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West Virginia NRCS News and Views



Penny Sheeler took this photo on a snowy January morning—an attractive winter scene with unusual empty parking spaces in front of the Harley C. Staggers Federal Building in Morgantown. The Post Office moved to its new location, diagonally across the street from its former location in the Federal Building. The WV State office is scheduled to relocate with the other USDA Federal Building Agencies' during the spring to summer of 2009.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service February 2008

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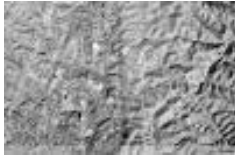
[Agriculture and Conservation Agencies and Organizations Visited the Capitol](#)



The annual Agriculture and Conservation Day was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, in the West Virginia Capitol Rotunda.

[...More Info](#)

[Historical Aerial Photography](#)



These archived aerial photos are very important historical documents, especially the older photos, the 1938 to 1945 flights. These photos deserve organization and should be available and assessable to the public.

[Conservation Education](#)

Grassland Contest, Envirothon

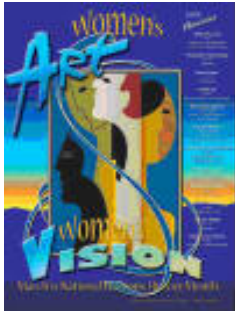
[...More Info](#)

[Useful Web Links](#)

Estate Planning Options for Family Forests, West Virginia State Agency Reports, PLANTS Identification, 2008 General Schedule (GS) Locality Pay Tables, Rural Development, *Conservation Tillage*, *Nutrient Management Planning*, *Top Farmers' Best Management Practices*.

[...More Info](#)

[Civil Rights](#)



Committee Members, Demographics by ZIP Code, February is Black History Month, March is Women's History Month, WV Women's Quiz, EEO Statement.

[...More Info](#)

Meet



Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture; Wendy Noll, Soil Scientist; and Angela Greene, Civil Engineer.

[...More Info](#)

Personnel News

To submit news items for the May *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to [Carol Lagodich](#).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office

75 High Street Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

304-284-7540 | fax 304-284-4839

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Kevin Wickey, West Virginia State Conservationist

NRCS field offices are located throughout West Virginia

Visit <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/> for addresses and phone numbers.

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Message from Kevin Wickey

We are already just a few weeks away from completing half of FY2008. We've made some significant progress during that half a year.

We successfully obligated 95% of our EQIP initial allocation on February 7th and received the remaining FA and accompanying TA EQIP allocation because of our regional equity status on February 12th. We're days away from completing all EQIP, GRP, FRPP, and WHIP obligations. A big thank you goes out to all of you involved in one way or another with these successful obligations.

All of us in NRCS in WV owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals because their efforts provided us with a huge accomplishment – the extra EQIP TA funds provided a balanced budget for us this fiscal year.

Of course, now the work really starts on these contracts – implementing conservation practices. I understand that will be a huge challenge for us as we look at all the practices that are waiting on our design and implementation assistance the rest of this year.

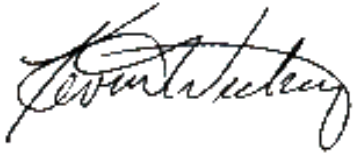
With a balanced budget in place, we now need to consolidate a bit and look at several things, including training we need to accomplish yet this year and getting the staff we have in the locations where the need is the greatest.

Of course, our on-going tasks are in front of us as well. We need to achieve our performance goals, business plan items, as well as continue to work on our staffing plan - but I'm confident that we can achieve success in these items as well.

Let me finish by drawing your attention to the new information campaign that the Chief just kicked off at the recent NACD conference in Reno, Nevada called [Conservation: Our Purpose. Our Passion](#). For this campaign, each state has gathered up information, quotes, and photographs from some of the NRCS staff and customers whose purpose and passion about their work is worth sharing. These short profiles will demonstrate to

our customers, our partners, and to each other just how and why we do what we do. Over the next year, the campaign will share stories of different employees with different jobs on the campaign's national website – and we'll feature even more on our state website. I encourage you to take some time and read a few—it's good reading and it's inspiring to read their stories.

Part of the campaign is our customers telling what conservation and our assistance has meant to them in their own words in a 5 minute video. I just sent DVD's out to all districts containing this video. Take a moment and view that video. When I viewed it, it helped remind me again what we are about – helping people help the land. I want to thank each of you for your own personal commitment and the passion you demonstrate for NRCS and for conservation here in West Virginia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Wickey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kevin Wickey

State Conservationist

West Virginia

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From the Field



Chainsaw Safety and Skills Training Held

Three West Virginia counties were home to Chainsaw Safety and Skills training sessions this fall. The sessions were held on the Tree Farms of Juergen Wildman in Marion County, Buck Chestnut in Kanawha County and the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Jackson County.

