



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E595F

Improving soil organism habitat on agricultural land

Conservation Practice 595: Pest Management Conservation System

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Crop (Mixed & Annual)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Pest Pressure, Soil Organism Habitat Loss or Degradation

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

To reduce or eliminate the use of seed treatments in corn and soybean cropping systems to promote beneficial organism populations and pest control. Beneficial organisms such as the Carabidae beetle are very important in the population control of common agricultural pests like the grey garden slug. Slugs are a common pest in no-till and heavily cover cropped fields. Slugs are mollusks and can ingest some treatments with no adverse effects. Beneficial organism populations can be negatively impacted when they consume slugs exposed to seed treatments. The reduction or elimination of routine seed treatments in these cash crop systems may increase beneficial insect populations.

Criteria

- Producers will reduce or eliminate treatments used in their crop rotations. Treatments on corn or soybean may not be replaced with another routine treatment, such as in-furrow applications.
- If a participant determines after contracting that a targeted seed treatment or other early season treatment is necessary on a contracted soybean or corn field (i.e., within three weeks of planting), the participant will not be penalized, but will forego an incentive payment provided he or she can provide documentation of needed control (e.g. scouting report).

E595F – Improving soil organism habitat on agricultural land	April 2021	Page 1
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- Documentation of producer’s record of integrated pest management meeting all Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS 595) general criteria

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, provide documentation for review showing producer’s record of integrated pest management meeting all Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS 595) general criteria.
- Provide documentation to demonstrate prior seed treatment use.
- Provide any historical pest scouting reports.
- During implementation, keep documentation, such as seed labels, records, plans, receipts, showing the implementation of the activities selected.
- After implementation, make documentation available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (CPS595) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- As needed, provide technical assistance to the participant as requested.
- After implementation, verify implementation by reviewing records kept during enhancement implementation.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

E595F – Improving soil organism habitat on agricultural land	April 2021	Page 2
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NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



**ALABAMA – E595F Improving soil organism habitat on
agricultural land**

- Applicable for corn and soybean cropping systems. Seed treatments (such as Cruiser, Poncho, Gaucho, etc.) must be eliminated. In addition, treatments may not be replaced with in-furrow applications.
- Documentation must include records of IPM, including scouting and treatments.
- Seed tags or receipts showing whether seeds are treated is required.