

Vegetation Managers, Inc.'s PESP Strategy

Vegetation Managers, Inc is using a prescription approach on all acres to be sprayed, which allows very selective applications and enhancement of natural competition for target species, thus reducing the amount of herbicide required. This, in turn, reduces risk and keeps Vegetation Managers, Inc. competitive.

Activities for the Coming Year

Activity 1

Preplan spraying activities on an individual line basis or site-by-site basis. This is basic to our strategic plan and is the foundation of use reduction. FERC guidelines will be applied to determine best management practices. Compatible (non-target) species will be left untreated to enhance natural competition toward target species.

How does this activity reduce pesticide risk?

Best management practices can be applied on a line-by-line or site-by-site basis. A prescription based upon target stem density will allow the most effective method (low-volume, high-volume, cut/stubble, cut/surface, foliar, basal, mechanical cutting) to be used. Pesticide load can thus be reduced, and this reduction results in risk reduction to workers and the environment.

How will you measure the risk reduction gained from this activity?

A record will be established listing herbicides chosen and their worker and environmental protection characteristics using label and MSDS information as well as technical and research studies. The amount of herbicide applied on a per acre basis will be recorded by line or by site. Sample surveys of non-target species density will be used to observe any enhancement of bio or cultural control.

Activity 2

Continue update training, registering, and licensing of employees with the PA Department of Agriculture.

How does this activity reduce pesticide risk?

This is a fundamental activity for assuring safe, effective, efficient, and economical vegetation management. A well trained applicator is an asset and works in a manner that is conscious of the procedures that can be used to reduce risk.

How will you measure the risk reduction gained from this activity?

A list of all licensed applicators and registered technicians will be maintained based upon PA Department of Agriculture standards. All new employees will be trained and monitored until they reach registered technician or licensed status. Vegetation Managers, Inc. recently received a DuPont ProTeam™ Certificate of Applicator Recognition.

Activity 3

Receive herbicide supplies in returnable/refillable containers and have herbicide supplies premixed whenever possible. Maintain a level of 95% for herbicides supplied in this manner. Investigate new equipment for closed transfer of herbicide from container to mix tanks or back pack.

How does this activity reduce pesticide risk?

Receiving herbicide material in returnable/refillable containers (concentrate or premix) lessens the risk of spills from an overuse of individual packaging. Worker exposure and spills are reduced when herbicides are premixed and transfer equipment is closed.

How will you measure the risk reduction gained from this activity?

Survey employees using the returnable/refillable containers and transfer equipment as to:

1. ease of handling
2. spill reports
3. contact, if any, with concentrate or mix