

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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2011 Ranking Period 1

- 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 Crop Initiative: Evaluating Cover Crop Species and Seeding Practices

The use of cover crops and conservation tillage in farming systems can reduce the amount of soil and associated nutrients entering waterways of the Great Lakes from agricultural lands.

- Limited to two on-farm demonstration sites.
 - Row crop rotations without cover crop after annual crops, especially after corn silage
 - One producer from the Saginaw Bay Watershed and one farm in Hillsdale County in the Lake Erie Watershed.
 - The District Conservationist (DC) must contact Paul Gross at grossp@msu.edu or 989-560-1371, 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.

- Seeding specifications are as follows:
 - Each site will include four species of cover crops planted after wheat or corn silage with two different planting systems. Participant will work with Paul Gross, MSUE, to use the Cover Crop Decision tool to select appropriate species.
 - One system will be with a no-till drill the other will be slurry seeded with liquid manure.
 - Treatments will be replicated at least three times.
 - Data collected at each site will include stand counts, biomass yield, and root penetration. The participant will work with Paul Gross, MSUE, on data collection times and methods.

- Participants will allow the sites to be used as locations for field days.

- Participants must provide a suitable location and the necessary equipment to establish demonstration sites.

This enhancement will be scheduled in 2011 in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT).