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 carryout 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

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Acceptable on-farm research and demonstration projects

-Variety trials for biofuel crops
-Variety trials for cool-season cover crops
(Emphasis on using deep rooted cover crops to alleviate soil compaction)
-Variety trials for warm season pasture and hay grasses