Landowners interested in taking a more active role in the management of their woodlands had the opportunity to learn more about such topics as: personal protective equipment, reactive forces and safety features of the chainsaw, the chainsaw tooth, the bore cut, notches and hinges, spring poles and the five steps in felling a tree.

The one-day training was provided by Cahajo Consulting with help of the West Virginia Tree Farm Committee.

For more information contact [Barbara McWhorter](#) at the [NRCS WV State Office](#).

Great Kanawha RC&D

Learning About the World Around Them

Children at Buffalo Elementary in Putnam County, WV can now learn more about the world around them. Thanks to the partnering efforts of American Electric Power, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, WV Budget Digest, and the Great Kanawha RC&D.

Map resources were non-existent at the small Putnam County School, but thanks to

Norman Walter, Great Kanawha (GK) RC&D chairman, they can now look at new world, US, State and Historical Maps. "I just stopped in the school when we were preparing to get our state grant money and asked them what they needed" commented Walter.

Principal Mike Mullins mentioned that the teachers had decided they would like a new set of maps for each classroom. They had been promised \$2,000 from AEP and had access to a \$2,000 earmark for their school from the WV Budget Digest. However, they were still in need of another \$4,390.00. GK RC&D had \$600 they could put toward the project and Jackie Byars, Coordinator drafted a grant to local Toyota Motor Manufacturing that provided the school with the remaining \$3,790.00 that was needed.

The maps were purchased and in place for the beginning of the 2007 school year. Principal Mullins said, "Without the assistance from GK RC&D we would not have been able to purchase these wonderful map resources for our children. The teachers and students have really put these maps to good use".

The RC&D felt this project was very important for educating the students about world climate, topography, and soil and water resources.

For more information contact [Jackie Byars](#) at the [Great Kanawha RC&D Office](#).



Romney Field Office

Hampshire County Career Day

The Romney Field Office participated in a career day at Hampshire High School on the morning of January 24, 2008. A display on NRCS services and activities that was provided by the NRCS/Landcare Exhibits office was used in this event.

Over 260 eighth grade students from the two Hampshire County Middle Schools attended the career day that was sponsored by the vocational-technical department of Hampshire High School, in an effort to encourage next year's freshman class to consider future technical careers.

Pamphlets on conservation careers and the Earth Team were provided to the students.

“This event was a good opportunity for next year’s new high school students to meet and talk to professionals in a variety of technical fields about their work and educational requirements”, noted District Conservationist Steve Ritz.

One of the high school students assisting with the event plans to become an Earth Team Volunteer in the Romney Field Office during the summer of 2008.

For more information, contact [Steve Ritz](#) at the [Romney Service Center](#).

Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Commercial Foods Workshop on Food Recall and Bio Terrorism Procedures

The Mountain RC&D Council provided fiscal sponsorship to the WV Dept. of Agriculture (WVDA), Commercial Foods Workshop. The January 7-8, 2008 workshop included training in Recall Procedure writing, current regulations concerning bio-terrorism guidelines and registration, and other pertinent regulations involved in the processing of food at a commercial level. The course was also attended by WV Public Health District Sanitarians and WVDA personnel. Mountain RC&D provided grant management for a Work Force Development grant and funding support from WV Dept. of Agriculture totaling \$5,000.00. Dr. Susan Sumner-VA Tech instructed the workshop.

For more information contact [Mike Gasper](#) at the [Mountain RC&D Office](#).

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Bits and Pieces

Photo Release

This item requires  [Adobe Acrobat](#)

A signed photo release is required to be on file for any person appearing in the image who is not an employee of the federal government.

 [photo release](#) (13 KB)

Recreational Use & Economics of Conservation Reserve (CRP) Acreage: A National Survey of Landowners


From July through September, 2007, a mail survey was conducted at the request of the USDA Farm Service Agency of landowners participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). A random sample of 4,000 CRP enrollees was polled to assess recreational use of their CRP lands and associated revenue generated from recreational use of these lands.

Key findings at the national level revealed:

- Fifty-seven percent of CRP enrollees said some portion of their CRP acreages was used by outdoor recreationists for activities such as hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hiking.
- Of that 43% of landowners indicating their CRP acreages were not used for outdoor recreation, the most common explanation was, "I am opposed to people I do not know having

See the whole report:

This document requires [Adobe Acrobat](#).

 [Recreational Use & Economics of Conservation Reserve \(CRP\) Acreage: A National Survey of Landowners](#) (1273 KB)

Legislation

(submitted by Peg Reese)

Federal

Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and George Voinovich (R-OH) introduced S. RES. 440, the National Soil Resolution, on February 5. The Resolution shows appreciation and support for the soil resource.

