

Hill And Furrow Blog Attracts International Attention

URBANA, ILL.

The University of Illinois has six Research and Demonstration Centers across the state, representing the major climate and soil types in Illinois.

Starting in July 2011, the Commercial Agriculture Educator positions were established by the University of Illinois Extension with the goal of bringing the results of the most current agricultural research (crops and livestock) at the Department of Crop Sciences Research Centers to local stakeholders. Angie Peltier is a Commercial Agriculture Crops Educator with the University of Illinois Extension and is located in Monmouth at the Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center. The NWIARDC is a 320-acre farm specializing in small-plot row-crops research.

In April 2012, Angie launched the NWIARDC website and Hill and Furrow Blog. The website is a clearinghouse for web links on agronomic, pest management, and general topics related to row-crop production.

The Hill and Furrow Blog is updated weekly and highlights timely pest management (insect,

disease, and weed) and other issues that may affect row-crop production in western Illinois. The blog also presents results from some of the more than 50 research projects at the NWIARDC every growing season.

In the six months since its launch, the NWIARDC website has attracted more than 13,500 page hits and the blog even generated international interest. Two journalists from Deutschlandradio, the German equivalent of National Public Radio, came to Warren County, Illinois to learn about soil conservation practices and the 2012 drought.

The NWIARDC website can be accessed at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/nwiardc/> and the blog at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/nwiardc/eb270/>, or link to them through the FMPT Unit webpage.

For assistance with questions about row crops or to learn more about research at the Northwestern Illinois Research and Demonstration Center, contact Angie Peltier, Extension Educator, Commercial Agriculture, at apeltier@illinois.edu or 309-734-5161. △



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