

Year 2006



Progress Report of Activities

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Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center

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Who We Are

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is one of 27 plant materials centers located throughout the United States. The Center is located on the Northwest corner of Americus in Southwestern Georgia and is approximately 40 miles North of Albany. Areas served include Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and parts of Tennessee and Florida.

What We Do

It is our mission to use plant materials and state-of-the-art plant science technology to solve natural resource problems and meet the objectives of environmental programs. Our program emphasizes using native plants. We develop, test and release superior adapted plants to commercial growers along with production and management technology. Our mission addresses three major objectives:

- Native Grasses for grazing lands that support sustainable agriculture and wildlife habitat.
- Native plants for water quality (riparian forests, conservation buffers, filter strips, constructed wetlands, and streambanks)
- Conservation tillage (green manure, organic gardening, carbon sequestration, and winter cover)

A brief summary of year 2006 accomplishments follows. For a complete account of all activities,

Request the 2006 Technical Report of Activities at the above address.

SILVOPASTURE FIELD DAY IN EARLY COUNTY GEORGIA HELD WITH JIMMY CARTER PLANT MATERIALS CENTER IN JUNE 2006

On June 15, 2006 a **Regional Field Day** exhibiting new technology and practical information in the field of silvopasture was held on the farm of Mack Evans of Jakin (Early County) Georgia. 58 NRCS employees and over 50 non-NRCS people including farmers , ranchers and foresters attended the day long event. The following state and federal agencies were represented at the field day: NRCS, USFS, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, Fort Valley State University, and Auburn University. Malcome Kirkland (Assistant Manager of the Jimmy Carter PMC) and Donald Surrency (Georgia Plant Materials Specialist) gave presentations covering the use of native warm season forage grasses in silvopasture systems. This included native warm season grass identification, grass drill selection, seed placement, fertility, seeding rates, weed control, rotational grazing techniques, mowing and fire management. Mack Evans explained his operation at Jakin which includes the use of beef cattle, native forage grasses, introduced forage grasses, and loblolly pine production. Dr. Mary Goodman of Auburn University discussed some of her work with a SARE Grant. She talked about her work with soil aggregation, soil stability, and soil

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structure in grazed and ungrazed environments. She also discussed the benefits of managing for cattle, forage and tree production in one comprehensive operation. Tim Albritton (NRCS Forester from Auburn Alabama) displayed and explained the uses of common forestry tools used in modern forestry management.



Mack Evans Tells the Audience About Practical Solutions to Problems in Managing Cattle, Forage Grasses and Pine Trees in the Same Operation



Donald Surrency Discusses Planting Native Warm Season Forage Grasses with Pine Tree Production to Improve Cattle Forage Utilization and Wildlife Habitat



Dr Mary Goodman Explains Her SARE Grant and Benefits of Silvopasture Systems



Tim Albritton Displays and Explains Use of Forestry Tools for Proper Forestry Management

DONALD SURRENCY PLANT MATERIALS SPECIALIST for GEORGIA, ALABAMA and SOUTH CAROLINA RETIRES AFTER 41 YEARS of SERVICE

Don Surrency also known as ‘Big D’ retired from the NRCS in October 2006. His career included positions as student trainee, soil conservationist, district conservationist, assistant plant materials center manager, and plant materials specialist. His latest duties include supervision of the Jimmy Carter PMC manager and plant materials specialist for Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. At one time he was also the plant materials specialist for Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands. He retired to his home and family in Thomson , Georgia.



Mr James Tillman(Georgia State Conservationist) Presents Don with a NRCS Recognition Award for his 41 Years of Service

SILVOPASTURE STUDY EXPANDS AT JIMMY CARTER PMC WITH SARE GRANT

In January 2001 a silvopasture study was established into “Pensacola Bahiagrass” and “Coastal Bermudagrass” at the Jimmy Carter PMC. Longleaf pines were planted six feet apart in double rows with ten feet spacing. The double rows were separated by forty foot alleys. In 2006 a SARE grant involving Auburn University, Fort Valley State University and landowners expanded the study on the PMC. In 2006 cattle were added to the study. Dr. Mary Goodman of Auburn University started to measure the effects of cattle, open pasture and mixed (longleaf pine) pasture on soil aggregate stability, soil hydrology soil compaction and forage composition. Some areas were planted to crimson clover to provide a comparison between commercial fertilizer and legume fertilizer effects on the trees and grass. She also installed weather stations in the

mixed pasture and open pasture areas to compare temperature, wind direction and wind speed under the different management systems. Her data will be available in 2007.

SMALL FARMERS IN NORTH CAROLINA RECEIVE TRAINING IN MANAGING NATIVE WARM SEASON GRASSES

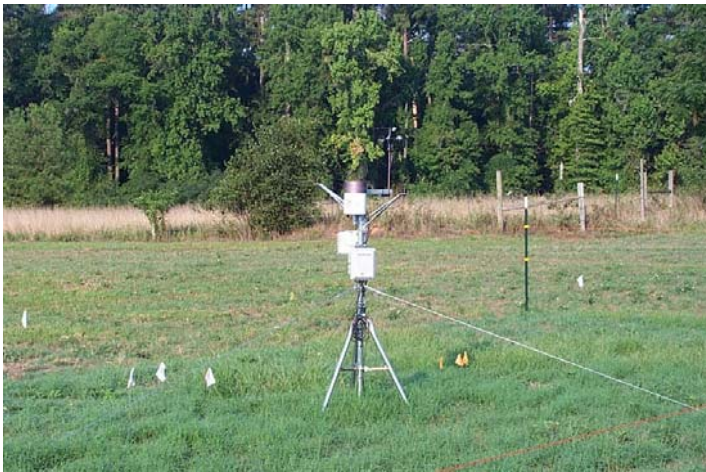


Cattle Added to Study in 2006

Malcome Kirkland (Jimmy Carter PMC Assistant Manager) and Don Surrency (Plant materials Specialist) conducted training sessions in Mt Olive and Rocky Mount North Carolina in April 2006. They explained and demonstrated techniques to establish, manage, and harvest native warm season grasses on small farm operations Seed drills, seed selection, seed sources, seeding rates, planting depths, grazing intensity, and stocking rates were emphasized.



Small Farmers from Mt. Olive N.C. attended Training Presented by Jimmy Carter PMC



Weather Stations Collect Environmental Data in Grass Pastures and Mixed (longleaf pine) Pastures



**Grass Drill Designed to Plant Native Grasses
Demonstrated at Training**

