

# Agricultural Measures Update

Prepared for MAG Air Quality  
Technical Advisory Committee  
Feb. 1, 2007

# Governor's Agriculture BMPs Committee met last Thursday (Jan. 25, 2007)

## Actions taken:

- Added four new Best Management Practices to list of control measures available to farmers
  - These are adopted from the San Joaquin Conservation Management Practices list
  - New since Maricopa County BMPs adopted six years ago

# New BMPs

<b>Precision Farming</b>	Use satellite navigation to calculate position in the field, therefore manage/treat selective area. (Reduces overlap)	Efficiency Factor 20%
<b>Transgenic Crops</b>	Use of transgenic crops such as “herbicide ready.” (Reduces need for tillage, cultivation operations, reduces soil disturbance, chemical applications)	Efficiency Factor 18%
<b>Green Chop</b>	Harvesting a forage crop without allowing it to dry in the field. (Reduces multiple equipment passes)	Efficiency Factor 13%
<b>Integrated Pest Management</b>	Using combination of techniques, including organic, conventional & biological farming practices to suppress pest problems. (Reduces number of passes for spraying & additional tillage)	Efficiency Factor 11%

## Additional Actions:

- Request Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council and Arizona Department of Agriculture to consider eliminating or adjusting the plow-down schedule for growers who plant only bT cotton. Current plow-down date: Feb. 15
- Send a letter to farmers in Area A (west and southwest of non-attainment area) asking them to voluntarily adopt Best Management Practices (and remind them of the impact of being pulled into the non-attainment area)

## And Further:

- Referred to the Technical Working Group for recommendation:
  - A suggestion that farmers be required to adopt two BMPs per category, instead of one
  - A suggestion that another new BMP be added
    - this one would suspend night tillage or harvest activities on stagnant air days

# The Bottom Line

Remember agriculture's "ultimate sacrifice"  
– farmland developed into subdivisions,  
warehouses and commercial  
developments; paved over and never  
again to provide green, open space,  
produce food or fiber,  
or produce oxygen from all those plants

*Estimate 75% reduction in farm land in Salt  
River SIP area in past 10 years*