On-Farm Pilot Projects

On-farm pilots consist of the installation, monitoring and publicizing of projects that fit within the identified state priority areas. Pilots should be practices, components, or management techniques that have shown environmental benefits through research but are not used by farmers in the project area. Practices, components, or management techniques must be implemented, monitored and publicized according protocols developed specifically for the project.

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.

Criteria for Demonstrations

- Pilots should be 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.
- The farmer must conduct at least 3 events to publicize the project to other farmers in the area. These events can be field days conducted Conservation Districts or other similar entities.
- Data on the costs and performance must be collected for the demonstration project. The exact data collection needs will be identified for the project.

Documentation Requirements for On Farm Research

- Documentation of the events held to publicize the demonstration.
- Data collected for the demonstration.