ATTACHMENT TO 595 PEST MANAGEMENT JOB SHEET

FINAL DRAFT EQIP 595 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: Precision Agriculture Incentive—Pest Management Track

EQIP FY 2009 Cost list item: 595—Pest Management—Precision Ag Pest Management Track, (**$24 per acre per year for FY 2009 —practice capped at $15,000.** *For FY 2009, this will be a single-year practice, and should only be included as a contract item once with a single payment.*

Name/EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Incentive Practice:

- To improve water quality by targeting pesticide applications to meet field-specific cropland yield capabilities
- To reduce the potential off-site impacts of chemical pesticide applications
- To improve water quality by reducing pesticide inputs through avoidance of overlapping and end row/turn row applications
- To reduce surface runoff and subsurface loss of pesticides through decreased inputs
- To enhance soil quality through repeatable field travel pathways, thus reducing soil compaction and erosion
- Energy conservation through precisely controlled cropping equipment, resulting in less fuel being used

Conditions for practice eligibility:

To be eligible for this practice, a producer must not currently be practicing pest management on cropland through use of precision agriculture equipment.

Practice requirements (the $24 per acre per year incentive rate includes all practice requirements):

- Development and implementation of a pest management plan that meets NRCS standards (recommend use of NC NRCS Pest Mgmt job sheet for FY 2009)

- Pest scouting for all enrolled field crops that includes a detailed scouting plan that defines the survey methods, list of targeted pests to be scouted, scouting seasons, survey frequency, pest assessment results, and any other applicable information specific to the crop (can be completed by anyone other than the producer that meets NC Pesticide Law requirements).

- Implementation of GPS-guided navigation with *producer-owned* precision ag equipment to prevent pesticide application overlap and unneeded applications on end rows/turn rows. *Producers should note that incentive payment schedule reflects the minimum cost necessary to implement practice requirements, and that advanced precision ag equipment (such as RTK and variable rate equipment) is likely to have higher producer-incurred expenses than basic navigation systems like GPS plus 'light-bars'.*

- Field specific pesticide application records that reflect consistency with scouting results

Considerations for implementation of simple precision agriculture:

- Consider pairing nutrient management track with pest management track for controlling and reducing nutrient cropland inputs resulting in additional water quality benefits

- Consider implementation of a conservation cropping system of no-till with cover crop mixes or sod-based rotations with perennials to reduce field erosion, surface runoff and enhance soil quality.

- Precision agriculture could also yield long-term economic benefits through potential fuel savings as well as reductions in fertilizer costs

- Producers are encouraged to consider a long-term goal of a comprehensive precision agriculture system that includes variable rate applications of nutrients and pesticides

Certification checklist of practice outcomes:

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
☐ ☐ ☐ Pest Management plan developed by NRCS or TSP (TA for plan development not included in this practice) that meets requirements set forth by NRCS Pest Management 595 standard (FY 2009) and job sheet (kept in case file)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
☐ ☐ ☐ A detailed scouting plan that defines the survey methods, list of targeted pests to be scouted, scouting seasons, survey frequency, pest assessment results, and any other applicable information specific to crops grown on enrolled fields. (kept in case file)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
☐ ☐ ☐ Producer must own GPS equipment that was utilized to adopt the precision ag system that meets these practice requirements for pest management.

Producer certification
(initial/date)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
☐ ☐ ☐ Precision ag equipment for GPS-guided navigation must be installed on predominant pesticide application equipment for enrolled fields

Producer certification
(initial/date)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
☐ ☐ ☐ Field specific pesticide application records that reflect consistency with scouting results (kept in case file)

(Year 1) I certify that precision agriculture incentive—Pest Management track has been completed per practice guidelines and NRCS 595 pest management standard.

_____

Designated conservationist Date

Year 2 Certification/Comments

Year 3 Certification/Comments