plan updates
- Assist grower with implementing 595 Practice Standard
  - Scouting and related consulting services

## How a grower uses EQIP \$\$

- Purchase weather station and disease modeling software;
- Traps and monitoring equipment;
- Hiring consultants and pest scouts;
- Offset costs of trialing reduced-risk pesticides;
- Sprayer calibration;
- Labor for cultural controls.

# North Central States 2010 EQIP Payment Rates

## Orchards and Fruit

State	Practice Code	Practice Activity Name	Activity Type	Unit type	Payment Rate
Indiana	595	Pest Management	Pest Management- Precision Application on Orchards and Vegetable/Truck Crops	Acre	\$303.00
Indiana	595	Pest Management	Pest Management- IPM Orchards	Acre	\$90.00
Iowa	595	Pest Management	Pest Management Option A Orchard & Specialty Crop	Acre	\$250.00
Iowa	595	Pest Management	Pest Management Option B Orchard & Specialty Crop	Acre	\$300.00
Iowa	595	Pest Management	Pest Management Option C Orchard & Specialty Crop	Acre	\$400.00
Michigan	595	Pest Management	Pest Management Abandoned Orchard Removal	Acre	\$412.50
Michigan	595	Pest Management	Pest Management Fruit, Vegetables and/or Specialty Crops Excluding Green Houses (Organic or non-organic)	Acre	\$24.38
Minnesota	595	Pest Management	Orchard IPM- Level One	Acre	\$245.00
Minnesota	595	Pest Management	Orchard IPM- Level Two	Acre	\$375.00
Ohio	595	Pest Management	Pest Management - Tree Fruit IPM	Acre	\$227.08
Ohio	595	Pest Management	Pest Management - Small Fruit IPM	Acre	\$157.91
Wisconsin	595	Pest Management	Pest Management, Orchard	Acre	\$185.00
Wisconsin	595	Pest Management	Organic Initiative-Pest Management, Orchard	Acre	\$197.72

# How do USDA Farm Bill programs create opportunities for IPM consultants?

# Conservation Activity Plans

- New program of the 2008 Farm bill and are funded through EQIP.
- CAPs focus on one conservation activity, but address all resource concerns of the farming operation.
- CAPs Do Not provide cost-share on practice installation.
- Payment is based on a “flat rate” payment estimated to cover 75% of the cost for CAP development.
- A CAP contains the minimum components of a NRCS Conservation Plan necessary to apply for USDA cost sharing assistance.
- CAP providers **MUST** be registered on the Technical Service Provider (TSP) website TechReg.

- Activity 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Criteria
- Activity 104 – Nutrient Management Criteria
- Activity 106 – Forest Management Plan
- Activity 110 – Grazing Management Plan
- Activity 114 – Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Activity 118 – Irrigation Water Management Plan Criteria
- Activity 122 – Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- Activity 124 – Landscape Agricultural Energy Management plan
- Activity 126 – Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan
- Activity 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan Criteria
- Activity 134 – Transitions from Irrigation to Dry-land Plan
- Activity 138 – Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- Activity 142 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan
- Activity 146 – Pollinator Habitat Plan
- Activity 150 – Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure
- Activity 154 – IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed Plan

Available in WI  
during 2011



## Current States Offering IPM CAPs

- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Maine
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia
- Rhode Island

What is the primary difference  
between IPM CAPs and EQIP 595?

## Conservation Stewardship Program Program Goal & Objective

2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act established a new program purpose to encourage producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Installing and adopting additional conservation activities;
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities;
- Expands landowners ability to produce greater environmental benefits.

## Common CSP Cropland Enhancements

AIR07 – Precision application of pesticides

**WQL13 – Integrated pest management**

WQL04 – Plant tissue tests to adjust N rates

WQL06 – Controlled release nitrogen fertilizer

WQL07 – Split nitrogen applications

WQL11 – Precision application of nutrients

SOE01 – Continuous no-till



## Program Eligibility

- Applicant Eligibility Requirements
  - Meet specific FSA requirements including HELC, WG and AG criteria
- Land Eligibility Requirements
  - Acres currently enrolled in CRP, CSP, GRP and WRP is ineligible
  - Public land including all Federal, State or local land is ineligible
- Stewardship Threshold Requirement
  - Level of natural resource conservation required to conserve and improve the quality and condition of a natural resource
  - Measured using the conservation measurement tool (CMT)

## CSP Payments

CMT calculates payments based on conservation performance.

❖ High-level Conservation = High Payments

To receive Land Use Annual Payment the participant must schedule and install at least one new conservation activity.

# How is CSP different from IPM CAPs and EQIP 595?



QUESTIONS?