Key IPM Definitions For Core Exam

Economic Injury – is the number of pests which cause damage that is equal to the cost required to control that pest. (damage, such as loss of yield or product quality)

Economic Threshold – is the highest point a pest population can reach without risk of its reaching the economic injury level. *It’s the pest population density at which control measures are needed to prevent reaching the economic injury level.*

Action Threshold – is the highest tolerable level of pests. In agriculture, that number is based on the estimated value of the crop and the cost to control that pest. *It’s the pest level at which control is warranted for reasons other than economic. Below this level control measures are not needed.*

In public health and urban settings the action threshold is rarely more than ZERO. No action thresholds exist in hospitals, food service, food manufacturing, research and retail.

Agriculture can tolerate a certain amount of crop damage, pest presence and activity. No level of pests, or contamination are acceptable in residential and urban settings.