State

Voluntary Rural & Outdoor Heritage Conservation Act SB 622 was taken up by the Senate Economic Development Committee. The purpose of this bill is to make a State investment in the conservation of land important to West Virginians' economic well-being and quality of life.

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week



February 24–29, 2008

Invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to the integrity of native habitats and ecosystems. National Invasive Weed Awareness Week was established to educate the public about invasive weeds and to encourage citizens to help preserve their National Parks and public lands by removing invasive weeds.

The Ninth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 9) will be held the week of February 24–29, 2008, to bring people and groups from across the country

together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds.

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**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
West Virginia**

Consent/Release Form

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In giving this consent, I release the United States, its officers, employees, nominees, and designees from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such sale, reproduction, and use.

I am more than 21 years of age.

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Date)

Consent of Guardian

(Print Name)

I am the parent and/or guardians of the minor named above, and have the legal authority to execute consent and release. I approve the foregoing and waive any rights to the above.

(Signature)

(Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

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Casey Shrader Recognized

Casey Shrader, WV NRCS State Biologist was recognized for Partnership Development to Improve Fish Habitat for Second Creek, WV.

Casey initiated a first time partnership between NRCS, the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, West Virginia Conservation Agency, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and Trout Unlimited to initiate stream restoration for a trout stream in southern WV. Second Creek is degraded due to installation of a combination dam and low water crossings causing the stream to become braided and during high flow to erode the stream banks. The resulting condition is a loss of deep pools for the trout fishery, elevated stream temperatures and crossing bridges to be undercut. Casey contacted interested parties and formulated a Special Project request using Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds. The plan is to use natural stream restoration patterned after the David Rosgen methodology. The request was funded in July 2006 with an appropriation of \$107,000.00 of WHIP funds. Casey developed a Contribution Agreement with the Agencies that in the past had divergent single purpose approaches to addressing stream problems. This agreement has coordinated tasks of the Conservation District chairing the restoration committee. The WVCA is surveying and designing the restoration with oversight by the WVDNR. The environmental assessment, public meetings, and long-term monitoring/aquatic surveys are a joint DNR and TU responsibility.

The partnership and plan development by Casey will not only result in restoration of a unique aquatic fishery in southern WV. The coordination has resulted in the development of new partnerships in West Virginia between agencies that defines new goals, improved levels of cooperation and is meeting NRCS goals at reduced federal cost.

State Biologists, State Resource Conservationists, and State Conservationists, nominated individuals who made outstanding contributions to the conservation of this

nation's wildlife and fish resources. The awards were announced in the January 2008 NRCS Biology Newsletter, Special Awards Edition.

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Passion In The Workplace? NRCS Sure Has It!

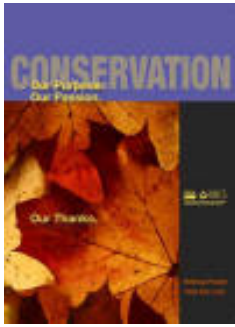


NRCS has just kicked off a new national campaign entitled "**Conservation—Our Purpose, Our Passion.**"

The campaign highlights stories from farmers who share their excitement of working with NRCS employees to improve the land, bring back healthy vegetation and wildlife populations, and restore water quality and quantity. The campaign also includes stories from employees who have obvious enthusiasm for the work they do with their farming customers. The campaign shows the pride NRCS takes in improving and protecting private lands across America.

For example, The Clearco Sportsman's Club of Charmco, WV signed up to participate in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in 2005. They are [using WHIP to improve habitat](#) for turkey and other wildlife. The [Elkwater Fork project](#) is also highlighted. It will provided an adequate drinking water source in Randolph County, West Virginia

Charles H. Delp and John Cox are passionate about what they do and were featured in the November News and Views (http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07nov_nv/meet.html) and will be on the National site honoring outstanding NRCS employees. They are working together with customers and other conservation-minded partners, they have quietly been improving and protecting natural resources for many years. They are proud of their success. Just ask them. They'll tell you. Conservation—Our Purpose, Our Passion.



Several items are available from [LandCare](#). *Conservation...Our Purpose, Our Passion* posters will be sent to offices to place over doors. *Conservation ... Our Purpose, Our Passion, Our Thanks* postcards can be displayed or sent to those who are making a difference on the land, from landowners to partners.

For more info and a video, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/ourpurpose/index.html>

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Agriculture and Conservation Agencies and Organizations Visited the Capitol

The annual Agriculture and Conservation Day was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, in the West Virginia Capitol Rotunda. West Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) joined other USDA and WV State agencies, associations, and organizations promoting agriculture and conservation.

Participants had displays and representatives on hand to answer questions and hand out literature. The NRCS Management Team, represented by Kevin Wickey, Bill O'Donnell, Dick Judy, Pat Bowen, Greg Kist, and Greg Stone, discussed issues with State Legislature and citizens visiting the West Virginia capitol.



