

Locke receives a helpful site visit

By Jason A. Miller, district conservationist, Madisonville Field Office



Fred Locke retired USDA Forest Service employee came to the Madisonville Service Center seeking programs to assist with establishing a pollinator planting for bees and for wildlife. After making a site visit with Fred, Jason Miller District Conservationist, made a site visit and suggested applying for Environmental Quality Incentives Program for financial assistance to establish a field border with a buffer of 120 feet along side of a current hay field. Fred then applied for

Environmental Quality Incentives Program and was later funded for 8.3 acres of two species of Native Warm Season grass and nine species of forbs (wildflowers).

Site preparation was key to a successful establishment of the Field Border. Fred completed two Herbaceous Weed control applications to eradicate the existing cover of fescue, other cool and warm season grass and, he also conducted a prescribe burn on the acreage. The site preparation was a success. This past spring Fred completed the establishment of NWSG and Forbs by no tilling the seed. Three months from establishment the pictures show the success as many of the Forbs and NWSG are already germinating and is present.

Fred is very pleased with the outcome and is looking forward to seeing many more of the forbs as they germinate. The pollinator mix was intended to have multiple species growing from early spring, mid-summer and into the fall, allowing pollination available for bees and wildlife for a long period of time.

The property is located within a 303D impaired stream Bat Creek. Establishing a buffer will improve the water quality, provide pollinators plus habitat for bees and wildlife.

