Grower Enrollment Questionnaire

The Trust Protocol grower enrollment questionnaire consists of nine categories:

Soil Health and Regenerative Practice Management	Crop Protection	Fiber Quality, Data Management and Traceability
Nutrient Management	Chemical Management	Farm Management
Water Management	Biodiversity	Worker Well-being

As producers go through the questionnaire, the following are choices for answers:

- I am in compliance
- I am implementing this
- I will consider in the next 3 years
- Not appropriate for my farming operation
- I do now on most of my fields
- I am implementing this on one or more fields

Soil Health and Regenerative Practice Management

1. Assure farm meets Conservation Compliance provisions (e.g., highly erodible land) of the U.S. Farm Law as well as any state or local requirements.

Management Planning

2. Work with advisors or mentors who have expertise in soil health.

Tillage Operations

3. Utilize conservation tillage practices such as minimum, strip, mulch or no-till.
4. Prevent or alleviate soil compaction through prescribed tillage operations, controlled traffic patterns and avoidance of traffic where soil moisture is above field capacity.
5. Use permanent and/or annual windbreaks to reduce wind erosion.
6. Apply practices to minimize plant damage from wind erosion (e.g., maintain surface residue, and/or use a cover crop).
7. Construct and maintain erosion control structures such as contour terraces, catch basins, diversion channels and grassed waterways.

Soil and Residue Management

8. Implement crop rotations when economically feasible.
9. Maintain plant residue on soil surface year-round.
10. Plant cover crops with a goal to have living roots on as many months of the year as possible to protect soil and improve soil organic matter.
11. Where significant changes in topography exist, orient rows along contours.

Nutrient Management

12. Have a nutrient management plan that considers soil type, soil pH, and related local conditions while avoiding excess fertilization and conducting soil tests as appropriate for nutrients and micronutrients.
13. Apply manure in a manner to minimize movement to surface or ground water.
14. Use enhanced-efficiency fertilizers and additives as appropriate

Recommended

15. Work with an agronomist or other qualified expert with training in nutrient management to improve run-off water quality.

Right Rate

16. Check and comply with local regulations when applying manure.
17. Apply only recommended amounts of nutrients to meet attainable productivity targets.
18. Conduct soil test to determine residual nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) micronutrients.
19. Monitor plant nutrition needs by in-season tissue testing, such as petiole monitoring.
20. Test animal wastes and manure used for fertilizer for nutrient content, and match rate applied to crop needs.
21. Keep records of application dates, materials and rates to track efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement.

Right Source

22. Consider soil types when selecting fertilizer sources.

Right Time

23. Apply fertilizer as close to time of crop need as possible.

Right Place

24. Use GPS or other precision application tools, such as variable rate application systems where nutrient and soil variations warrant.

Water Management

25. On installation of new wells or existing wells (where applicable), comply with local and state requirements including licensing if appropriate.

Management Planning

26. Conserve and utilize natural rainfall and/or tail water through use of cover crops, terraces, holding ponds, reservoirs or conservation tillage.
27. Assess the effectiveness of water management plan by monitoring, measuring, and managing current irrigation strategy.
28. For flood/furrow irrigation use tail water recovery systems.

Irrigation

29. Utilize irrigation strategies which complement overall management of crop, pests and harvest date.
30. Utilize variable rate irrigation (VRI) on fields with known spatial variability in soil types, topography, and/or non-crop areas.
31. Utilize flow meters to measure water use.
32. Use soil, climate, or plant-based measurements such as moisture probes or potential evapotranspiration (PET) data to monitor soil and crop water status.
33. Keep records of application dates, materials and rates to track efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement.

Water Quality

34. Install and maintain grass waterways where applicable.
35. Use riparian buffer when water features are present.
36. Install and maintain sediment control basin.
37. Install and maintain filter strip/buffer strips/field borders.
38. Implement stream habitat improvement for native species.
39. Utilize scientific models for water quality monitoring to forecast the potential for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and chemical runoff losses across a field such as the Fieldprint® Calculator, probes, gauges, or meters.

Crop Protection

40. Following harvest, destroy stalks to eliminate, reduce or prevent overwintering insect and disease pests in keeping with local or regional conditions and regulations.

Scouting

41. Use qualified consultants or certified crop consultants to monitor crop and pest status and make recommendations for management.
42. Use plant-based measurements to help determine economic thresholds (e.g., square and/or boll retention).
43. Monitor for pesticide resistant pests and follow recommended guidelines for resistance management.

