

Big Pine Creek Watershed Project

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management is a site specific combination of pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression strategies.

Managing pests detrimental to crops is an essential part of effectively managing crops for maximum productivity. Finding and identifying pests, gauging infestation severity and crop damage potential, and devising economically sustainable treatment strategies are all parts of managing pests in cropland.

Integrated pest management often use the acronym PAMS to describe various pest management strategies. **P**revention, **A**voidance, **M**anagement of risks, and **S**uppression are the four pillars of this kind of management system, all of which should be incorporated into a comprehensive integrated pest management plan that will meet and/or exceed NRCS standards and specifications and be eligible for cost-sharing programs.

Prevention – Includes activities like cleaning equipment when leaving an infested area, using pest-free seeds, and managing other parts of the farm to minimize creation of conditions that encourage pest infestations.

Avoidance – Includes activities like using pest resistant varieties, crop rotations and refuge management.

Monitoring – Includes activities like pest scouting, weather forecasting to help target suppression strategies and avoid routine preventative treatments

Suppression – Includes activities like using cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical controls to treat infestations.

Purposes of sound nutrient planning include, but are not limited to:

- Scouting for and identifying potential pests.
- Developing economic treatment thresholds based on potential for yield reduction, cost of treatment options, and severity of infestations.
- Making decisions whether or not to pre-treat for potential pests by using crop protection products, or using modified crops that have incorporated genetics to sufficiently address priority pest populations.
- Evaluating a variety of treatment options for pests including but not limited to:
 - Crop genetics
 - Pesticides
 - Cultural practices (cover crops, crop rotations, tillage, etc.)
- Safety – minimizing risks.

Contact Info for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Big Pine Creek Watershed

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- Minimizing or eliminating off-site or unintended impacts:
 - Pesticide drift avoidance strategies
 - Maintaining required setbacks from sensitive areas, open water sources and tile inlets, etc.

Available financial assistance:

The Big Pine Creek Watershed group will be offering cost-share incentives to help producers adopt best management practices (BMPs) aimed incorporating an integrated **Pest Management** program into their cropping systems. These programs generally employ a variety of different strategies to address pest infestations crop protection products, scouting, and cultural practices, like cover crops and crop rotations, to minimize the impact of detrimental pest (insect, weed, and fungus, etc.) populations on cash crops. The financial incentive for pest management will come in the form of reimbursement of 75% of the total pest management planning costs based on USDA – NRCS cost estimates. The reimbursement will be capped at a total of 300 acres per application.

- Applications for cost share assistance are available from the Soil & Water Conservation District offices in Benton, Warren and White counties.
- Closing dates for ranking periods are still to be determined. Please check the watershed group's webpage which can be accessed via the Benton County SWCD website bentoncountyswcd.org
- Applications will be ranked based on merit. Pairing integrated pest management planning with other conservation practices such as nutrient management, no-till/strip till, filter strips or cover crops will increase the ranking score of the application.
- Successful applicants will sign a contract outlining out the terms of the cost-share agreement.
- Cost share for pest management planning will go towards the cost of agronomic assistance to complete a comprehensive pest management plan that identifies crop rotations, define economic pest management thresholds, and other crop pest management needs and defines appropriate crop protection strategies based off of sound pest management planning principles.
- All pest management plans will be reviewed to ensure that they meet USDA – NRCS standards and specifications as identified in the Indiana integrated pest management practice standard (Practice Code 595). This standard can be found online at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/IN/595_Integrated_Pest_Management.pdf.