FINAL DRAFT EQIP 595 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IPM REDUCED RISK STRATEGY FOR SWEET POTATOES

EQIP 2009 Cost list item: (1) 595—IPM Reduced risk strategy—Sweet potatoes

*A documented scouting strategy for sweet potatoes, done in accordance with guidance provided by this job sheet addendum and the 595 Pest Management practice, must be completed in order to maintain EQIP payment eligibility for this practice.
Scouting for sweet potatoes is a separate item in the 2009 EQIP cost-list, and should be included in the EQIP contract for this incentive. Criteria for in-season scouting and monitoring is provided in this practice guide. For 2009, this IPM management system should be implemented on a one-year annual basis only, and both practices (reduced-risk strategy and scouting) are eligible for one-time EQIP contract payments. *Pest management EQIP incentive payment cap must not be exceeded*.

Name/EQIP Contract #:_____

General Description/ Purpose of practice: Implementation of an IPM strategy for sweet potato insect management. This approach reduces adverse impacts on water quality and non-target organisms by eliminating unnecessary insecticide applications and incorporating the use of reduced-risk chemistry when needed including a reduction in the likelihood of water resource contamination due to pesticide applications.

Applicant initials

Conditions for Practice Eligibility
To be eligible for this practice, a producer must have utilized foliar sprays targeting soil insects as a component of pest management practices during the previous crop growing season AND/OR have *not* implemented a scouting, threshold and reduced risk pesticide system for control of caterpillars during the previous growing season.

Practice procedures and criteria (See also companion Step-by-Step Procedures Guide developed by the Center for Ag Partnerships available at:
http://www.agcenter.org/CAPSweetpotato1Sheet.pdf).

- *Criteria for early season application*
  Practice participants have the option to apply a pre-plant, soil incorporated insecticide to reduce in field populations of wireworm and flea beetle. Documentation of the material used and the date and rate of application are required. Producers may choose not to make this application, based on field evaluation results and pest history.

- *Guidance for mid-season*
  Application of one or two soil incorporated insecticide treatments for the control of root feeding insects such as wireworm and flea beetle is permitted (in accordance with the insecticide label). Practice participants may not apply any foliar insecticides targeting soil insects during the growing season. Any foliar insecticide applied for the control of foliage feeding Lepidoptera must be considered a reduced risk material.

- *Scouting/Monitoring criteria*

Fields must be scouted/monitored for the presence of foliage feeding Lepidoptera; in FY 2009 scouting may be conducted by the grower or a consultant employed by the grower.

Procedure: Scouting should begin the first week of August and continue once a week until harvest (or until risk of infestation has passed). Foliage on either side of a one square meter shake cloth placed between two adjacent rows should be vigorously shaken to dislodge any caterpillars present. The number of samples taken will vary with field size (0-10 acres = 5 samples, 10-20 acres = 10 samples, >20 acres = 10 samples + 1 sample for every additional 5 acres).

- *Late season pesticide application criteria*

Participants shall apply ONLY reduced risk foliar insecticides to control populations of foliage feeding caterpillars when scouting/monitoring reveals the treatment threshold has been met.

Thresholds:

Days to harvest > 7: five or more caterpillars/square meter
Days to harvest ≤ 7: one or more caterpillars/square meter

Documentation required for annual practice certification (see attached recordkeeping form)

- Completed pest management plan including IPM & scouting strategies (recommend use of NRCS 595 Pest Management job sheet)
- Early season application (soil incorporated only): Name of pesticide or active ingredient, date applied, rate applied
- Mid growing season: Certification that foliar insecticide not used
- Documentation of scouting/monitoring dates and results
- Late season: Type of reduced risk foliar pesticide applied (name or active ingredient), date applied, rate applied

595 EQIP RECORDKEEPING DOCUMENTATION
Implementation of an IPM reduced-risk strategy for sweet potatoes

Producer/Farm Name:_____

EQIP Contract No.:_____

Tract(s):_____

Field(s):_____

- **SOIL INCORPORATED APPLICATIONS (early and mid growing seasons):**

Pesticide Name/Active Ingredient	*Date Applied*	*Application rate*

- **Mid-growing season:**

I certify that I have not utilized foliar insecticides on my sweet potatoes.

_____ _____
Producer Signature *Date*

- **Scouting/monitoring NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN:**_____

Date	*Number of caterpillars/square meter*	*Treatment threshold met?*

- **Late season REDUCED RISK foliar applications**

Pesticide Name/Active Ingredient	*Date Applied*	*Application rate*