

USDA, NRCS
PLANT MATERIALS
PROGRAM

POINTS
OF
INTEREST

- FFA Field Day
- New Release For PMC

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BOONEVILLE PLANT PRESS

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FFA Field Day

Eight hundred and sixty students from 44 schools in Arkansas attended the 16th Annual FFA Field Day in Booneville March 8. The event was held at the Logan County Fairgrounds, with events also occurring at the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center and the Rogers Scout Reservation.

Judging activities included: Land, Forestry, Crops, Dairy Products, Poultry, Floriculture, Livestock, and Nursery/Landscape.

Winners of this years competition are as follows:

Crops: 1st place—Clinton, 2nd place—Shirley, and 3rd place — Hartford.

Dairy Products: 1st place—Waldron, 2nd place —Greenbrier, 3rd place—Lincoln.

Floriculture: 1st Place—Greenbrier, 2nd place—Bentonville, 3rd place— Lincoln.

Forestry: 1st place—Mena, 2nd place—Wicks, 3rd place—Mountainburg.

Land: 1st place—Delight, 2nd place—Wonderview, 3rd place—Plainview.

Livestock: 1st place—Greenbrier, 2nd place—Van Cove, 3rd place—Huntsville.

Nursery/Landscape: 1st place—Greenwood, 2nd place—Greenbrier, 3rd place—Vilonia.

Poultry: 1st place—Lake Hamilton, 2nd place—Green Forest, 3rd place—Lincoln.

The field day activities provide competitive training and give FFA members the opportunity to put into practice the information and skills gained through school classroom instruction. It also prepares them for up-coming district and state events.

If you would like to have additional information about the events of the FFA Field Day you may contact the Paris Field Service Center at 479-963-2612 or the Booneville Plant Materials Center at 479-675-5182.



Mission Statement of NRCS

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) Plant Materials Program (PM) is to develop, test, and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. NRCS PM activities are consistent with the objectives of the current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NRCS Strategic Plans (Exhibit 539-1), namely to provide timely and effective vegetative solutions for identified resource needs.

New Release for the PMC

The Booneville Plant Materials Center began an Indiangrass collection to develop a variety of grass that may be more adapted to this service area. The collection began in the fall of 2006 with the assistance of district conservationist and other Natural Resources Conservation Service employees. Approximately 85 ecotypes were assembled from eastern Oklahoma and southern Missouri, with the majority coming from northwest Arkansas.



Indiangrass is a native warm-season perennial grass that occurs over much of the Southeast. It is noted for its rapid growth in the late summer when high temperatures retard the growth of the cool-season grasses. The primary use of Indiangrass is as livestock forage seeded in pure stands or mixtures. It is rated as excellent for bird nesting and rearing. Undisturbed nesting and hatching are possible in the fields of Indiangrass because grazing and haying operations are completed after the prime nesting season for most wildlife species.

Indiangrass produces a deep, extensive, fibrous root system and short rhizomes. It can be distinguished from other warm-season grasses even when they are young, by its fuzzy stem and claw-like extension of its sheath.

Indiangrass is used extensively in NRCS conservation programs and by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to promote wildlife habitat. It also has application for buffer strips and riparian areas.



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