

FRD01 - On Farm Research and Demonstration



Activity Description

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.

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

The research projects must be conducted by an entity that is seeking 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. 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.

Projects proposals must include:

1. Goals of the research and demonstration
2. A schedule showing completion of the project during the contract period
3. A chronological list or plan of activities expected to take place during the project
4. Planned end products or outcomes from the project

Documentation Requirements

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



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

IDAHO ADDENDUM 2010
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Additional guidance for on-farm research and demonstration:

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

Research Scenario - 1

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3
YEAR 1			
Spring	Cultivate early to maximize germination of weed seed. After 2 nd cultivation, apply non-selective topical herbicide to chemical fallow after vegetation has grown 4 to 6 inches. Check with your state or plant materials contact for site preparation.	Cultivate early to maximize germination of weed seed. After 2 nd cultivation, apply non-selective topical herbicide to chemical fallow after vegetation has grown 4 to 6 inches. Check with your state or plant materials contact for site preparation.	Cultivate early to maximize germination of weed seed. After 2 nd cultivation, apply non-selective topical herbicide to chemical fallow after vegetation has grown 4 to 6 inches. Check with your state or plant materials contact for site preparation.
Summer	Spray with non-selective herbicide as needed to control weeds.	Spray with non-selective herbicide as needed to control weeds.	Spray with non-selective herbicide as needed to control weeds.
Fall	1. Plant mix of wildflowers and native grasses (grasses <25% of total mix). 2. Plant "islands" of selected pollinator plants (containerized plants not seed).	Plant alternating strips of native bunch grasses and wildflowers species strips(≤3 species with matching flowering times)	Plant native grasses (grasses <25% of total mix) and wildflowers.
YEAR 2			
Spring	Mow planting avoiding "islands". Remove weeds from "islands" by hand hoeing, cultivating or using selective herbicides if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and treat broadleaf weeds with selective herbicide if necessary. Treat wildflowers strips with mowing or selective herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed. Apply appropriate herbicide if necessary and feasible.
Summer	Mow planting avoiding "islands". Remove weeds from "islands" by hand hoeing, cultivating or using selective herbicides. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and treat broadleaf weeds with selective herbicide if necessary. Treat wildflowers strips with mowing or selective herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed. Apply appropriate herbicide if necessary and feasible.

Fall	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing, cultivating or using selective herbicides. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and treat broadleaf weeds with selective herbicide if necessary. Treat wildflowers strips with mowing or selective herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed. Apply appropriate herbicide if necessary and feasible.
YEAR 3	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing, cultivating or using selective herbicides. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and treat broadleaf weeds with selective herbicide if necessary. Treat wildflowers strips with mowing or selective herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed. Apply appropriate herbicide if necessary and feasible.
YEAR 4	Evaluate. Mow and apply herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting	Mow native grass planting and treat broadleaf weeds with selective herbicide if necessary. Treat wildflowers strips with mowing or selective herbicide if necessary. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed. Apply appropriate herbicide if necessary and feasible.

Research Scenario - 2 (Organic Option)

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3
YEAR 1			
Spring	Cultivate early with 1 st flush of vegetation. Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks). Check with your state or plant materials contact for recommendations on site preparation.	Cultivate early with 1 st flush of vegetation. Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks). Check with your state or plant materials contact for recommendations on site preparation.	Cultivate early with 1 st flush of vegetation. Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks). Check with your state or plant materials contact for recommendations on site preparation.
Summer	Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks).	Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks).	Cultivate regularly to prevent weeds from setting seed (every 1 to 2 weeks).
Fall	Plant mix of wildflowers and native grasses (<25% of total mix). 2. Plant “islands” of selected pollinator plants (containerized plants not seed).	Plant alternating strips of native bunch grasses and wildflowers species strips (≥3 species with matching flowering times)	Plant native grasses (<25% of total mix) and wildflowers.
YEAR 2			
Spring	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing or cultivating. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and mechanically remove broadleaf weeds in native grasses. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed.

Summer	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing or cultivating. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and mechanically remove broadleaf weeds in native grasses. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed.
Fall	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing or cultivating. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and mechanically remove broadleaf weeds in native grasses. Evaluate Planting.	Evaluate and mow as needed.
YEAR 3	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing or cultivating. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and mechanically remove broadleaf weeds in native grasses. Evaluate Planting..	Evaluate and mow as needed.
YEAR 4	Mow planting avoiding “islands”. Remove weeds from “islands” by hand hoeing or cultivating. Evaluate Planting.	Mow native grass planting and mechanically remove broadleaf weeds in native grasses. Evaluate Planting...	Evaluate and mow as needed..

For additional information and guidance, contact:

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Specialist
 Dan Ogle
 Boise, Idaho
 208-685-6886
 Dan.ogle@id.usda.gov