FPP02 - On-Farm Pilot Project

Enhancement Description
On-Farm Pilots showcase conservation activities that have proven environmental benefits, but have not been widely adopted in the local farm community. Participants select and agree to install, monitor and promote conservation activities (practices, components or management techniques) that have been identified by the NRCS State Conservationist as addressing specific resource needs.

Land Use Applicability
Each approved pilot project will have a land use designated, e.g. Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland and/or Forest land.

Benefits
Conservation activities can show promise in research but until they are proven in actual field use farmers may be reluctant to adopt them. Pilot projects will provide a mechanism to prove that a new conservation activity is viable in the project area. Publicizing the implementation of the conservation activity can help other farmers learn about new conservation techniques by observing their peers.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies
This enhancement applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.

Criteria
- Producers will select from a pre-approved list of pilot projects (if available).
- Pilots include practices, components, or management techniques that have shown environmental benefits but have not been adopted by farmers in the project area.
- The pilots must be implemented and monitored according protocols developed specifically for the project.
- Protocols include:
  - Specifics of the practice, component or management technique being piloted
  - Acreage required to adequately conduct the pilot
  - How many years the pilot is to be conducted
  - What the participant is required to provide (materials, labor, maintenance etc.)
  - Type(s) of publicized events that will be used (field days, signage, winter meetings, etc.) to meet the minimum number of three (3) events. This activity will be schedule once per year that an educational event takes place.

- Data on the costs and performance must be collected for the demonstration project as specified for each individual pilot project. The data collection needs are available in a separate document.

Adoption Requirements
This enhancement is considered adopted when the pre-approved pilot project has been implemented and monitored according protocols developed specifically for the project and events to publicize the project have been held.

Documentation Requirements
- Documentation of the events held to publicize the project.
- Data collected for the project will include as directed by the individual states:
    - Practice cost, field operations conducted, etc.
    - Frequency of collection
    - Data collection forms

Conservation Stewardship Program
On-Farm Pilot Project
Requirements

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages participants to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. This enhancement is eligible for cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and non-industrial private forestland. CSP enhancements means a type of activity installed and adopted to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance. Many of the CSP enhancements are related to existing NRCS conservation practice standards, but at a management intensity level that exceeds minimum practice standards.

On-Farm Pilots showcase conservation activities that have proven environmental benefits, but have not been widely adopted in the local farm community. Participants select and agree to install, monitor and promote conservation activities (practices, components or management techniques) that have been identified by the NRCS State Conservationist as addressing specific resource needs. Using field days, signage and/or other innovative publicity methods, conservation activities that have shown promise in research plots can be promoted on a larger scale, thus removing farmers' reluctance to adopt them. Participants in On-Farm Pilots learn about new conservation activities first hand, becoming advocates for how these new conservation techniques can be applied. On-Farm Pilots are not intended to pay for the cost of setting up or administering a pilot. CSP applicants that choose this activity will be awarded conservation performance points that increase their ranking score and payment level for participation in the program.

Pilot Project Requirements

Each year NRCS will identify broad national technology focus areas for which new and innovative conservation activities are needed. States will select specific pilot projects to emphasize and will develop a list of acceptable projects, guidelines for implementation and publicity requirements. This should be done in consultation with the State Technical Committee. Conservation partners are encouraged to help promote and organize On-Farm Pilots, but the activity is not intended to provide any financial assistance for doing so. Individual or groups of farmers are also encouraged to submit project proposal following the criteria listed below. Ideas for On-Farm Pilots should be submitted to the State Conservationist along with supporting documentation as to how the idea relates to a focus area and selected conservation activities (practices, components and/or management techniques).

Criteria for On-Farm Pilot Conservation Activities (Practices, Components and/or Management Techniques)

- Practices, components or management techniques:
  - Should have been demonstrated to provide environmental benefits either through research or practical field experience
  - Should not have been widely adopted in a given geographic area
  - Could be an activity that has been proven in another state or geographic area within the state and shows promise in addressing the resource needs in the targeted area
  - Address one of the State identified focus areas:
    - Air
    - Animal
    - Energy
    - Plant
    - Soil Erosion
    - Soil Quality
    - Water Quality
    - Water Quantity
- States will develop a pilot project protocol that includes:
  - Specifics of the practice, component or management technique being piloted
  - Acreage required to adequately conduct the pilot
  - How many years the pilot is to be conducted
  - What the participant is required to provide (materials, labor, maintenance etc.)
  - Type(s) of publicized events that will be used (field days, signage, winter meetings, etc.) to meet the minimum number of three (3) events. This activity will be schedule once per year that an educational event takes place.
  - This information can be presented to interested participants as a fact sheet that outlines their involvement.
- States will develop data collection criteria that includes:
  - Type of data collected (practice cost, field operations, etc.)
  - Frequency of collection
  - Data collection forms

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2012 Ranking Period 1

Michigan Supplement

FPP02

Purpose: To promote establishment of pollinator habitat plantings.

