



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

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NEWS -For Immediate Release

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July 13, 2004

TEXAS USDA-NRCS ANNOUNCES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY FIELD DAY OF THE KNOX CITY PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

Temple, Texas, July 13, 2004 – The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Knox City Plant Materials Center (PMC) near Knox City, Texas, will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary Field Day on August 26, 2004. Since 1964, the Knox City PMC has released 35 new plant cultivars, along with the technology for their production and use.

For years the PMC has demonstrated cooperative efforts between local, state and federal agencies working together to make the center and plant materials program a success. The PMC is located approximately two miles north of Knox City on State Highway 6, then turn left at FM 1292 for about 2.5 miles and follow the signs to the center.

The Knox City PMC serves north, central and west Texas, as well as southwest Oklahoma. Knox City PMC was the first plant materials center located in the state of Texas. According to PMC Manager Morris Houck, the anniversary event will have guided tours throughout the center from 9 a.m. until around 3 p.m., and registration will begin at 8 a.m. PMC encourages Soil and Water Conservation District directors, research workers, wildlife enthusiasts, livestock producers, and conservation seed dealers/growers to attend among other interested parties in the search for better plants.

(more)

“Among the stops made by wagon-guided tours will be native plant breeding blocks, foundation seed fields, windbreaks, and evaluation fields,” said Houck. “Part of the tour will highlight a native prairie planting at the center.”

A new part of the field day will be an offering of two workshops during the morning of the field day. One workshop will focus on grass seed drill calibration, while the second will expose the participants to basic plant identification. Each workshop will last approximately one hour.

For conservation professionals intending to fly into Knox City for the anniversary event, the city has a 3200-foot, all weather paved runway near the center that can accommodate private and chartered aircraft.

The noon lunch will have a formal program with guest speakers, and will be provided by the Knox City Chamber of Commerce. The pre-paid price for the luncheon will be \$7.00 with a deadline of August 13, 2004 for making reservations, and meal tickets will be available at the registration desk.

Meal ticket payments should be sent to the attention of the following, and payable to the Knox City Chamber of Commerce:

Daveine Clark
Knox City Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 91
Knox City, Texas 79529

For further inquires, please contact the Knox City Chamber of Commerce at (940) 658-3442 for information about the noon luncheon.

For more information about the PMC 40th Anniversary Field Day, please contact Morris Houck at (940) 658-3922, or e-mail at Morris.Houck@tx.usda.gov.

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