



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## FPP02 - On-Farm Pilot Project



### 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 to 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 to 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 in 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.



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## **IDAHO ADDENDUM 2009**

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#### **Additional guidance for on-farm research and demonstration:**

On-farm pilot projects for FY2010 in Idaho will be limited to plantings of pollinator species, in conjunction with the NRCS Plant Materials Center.

#### **Pollinator Enhancement Demonstration Scenarios**

1. Strip Plantings – Strips of wildflowers are alternated with strips of native grasses. Strips may be either mixed species or single species.
2. Island Plantings – Islands of containerized native wildflowers are planted in seeded areas to provide seed sources to spread naturally within the planting.

Each pilot must be publicized in some way such as inclusion on conservation field day tours, signage, etc. The NRCS Plant Materials Specialist will work with the producer to decide on the level of publicity required for the project.

For additional information and guidance, contact:

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