Cultural Practices

44. Use production practices that promote healthy stands such as appropriate date of planting, optimum soil temperatures, appropriate seeding rate, seed vitality and seedbed preparation.
45. Inspect and keep annual records of fields and weed, insect, disease pressure.
46. Inspect and document fields in spring and fall for weed species and density to select appropriate weed strategy.

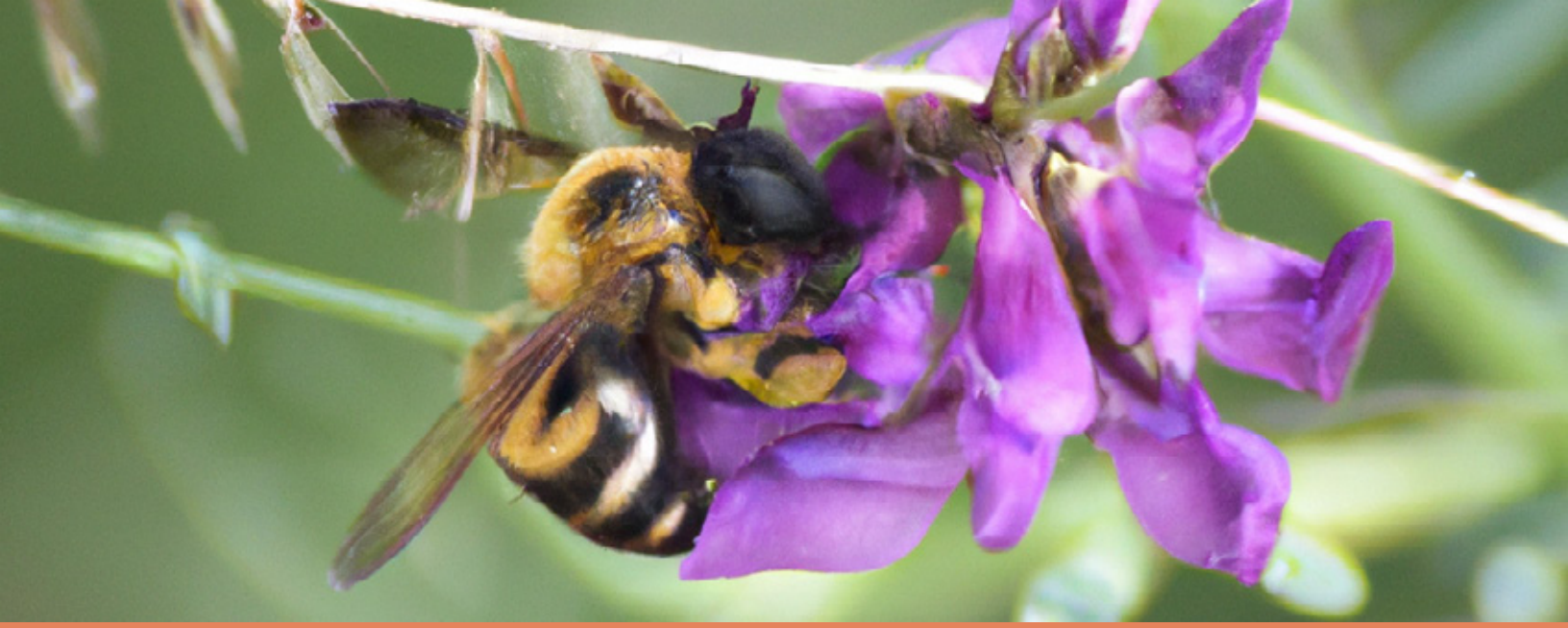
Chemical Control

47. Participate in community-wide and area-wide approaches to pest management, such as containment and eradication involving resistant invasive or non-native pests.
48. Manage weed seed bank by spot-applying post-emergence and layby herbicides or hand-rogue sporadic infestations to prevent seed buildup.
49. Maximize control provided by naturally occurring or released parasites, predators and pathogens by avoiding unnecessary insecticide applications and selecting least disruptive materials.

