

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service strives to protect Illinois' soil resources, improve water quality, preserve wildlife habitat, and secure open space and prime farmland; and

WHEREAS, conservationists across our beautiful state work hand in hand with the citizens of Illinois to conserve natural resources in order to create a healthier land; and

WHEREAS, along with Illinois and federal conservation agencies and districts, leadership for the conservation of natural resources on private lands is provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and its predecessor, the Soil Conservation Service, have been helping agricultural landowners in Illinois meet their conservation goals since 1935; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has established an important conservation partnership with Illinois' private landowners and producers:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2005 as CONSERVATION DAY in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and their contributions to this state, so as to increase awareness among Illinois' citizens about the importance of preserving our natural resources.

In Witness Whereof, Thave hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SECOND day of APRIL, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
FIVE, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and EIGHTY-SEVENTH

Desse White SECRETARY OF STATE Jack Blag youil