1. This pilot is offered statewide.
2. The participant is responsible for the planning, installation, and maintenance of the pollinator habitat.
3. The participant must participate in the pilot for a minimum of 3 years to allow time for establishment of the pollinator area and data collection.
4. Participants must conduct 3 events to publicize the project to other farmers in the area. Events can take place in any of the 3 years of participation in the pilot.
5. Sites for the pollinator planting need to be: 0.25 – 0.5 acres, preferably a field border area near a crop field or orchard.
6. The seeding mix to be used:
   - See pages 2 and 3 for a list of recommended plant species by region.
   - Refer to seed supplier documentation for seeding rate recommendations, or the Michigan conservation practice standard, Conservation Cover (327).
   - Refer to the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) Section II, Folder I, Michigan Native Plant Producers.
     - Plant two or three species from each bloom period category throughout the habitat planting.

Data to be collected by the participant:

- Cost of installing the pollinator area
- Pictures of the area during the growing season each year
- Presence of native pollinator insects in pollinator habitat area
- Presence of native pollinator insects in crop production area

This enhancement will be scheduled for a minimum of 3 years, beginning in the year of establishment, in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT).

References

- Setting Up On-Farm Experiments (SSMG-17) and Simple On-Farm Comparisons (SSMG-18) www.ipni.net/ssmg
- Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Flowering Plants nativeplants.msu.edu/pdf/E2973.pdf
- Five Keys to Successful Grass Seeding in Michigan www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/mipmcbr7264.pdf

Northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Trees & Shrubs	
Amelanchier arborea	downy serviceberry
Arctostaphylos uvaursi	kinnikinnick
Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush
Cornus canadensis	bunchberry dogwood
Crataegus crus-galli	cockspur hawthorn
Dasiphora fruticosa	shrubby cinquefoil
Gaultheria procumbens	eastern teaberry
Hamamelis virginiana	American witch-hazel
Ilex verticillata	common winterberry
Prunus virginiana	chokecherry
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac
Sambucus canadensis	black elderberry
Sorbus americana	American mountain ash
Tilia americana	American basswood
Vaccinium angustifolium	low sweet blueberry
Viburnum acerifolium	mapleleaf viburnum
Vines	
Celastrus scandens	American bittersweet yellowish
Linnaea borealis	twinflower
Lonicera dioica	limber honeysuckle
Mitchella repens	Partridgeberry
Wildflowers	
Aconitum uncinatum	eastern monkshood
Actaea rubra	red baneberry
Aquilegia canadensis	red columbine
Campanula rotundifolia	harebell
Caltha palustris	marsh marigold
Chelone glabra	white turtlehead
Doellingeria umbellata	flat-topped aster
Eupatorium maculatum	joe-pye weed
Gentiana andrewsii	closed bottle gentian
Geum rivale	water avens
Hepatica nobilis var. acuta	sharplobe hepatica
Iris versicolor	harlequin blueflag
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamont
Packera aurea	golden ragwort
Penstemon digitalis	tall beardstongue
Physostegia virginiana	obedient plant
Rudbekia hirta	black-eyed susan
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	narrow leaf blue-eyed grass
Trillium erectum	red trillium
Veratrum viride	green false hellebore
Viola canadensis	Canadian white violet
Zizia aurea	golden Alexanders

Southern Lower Peninsula	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Trees & Shrubs	
Acer spp.	maples
Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras
Cercis canadensis	eastern redbud
Viburnum spp.	Viburnum
Catalpa speciosa	northern catalpa
Vaccinium spp.	blueberry
Sambucus spp.	elderberry
Lindera benzoin	spicebush
Prunus pensylvanica	black cherry
Rhus spp.	Sumacs
Aronia melanocarpa	black chokeberry
Cornus spp.	Dogwood
Physocarpus opulifolius	eastern ninebark
Vines	
Campsis radicans	trumpet creeper
Lonicera sempervirens	trumpet honeysuckle
Clematis virginiana	virgin's bower
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper
Vitis spp.	grapes
Wildflowers	
Aquilegia canadensis	red columbine
Sanguinaria Canadensis	Bloodroot
Viola spp.	Violets
Erigeron spp.	daisy fleabanes
Erythronium americanum	trout lily
Eupatorium spp.	joe-pye weed
Gentiana spp.	Gentians
Helianthus spp.	Sunflowers
Iris spp.	iris
Monarda spp.	Beebalm
Penstemon spp.	Beardtongue
Phlox spp.	Phlox
Rudbeckia spp.	black-eyed Susan
Solidago spp.	Goldenrods
Packera spp.	Ragworts
Trillium spp.	Trillium
Tradescantia virginiana	spiderworts
Symphyotrichum spp.	aster
Lobellia spp.	Lobelia
Coreopsis spp.	Tickseed