

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

To be sent via email

April 5, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 260-4-12

SUBJECT: INF – NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To distribute a news release.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004.

Attached is a news release entitled *USDA Signs Agreement With the American Seed Trade Association*. This news release should be adapted to reflect local concerns and distributed to your local radio and television stations(s) as well as to your daily newspaper.

Questions regarding Public Information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AO

Attachment



NEWS RELEASE

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**For more information contact:
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USDA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2004—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) to promote better exchange of seed technology.

“This partnership will ensure that quality native seed is available for future conservation efforts. Native seed supplies are essential and must be available for conservation program participants,” Knight said.

The NRCS Plant Materials Program selects plants that are important to conservation efforts and develops innovative planting technologies that make the plants more effective in solving conservation concerns. The program includes a network of 26 plant materials centers that work with commercial seed producers to make sure that high quality seed needed for conservation work is available.

In addition, NRCS works closely with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to make recommendations for reseeding after wildfires and other major disturbances, as well as to improve rangeland quality in the West.

The five-year MOU to exchange cultivation information and technology extends to those activities of ASTA, the NRCS Plant Materials Program and related programs that apply to conservation of natural resources.

Signatories to the MOU were Knight and Dick Crowder, ASTA President and CEO.

Additional information on the NRCS Plant Materials Program can be found at <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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