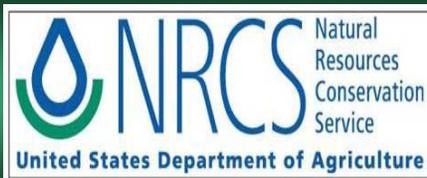


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# Plants for Conservation

Spring 2011

Vol. 12 No. 1 Elsberry PMC Serving Programs for Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri

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## Elsberry PMC Plans Field Day

The USDA NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center (PMC) invites you to attend our **Field Day on Tuesday, June 28, 2011** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The open house begins at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome and introduction to the Elsberry Center.

A wagon tour will provide an overview of the facilities and specialized equipment for foundation seed processing, harvesting, cleaning, and the storage requirements for native seed. The tour will also view the Center's production fields.

The Center has 19 active studies that directly relate to finding plant solutions to help respond to our natural resources challenges in the three states of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri that the Center serves.

So schedule June 28, 2011 Tuesday to come and spend a beautiful summer day at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center. Bring your lunch, picnic tables and shaded trees provided! An agenda will be e-mail out to field offices a month before the field day.

**Please Confirm Your Attendance** by calling the center at 573-898-2012; or contact: [ron.cordsiemon@mo.usda.gov](mailto:ron.cordsiemon@mo.usda.gov) PMC, Mgr, Or [jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov) , PM Specialist



## Drawing prizes will be awarded to some lucky winners that attend the field day.

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## 2011 Spring Field Plantings Needed

Jerry Kaiser, Plant Materials Specialist

The Elsberry Plant Materials Program depends on field offices to help find landowners that are interested in testing plant materials for actual field plantings performance of new selections of grasses, forbs and woody plants. This is a working relationship in cooperation with the Elsberry Plant Materials Program, NRCS field offices and cooperators in taking advantage of field planting opportunities. This relationship allows us to field test new plant materials in a real world setting on farms and ranches in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Please review your 2011 NRCS State Bulletins for Iowa (190-11-3), Missouri (190-11-1), Illinois (190-11-2) for available plant materials in 2011 or contact [jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov) for more information. Thanks to all field offices that participated in 2010 field plantings.



A Big Bluestem, #9083274, was selected for resistance to lodging and biomass production.

In 2011, requesting field planting sites for practice 589c Cross Wind Trap Strips and 380 Windbreak practice snow storage area with native grasses.



Ozark Little Bluestem and OZ-70 Big Bluestem drilled dormant for a grazing system in Monteau County, Missouri.



OZ-70 Big Bluestem for hay production. Livingston County, MO. Photo is after the first growing season. Picture May 2010 Landowner did 2 cuttings during the growing season for total of 3 tons/acre.

## Follow-up to High Tunnel Demonstration at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center

Ron Cordsiemon, PMC Manager

There were four beds that are three feet wide and run the length of the high tunnel. Two of the beds were planted with common garden vegetables, tomatoes, bush beans, brussels' sprouts, and leaf lettuce. Another bed consisted of a forb *Penstemon digitalis*, Fox-glove beard tongue which is a future release of a Missouri ecotype. The final bed consisted of blackberry and blueberry bushes. The plants in the high tunnel were replicated on the outside as a simple comparison. They were evaluated for amount of fruit, seed and vegetable production as well as length of production. The production increase was 30% from the high tunnel vs. the outside planting. The high tunnel provided an earlier planting date and a longer harvest season. The PMC staff has also installed two catch basins for the runoff of the high tunnel. Each basin runs parallel to the tunnel and is approximately 5-14 in. deep and 56 ft. by 5 ft. wide. The basins have several different sedge species planted in them. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the installation of a high tunnel, you can contact the Elsberry Plant Materials Center at 573-898-2012. The PMC will hold its annual field day on June 28 and the high tunnel will be one of the topics discussed on the tour.



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### Fence Building Workshop at the PMC

The Elsberry PMC conducted fence building on site for 3 separates paddocks for a total of 19 acres. These paddocks will be used for Katahdin hair sheep and goats grazing to demonstrate how grazing can be used to control invasive species, such as bush honeysuckle *Lonicera maackii* and Common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*.

The center would like to thank the Grassland Specialists from Missouri, Mark Kennedy, Doug Petterson, John Turner (retired) to lead this workshop. And for the field personel from Missouri and Illinois that participated, as well as the staff from the PMC. The fence is in use see story below.



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### Invasive species control using Katahdin sheep

Jerry Kaiser Plant Materials Specialist

Many acres of Missouri's forests and woodlands are invaded by non desirable invasive understory vegetation such as bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*, Common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*. The woodland areas at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center (PMC) are similar to other woodlands which are infested with bush honeysuckle. Most of these areas on the PMC are along streams with



steep banks where mechanical control is impractical and chemical control would be costly and time consuming requiring hand labor.

The PMC was able to work with a local producer who provided the Katahdin sheep and a guard dog to see how they would perform for this project. The Katahdin breed of sheep is raised for meat production, they also have hair not wool and they graze both grass and woody shrub browse. The project consisted installing the 7 wire high tensile electric fence for grazing that began this April. The goal is to document the level of invasive species control for the growing season from April to October. The PMC has three paddocks or pastures to rotate the sheep to provide enough grazing for the season.

Lincoln University is a partner on this project tracking the animal performance and conducting veterinary services for the sheep.

So come to the center for our field day to learn more about how the sheep and just recently lambs are performing on grazing bush honeysuckle at the PMC.

## Personnel Update



Another year and another person will be retiring from the PMC. Dean Tapley Biological Technician is retiring after 19 years of service here at the Elsberry PMC. We are going to miss Dean; he can fix or reengineer things at the center to make it work! We want to wish the best to Dean and his wife Rita for his retirement years. Dean has already signed a volunteer's form, but that will come second to many things he wants to do at home and on his farm. Please send best wishes to Dean his last day in May31, 2011.

## Website Reference Locations

Click on the following line web link to access Elsberry PMC Homepage

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/mopmc/>

Click on the following line for the 2011 Updated Growers List if you are looking for native grasses, legumes ,forbs or woody plant materials.

[Seed and Woody Growers of Elsberry Releases](#)

Click on the following line for the 2011 Updated Foundation Seed Prices.

2011 Foundation Seed Prices <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/mopmsot8513.pdf>

Click on the following line for the 2009 Annual Technical Report for current study updates from the Elsberry PMC\*

<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/mopmctr9409.pdf>

Use the bookmarks on the left side to review a study of interest.

\* Why is the 2009 Annual Technical Report (ATR) the most current in 2010?

We collect the data during that growing season year; after the growing season the data is analyzed, compiled and documented to be in the Annual Technical Report that is available the following year. Look for the 2010 ATR coming this year to the website.