Chemical Management

50. Use only crop protection materials registered and approved by the U.S. EPA and state regulators.
51. Follow label and use directions of crop protection products, and only on the crops specified.
52. Obtain necessary permits, licenses, and training for the application of crop protection products.
53. Consider environmentally sensitive sites such as homes, desirable vegetation, streams, rivers lakes and public areas.
54. Consider climatic and environmental factors such as temperature inversions, wind speed and wind direction.
55. Calibrate equipment and monitor for intended coverage.
56. Comply with Worker Protection Standard regarding protective clothing, posting, restricted re-entry intervals, and training.
57. Use enclosed cabs on all ground boom application equipment for restricted use pesticides.
58. Report pesticide use consistent with state laws and regulations.
59. Maintain required training and certification of pesticide applicators consistent with current requirements.
60. For restricted use pesticides, maintain records of plant protection chemical applications according to product label, such as product name, rates, field locations, etc.
61. When required for a specific restricted use pesticide, including highly hazardous pesticides, employ closed application and delivery systems and product-specific mitigation as mandated on label, to prevent exposure of workers and operators, spills and environmental exposure.
62. Make records available for audits by state enforcement officials consistent with current regulations.
63. Follow precautions listed on harvest aid chemical labels.
64. Be aware of school and residential areas and maintain buffer zones for harvest aid applications.
65. Secure all pesticides during transportation and ensure they do not come in contact with human or animal food, clothing, bedding, toiletries or similar items.

66. Work to assure on-farm disposal sites are in compliance with state and local regulations. Properly dispose of used motor oils, adhesives, paints, cleaners or lubricants.
67. Read label and follow any local ordinances on disposal of pesticide containers.
68. Based on storage volume, maintain written emergency hazardous spill plan (Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan requirements or other regulatory requirements).
69. Triple rinse all jug, bottle or bucket pesticide containers and encourage supplier of totes to rinse totes or take other measures to minimize exposure to workers or the environment.
70. Communicate information to employees on hazardous chemicals through labels, safety data sheets (SDS), and training programs as well as a written hazardous communication program and recordkeeping.
71. Provide personal protective equipment for eyes, ears, face, head, feet, and hands where necessary.
72. Ensure that accident and emergency procedures, including first aid kits and access to appropriate transportation to medical facilities, are in place.
73. For mixing liquid fertilizers, provide for impermeable surface, sloped to keep spills contained where applicable. Locate farm chemical storage and handling facilities as far from water sources as possible—at least 500 feet from surface water sources and 300 feet from water well.
74. Maintain pesticide storage in separate free-standing building or cabinet used only for pesticides. Post signs and keep building locked. Provide roof and maintain impermeable floor or install curbs in storage and handling areas to contain leaks and spills of pesticides and fuels. No drain or provide floor drain to acceptable holding tank.
75. Use anti-backflow devices or maintain air-gap of at least 6 inches between tap or hose and liquid in spray tank. Do not make cross-connections between water supplies.
76. Dispose of sprayer rinse water by spraying on crops listed on label in accordance with label directions.
77. Recycle farm chemical containers where recycle centers are available or dispose of rinsed containers and empty bags in municipal landfill. Check local ordinances on disposal of pesticide containers.
78. Use charcoal air filters or any comparable system in enclosed cabs of all ground boom application equipment.
79. Choose application method (e.g., ground or aerial) according to local conditions and proximity to sensitive areas i.e., buildings, streams, etc.
80. Use science-based action thresholds to initiate pesticide treatments.
81. Enhance the efficacy of synthetic fertilizers by embracing their synergistic potential when integrated with organic soil amendments including compost and animal manure.
82. Use appropriate storage of fertilizers including manure to prevent leaching and runoff.
83. Work with suppliers to improve health and safety, e.g., with farm equipment manufacturers and with suppliers of crop protection products on recycling containers and new mixing/ application systems.



Biodiversity

Required

84. Be able to access maps, images, or sketches of the whole farm that can be used for identifying cover types such as forest, cultivated land, field borders, water features, wet lands, riparian areas, buffer zones, grassed areas, and non-profitable degraded areas for consideration for conversion to wildlife usage.

Recommended

85. Engage a private land wildlife biologist for a farm visit to evaluate future possibilities to increase and support wildlife.
86. Use return on investment analysis to evaluate each acre or zone of a field for profitability and consider converting non profitable land to conservation areas or enrolling in programs such as the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
87. Enhance pollinator habitat by allowing native vegetation (e.g., wildflowers or native grasses) to become established in appropriate areas.
88. Conduct your own wildlife population trends assessment and whether you view the population each common species such as bobwhite quail, turkey, and deer as declining, stable or increasing.
89. Consider converting highly erodible non-productive land to conservation reserve, permanent pasture, or wildlife habitat areas.
90. Enrolled or have participated in an existing program such as Conservation Reserve, EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), or other federal or state conservation programs.

