

South Bingham Soil Conservation District Purchases Farm for Plant Materials Research
Loren St. John, Aberdeen Plant Materials Center

The South Bingham Soil Conservation District recently purchased the “Slaugh” Farm located north of Aberdeen to expand plant testing research by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center. The District installed a new irrigation system on the farm to meet the increasing need for plant materials research and seed production conducted by the Plant Materials Center.

Since 1939, the Plant Materials Center has tested plants and new conservation technology in real-world situations and found solutions for a large variety of natural resource challenges. The South Bingham Soil Conservation District has been an important partner in those efforts. In 1955, the District purchased the “Home Farm” located 2 miles north of Aberdeen where the Plant Materials Center field operations are centered.

The additional farm ground will allow the Plant Materials Center to expand research in plant materials for natural resource challenges in the Intermountain West. Research priorities include developing performance-tested range, pasture and forestland grasses, forbs and shrubs and developing and disseminating streambank bioengineering techniques for riparian areas and wetlands.

The new irrigation system was installed late this fall. Additional future improvements to the land include windbreaks and graveled roads. The Plant Materials Center will begin establishing research and seed production fields at the new property this coming spring.

For further information on the Plant Materials Center, contact Loren St. John at (208)397-4133 or by email at Loren.Stjohn@id.usda.gov.

-- USDA-NRCS Aberdeen Plant Materials Center
December 15, 2005

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