Empire Farm Days Demos

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jacent to the USDA tent. The garden, the brainchild of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Plant Materials Center, is designed to be a semipermanent exhibit. Empire Farm Days visitors will be able to take a walkway through the 50 by 60 foot lot, view several varieties of grasses and other plants grow-

ing in planned garden plots, observe a water filtration demonstration; and pick up information about the grasses and conservation practices. NRCS representatives will be on-hand to answer any questions visitors may have.

The seeds for the grasses and wildflowers were supplied by the Plant Materials Center in Big Flats, N.Y., in Chemung

County. Formed in 1936 under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, the plant materials program assembles, tests, and releases plant materials for conservation use. The program also determines techniques for successful use and management of conservation species, facilitates the commercial increase of conservation species, provides for the timely development and transfer of effective state-of-the-art applied plant science technology to solve

conservation problems, and promotes the use of plant science technology.

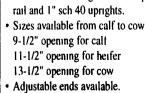
To accomplish this purpose, NRCS maintains and operates a plant Material program as part of its ongoing coordinated conservation operations activities through a network of Plant Material Centers (PMC) and Plant Material Specialists (PMS). The program in New York serves states from Maine to West Virginia through its Big Flats Plant

Material Center.

The New York Plant Materials team has released 18 plant varieties to commercial production. During the 1999 fiscal year alone, \$1 million was generated through the sale of these conservation plants from commercial nurseries and seed companies. This revenue resulted in an additional \$800,000 in the purchase of goods and services nationwide.



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