

Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine

Policy on Efficacy

Goal: To prioritize the incorporation of efficacy of management options into the tool.

General policies:

1. Here 'efficacy' refers to the evaluation of the effectiveness of pest management options, including pesticide products and specific IPM strategies in managing target pest(s). Including relative efficacy of various options can add value to the tool by helping users identify those options most likely to suppress pest populations of concern, and improve product yield and quality.
2. Under the current scope of the project, the tool will calculate the pesticide-related risks of a given pest management scenario but not the efficacy of available options. We will refer users to other sources of information on efficacy, including links to land-grant university resources, USDA Crop Profiles, USDA Pest Management Strategic Plans, grower meeting proceedings and other current resources.
3. We will continue to seek funding to expand the scope of the tool to include efficacy, including providing an efficacy rating for each option available to the user for a specified crop, region and target pest, including negative efficacy (i.e. a pesticide application that would have the effect of increasing secondary pest populations due to a decrease in natural enemies). Given the difficulty in calculating efficacy, an initial step would be the creation of an electronic repository for scientists to submit and obtain data on efficacy.