

## FRD01 - On Farm Research and Demonstration



### On Farm Research and Demonstration

On farm research and demonstration consists of the implementation of applied research projects on working farms to gather information and demonstrate the efficacy of the activity. The projects must fit within identified state priority topic areas.

### Land Use Applicability

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland and/or Forest land, each approved project will have a land use

designated.

### Benefits

Researchers often need willing farmers to help them carry out research projects on working farms. Participating in such projects can help farmers learn about new technologies while helping researchers determine the results of new technologies. The results of the research can help NRCS identify new and innovative techniques to address on farm conservation problems.

### Criteria

On-Farm Research and Demonstration projects consist of implementing applied research on working land to gather information and demonstrate the effectiveness of new and innovative conservation activities. The research projects must be conducted by an entity that seeks to determine the value of a conservation practice, component, treatment, or process. The entity must have the means and expertise to conduct the research, analyze the findings and develop conclusions from the findings that are relevant to NRCS. Projects are preapproved by the NRCS State Conservationist in each state.

This is not intended to require farmers to initiate on farm research and demonstrations but rather to encourage them to participate in new or ongoing research projects sponsored by other responsible parties such as universities or other research oriented entities. However, if farmers have the necessary capability they can initiate their own projects within the topic areas identified by their state and the criteria of this activity.

Participants will need to follow criteria as outlined for each project that include:

- Goals of the research and demonstration
- A schedule showing completion of the project during the contract period
- A chronological list or plan of activities expected to take place during the project
- Planned end products or outcomes from the project
- Acreage needed



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- Years research is to be conducted
- Farm inputs, equipment needs, etc.
- Expected assistance with data collection

#### **Documentation Requirements**

- Results or conclusions from the research and demonstration
- Documentation of the CSP participant's participation in the research project including:
  - A schedule of activities undertaken by the participant
  - Fields or other areas of the farm involved in the research

## Michigan Supplement

### On-Farm Research and Demonstration – FRD01 - Cover Crops for Tree/Shrub Establishment

Purpose: Evaluate two grass species as potential cover crops for use in tree or shrub establishment.

- Offered Statewide
- Limited to two participants:  
The District Conservationist (DC) must contact Dave Burgdorf, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Specialist, (517)-641-7831, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC), before February 15, 2011, for the applicant to be considered for participation. The DC must notify the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Coordinator if participants are selected.
- Planting site specifications are as follows:
  - Size – Approximately 1.5 acre, 250' X 250'
  - Soil Type – upland site with good drainage
  - Alternative Soil Type – Riparian or other lowland site
  - Site should be in open sunlight
- Seeding specifications are as follows:
  - Glyphosate resistant soybeans will be planted in 2011. Participant will supply soybean seeds and seeding equipment. Participant will supply and apply glyphosate product(s) for weed control during the growing season as appropriate. Participant may harvest and sell the soybeans from this plot.
  - Canada wildrye and Virginia wildrye seeds will be planted in replicated plots throughout the test area in autumn 2011. Rose Lake PMC will supply wildrye seeds and planting plan.
  - Seedlings of two or three hardwood tree species will be planted in replicated plots throughout the test area in spring 2012. Rose Lake PMC will supply tree seedlings and planting plan.

For research and/or demonstration purposes, the PMC will provide the following:

- Canada wildrye seed
- Virginia wildrye seed
- Tree seedlings
- Tree seedling planting equipment
- Herbicides for application around tree seedlings
- Planting plan, technical assistance in establishing grass and tree plots
- Technical assistance with data collection and collection forms

Research and/or demonstration participant will supply the following:

- Approximately 1.5 acre test plot area (250' X 250' recommended)
- Glyphosate resistant soybean seeds and soybean seeding equipment
- Glyphosate herbicide product and application to soybeans during growing season
- Soybean harvest equipment and labor
- Wildrye seeding equipment – Grain drill with capacity to plant small grain seeds.
- Labor to plant wildrye seeds according to planting plan

#### Participant Data Collection Requirements

Parameters to be measured for the research and/or demonstration will include tree survival, tree growth (height and caliper), and herbivore browse and percent weed and wildrye cover. Measurements will be taken annually from 2012 – 2015.

This enhancement will be scheduled in each year 2012 – 2015 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](http://www.ipni.net/ssmg)