Fiber Quality, Data Management and Traceability

Variety Selection

91. Consider data from replicated trials or other reliable sources when selecting varieties.
92. Select varieties with fiber quality profile and yield potential consistent with market needs and profitability.

Traceability and Marketing

93. Urge ginner to follow practices to completely remove module cover materials, and provide 100% inspection of module before entering the seed cotton feeders.
94. Keep records of fields, bales and fiber quality.
95. Base selection and rates of harvest aid materials on crop status using techniques such as percent open boll, nodes above cracked boll, environmental conditions and harvest schedule.
96. Use application technology such as adjuvants and proper nozzle size to ensure good coverage while maintaining drift control.
97. Inspect fields and remove any plastic mulch, shopping bags, plastic hay twine or other potential lint contaminants.
98. Inspect module covers and wraps for damage and repair as needed to prevent plastic contamination.
99. Locate modules to appropriate site as soon as possible to provide greatest protection from water damage.

Farm Management

100. Locate above-ground petroleum storage tanks at a minimum of 25 feet from any source of ignition or propane source.
101. If applicable based on storage volume, provide dikes for petroleum tanks to hold 110% of tank volume.
102. Provide regular employee educational programs dealing with farm safety, pesticide handling and on-farm environmental concerns.
103. Maintain well casing height in compliance with local regulations.
104. Follow local regulations for unused and/or abandoned water wells.

Wellhead Protection

105. Test drinking water used by family and farm workers periodically to assure bacteria, nitrate and other pollutants do not exceed safe levels.

Waste Disposal

106. Post slow-moving vehicle emblem for any machine that travels 25 mph or less on public roads.
107. Provide a roll-over protective structure (ROPS) on all tractors operated by employees.
108. Maintain safety guards and/or shields on farm equipment.
109. Identify confined spaces and provide guidance on proper procedures to follow when entering these spaces.
110. Lock out electrical power before performing maintenance or service. Tag out with detailed instructions on tag to help prevent accidental injury to personnel.
111. Locate wastewater disposal systems more than 500 feet from potential surface water sources.
112. Ensure that unloading operations of Anhydrous Ammonia are performed by reliable persons properly instructed and given the authority to monitor careful compliance with all applicable procedures.
113. Install cement pads and curbs around petroleum storage tanks to contain leaks (where applicable). Locate as far from wells as possible.
114. Position water wells upslope from all sources of contamination. If well already exists, take measures to prevent direct flow of runoff into well or casing.

Worker Well-being

115. Comply with regulations applicable to agricultural operations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act as well as EPA worker protection standards and other appropriate regulations.
116. Post, record and report occupational illness and injuries in a timely manner.
117. Be knowledgeable of rules in accordance with U.S. labor laws for hiring migrant workers, including their children, housing, working conditions and compensation.

Management Planning

118. Participate in producer, professional, or civic organizations actively promoting community well-being.
119. Review and update the health and safety program periodically; conduct periodic meetings and training sessions.
120. The wage rate paid to workers is equal to or higher than the federal minimum wage and wage records show that workers are paid regularly and on time through an appropriate method of payment.
121. There are no workers employed below the minimum age for employment defined by law.
122. The farm abides by the state laws regarding nighttime work and prohibited hazardous occupations allowed for underage minors.
123. There are no forms of forced labor or forced prison labor on the farm.
124. Take measures such as posting Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) placards and posters in common areas in order to advise of the policy to prevent all forms of discrimination in the workplace and also advise of grievance procedures.
125. Equal wages are paid to workers who perform the same job, irrespective of gender.
126. Workers have the right to establish or join organizations of their own choosing and there is no management interference with the right of workers to bargain collectively.
127. Use of corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion, sexual harassment or physical or verbal abuse or harassment of any kind is prohibited.
128. Workers have clear work-related agreements and expectations either in written or verbal contract.
129. Ensure the farm has a clear set of procedure in case of any worker grievances.

Review and observe, as needed, general industry standards applicable to agricultural operations for the following:

130. Provide housing for temporary labor that consists of shelter, water supply, toilet facilities, bathing facilities, sewage disposal facilities, lighting, refuse disposal, first aid, pest control, and reporting of communicable disease.
131. Employees have access to sanitation that consists of drinking water, toilet and handwashing facilities.