

Upcoming Events

Field Day- June 19, 2013:

The PMC will host a field day on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A tour of the PMC will focus on some of the 19 active studies that are designed to address and respond to the natural resources conservation challenges of the PMC service area. Please bring a sack lunch to the event.

NRCS employees need to obtain attendance approval from their supervisor and their Area Conservationist. Area Conservationists will need to submit names of attendees to the State Resources Conservationist. Attendance of NRCS employees is limited, so submit your attendance request early!

Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other interested participants should RSVP to the PMC by calling 573-898-2012 or emailing Ron Cordsiemon at ron.cordsiemon@mo.usda.gov or Jerry Kaiser at jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov.



Butterfly Count- July 13, 2013:

Elsberry will join about 490 other locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico for the 39th Annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Count. The event will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 13, at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Plant Materials Center (PMC). The center is at 2803 N. Highway 79, on the south edge of town.

Volunteers are needed to spread out in all directions from the (PMC) to count butterflies within a 15-mile-wide circle.

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Butterflies and their relationship with plants and their natural environment are exciting. The NABA count is a way for volunteers to help scientists monitor butterfly migration and to get a good estimate of the different species and their numbers.

Volunteers should register by calling (573) 898-2012 to assure an adequate supply of materials and handouts during the opening instruction session at the PMC. Participants are encouraged to bring sack lunches, bug spray, binoculars, field guides, and cameras. They also will need their own transportation. Knowledge of butterflies would be beneficial, but it is not necessary.



New Employee Training- August 20-22, 2013:

Training for new NRCS and SWCD employees will be held at the PMC on August 20-22, 2013. Training topics include plant/tree identification, calibration of pesticide sprayers and drills, residue management, water quality, soil health, biological control of invasive species, and a tour of the PMC. Training starts at 1:00 p.m. on August 20th and will end at 12:00 p.m. on August 22.

NRCS employees need to obtain attendance approval from their supervisor and their Area Conservationist. Area Conservationists will need to submit names of attendees to the State Resources Conservationist by July 15, 2013.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other interested participants should RSVP to the PMC by calling 573-898-2012 or emailing Ron Cordsiemon at ron.cordsiemon@mo.usda.gov or Jerry Kaiser at jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov. Attendance is limited to 24, so submit your attendance request early!

Cover Crop Field Trials Update

In Missouri a 3 year field trial sites were started in fall 2012. These on farm field trials consisting of cool season cover crop mixtures being demonstrated and evaluated at 8 locations across the state.

NRCS Missouri purchase the seed the PM center coordinated the mixtures and distribution of the seed with selected field offices and producers. Targeted MLRA's of 107, 109,112,113,115,116,131 and 134 in areas of cropland located in the following Counties, Jackson, Saline Caldwell, Worth, Ralls, St. Charles, Perry, and Cape.



Cover crops were planted in 2012 following either Corn or Soybean crops. Each field trial is 10 acres, subdivided into 4-2.5 acres plots. This will allow three different cover crop species/mixtures per farm, and one unplanted check plot.

The data that will be collected from the field trials will determine how the cover crop mixtures and cash crop performs.

Collection of this data will be to support or change Missouri NRCS 340 cover crop standard for seeding rates, planting dates, cover crop growth patterns, and seeding mixtures. Producers will benefit by determining which species will perform in conjunction with their cash crop production and termination timing of cover crops for their location. The local SWCD's and NRCS office and producers will use the sites for local field days to demonstrate, learn, and promote the use of cover crops in the area. Two locations conducted Field Days in March 2013 with producers.

The following data will be collected include: Percent Live Cover (Canopy Cover), Species Composition, and Plant Height of Cover Crops, Dry Matter Yield of Cover Crops and Weeds, Rating Cover Crop Termination, and Evaluation rating of Cash Crop Development.

NRCS in Missouri is committed to the mission of soil health and the use of cover crops as a tool to be used. This practice is part of the Soil Health Strategic Plan for Missouri.

For additional information contact Jerry Kaiser, USDA NRCS Plant Materials Specialist



Staff and Contact Information

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