



United States Department of Agriculture

# The Booneville Plant Press

Booneville Arkansas Plant Materials Center  
Fall newsletter 2016

## Switchgrass Fertility Study Completed!

The Booneville Plant Materials Center (BPMC) has completed a 4 year study designed to determine the fertility needs for ‘Alamo’ switchgrass to attain the greatest biomass along with superior forage quality. Treatment 1 was to determine optimum nitrogen levels, treatment 2 optimum phosphorus levels, and treatment 3 optimum potassium levels. Forage yield/quality was taken when plants were in early boot in the spring, then 45 days later in the summer. The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville preformed forage analysis for the study. Results of the study will be in the form of a Tech note that will be available in 2017.



*Ed Pratt, Bio Science Technician, making last switchgrass harvest.*

## Booneville Participating in National Cover Crop Study

Cover crops are being recognized across the nation for their role in promoting soil health. The Plant Materials Program will be conducting a 2 year (2017-2018) study of important cover crop species/cultivars to identify the most effective by region. Booneville has received all of the materials to be tested, and is currently preparing to plant the study the first week of October.

## Soils/Plant Materials Training for New Employees

The PMC partnered with Soil Scientists Richard Vaught, and Nelson Rolong, who provided soils training to new employees on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The participants (16) were from various NRCS offices across Arkansas. They learned the mission of the Plant Materials program and how the program works to develop new plants and plant science technology to support national and local conservation initiatives.



*New employees attend annual PM training.*

## End of an Era...

Luther "Dale" Goff, Biological Sciences Technician has retired after 28+ years of service to the Booneville PMC. Dale began his career at the PMC as a part time WAE in 1988, and was later promoted to Biological Sciences Technician. Dale has been a valuable member of the PMC team and will be missed very much.



Luther "Dale" Goff

## Indiangrass Release

Booneville will release a drought tolerant indiangrass germplasm in 2017. The selection came from a collection of 144 indiangrass accessions collected in 2006 from western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. This spring, Elsberry, Manhattan, Jamie Whitten, Jimmy Carter, and East Texas PMC's have planted 'Americus', 'Cheyenne', 'Rumsey', and the Booneville accession 9107486 in order to evaluate the range of adaptation of accession 9107486. Mike Sullivan has sanctioned a naming contest for the new indiangrass germplasm. The contest is for NRCS employees in Arkansas. There will be a non-monetary award to the person who enters the selected name. You may enter up to 5 name suggestions to PMC Manager Randy King ([randy.king@ar.usda.gov](mailto:randy.king@ar.usda.gov)). The deadline for entries is COB, December 22, 2016. Name suggestions will be compiled and forwarded to Mike for the final selection.



'Americus', 'Cheyenne', 'Rumsey' and 9107486  
Indiangrass seedlings ready for transplant.

### Staff Members

Randy King, PMC Manager

Eddie Pratt, Biological Science Technician

### Contact Us!

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## ***About Us:***

The Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center is home to the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service-Booneville Plant Materials Center and the USDA Agricultural Research Service. The primary service area of the Center encompasses 53 million acres of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. We are located at: 6883 South State Hwy 23, Booneville, Arkansas 72927. You may contact us at (479) 675-5182,. Our hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday - Friday. **If you would like a tour of the PMC, please call to schedule an appointment.**

## ***Our Mission:***

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials (PM) Programs is to develop, test, and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. NRCS PMC activities are consistent with the objectives of the current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NRCS Strategic Plan namely to provide timely and effective vegetative solutions for identified resource needs.



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