Barbara McWhorter (State Forester) and Pat Bowen (State Resource Conservationist) collaborated on a Chesapeake Bay poster highlighting programs that add and/or protect farm woodlots. Charlotte Elliott-Friend, (Assistant State Conservationist-Outreach/Civil Rights) and Carol Lagodich (Public Affairs) staffed the display.

Backyard Conservation booklets and Soil Survey handouts and day planners were popular items at the NRCS display.



Lavon Paden, Bill O'Donnell (Assistant State Conservationist-Programs), and Kevin Wickey (WV State Conservationist) discuss the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). Peg Reese prepared handouts for the partnership booth.

West Virginia's Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D) were represented by Jackie Byers and Kurt Simon.



Jackie Byers, Great Kanawha RC&D Coordinator; and Don Headley, Chairman Monongahela Conservation District, chat about RC&D programs.

An afternoon reception featured West Virginia Grown products.

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Historical Aerial Photography

(Submitted by Rob Pate)

Historical aerial photography has a great many potential uses, and more would be uncovered as it becomes increasingly available. In addition to the original agricultural uses, aerial photography can provide a historical record for studying such things as land use change, landform change, demographic change, and habitat assessment. It can be used for community planning, environmental enforcement, industrial projects, transportation planning, creating base maps, and basic enjoyment.

Field offices are busy. Everyone is doing more with less staff. Of course, the farm bill contracts are priority; trying to complete contracts by deadline, it is tough to find enough hours in the day to service our customers, and meet the field office goals.

In the middle of all this, someone walks in looking for old archived photos. A lot of times these are out-of-state consultants working on environmental assessments for a new cell tower site, or looking for historical information on past land use. With new offices, and many office consolidations, many of these archived photos are collecting dust in a big pile in the back broom closet. Photo indexes are lost or have been thrown out. Most of the 1990 flights have no date or flight line on the front of the photo, and it is hard to even tell which county you are in, much less find a particular site in a county.

These archived aerial photos are very important historical documents, especially the older photos, the 1938 to 1945 flights. These photos deserve organization and should be available and assessable to the public.

The following may be printed and put with your archived aerial photography. If the public wants further info on aerial photos, they can contact the USDA-FSA APFO in Salt Lake City. The Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) is the primary source of aerial imagery for the United States Department of Agriculture. Over 10,000,000 images are held there. The imagery dates begin with 1955 to the present.

The collection of aerial photography housed in the historical film library at the Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) is reputed to be one of the largest in the country. Its initial purpose was to maintain a photographic record of the nation's farmlands for use in administering farm programs. In addition to serving the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and its predecessors, APFO has contracted imagery acquisition for the Forest Service (FS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and others.

More information may be found at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/vault_holdings2.pdf

Or contact:

Customer Service Section

USDA Farm Service Agency

Aerial Photography Field Office

2222 West 2300 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84119-2020

Tel: 801-975-3503

Fax: 801-975-3532

Email: apfo.sales@slc.usda.gov

Web site: <http://www.apfo.usda.gov>

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Conservation Education

Grassland Contest

Submitted by Norm Bailey

The website for the grass contest is online. There are 3 ways to access the Grassland contest information:

1. Go to: www.wvca.us, click on Education, then click on Grassland Contest.
2. There is a shortcut on the home page (www.wvca.us) "08 Grassland Contest."
3. Direct link: http://www.wvca.us/education/program.cfm?page=program_grassland_contest

This year the contest will be Friday, April 11, 2008.

Envirothon

The 2008 WV Envirothon will be held April 24 & 25, 2008 at Canaan Valley Resort. The 2008 special topic is recreational impacts on natural resources.

For more information, go to <http://www.wvca.us/envirothon/>.

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Useful Links

Estate Planning Options for Family Forests

More than 60 percent of current forestland owners are age 55 or older and about half of them have already retired. Without proper estate planning, forced liquidation of family forests or severe disruption of planned forest management activities is a distinct possibility.

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml>

West Virginia State Agency Reports

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Reports/Agency_Reports/agencylist_all.cfm

PLANTS Identification

Automated Key Data Available For Use and Testing

Draft interactive keys and plant character data sets for selected groups of U.S. plants are available for use and testing on-line or by downloading the specific PLANTS Identification application.

Unlike a traditional plant identification key that provides you with only two choices at each step (a dichotomous key), these keys let you select multiple characters simultaneously (polyclave key). This makes more character data available in the key and minimizes the number of steps it takes to identify a plant.

http://npdc.usda.gov/technical/plantid_wetland_mono.html

2008 General Schedule (GS) Locality Pay Tables

Annual Rate, Hourly Rate, and locality pay tables

<http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/indexGS.asp>

Rural Development

Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/WV/FY%202007%20Annual%20Report%20Calendar.pdf>

January 2008 Newsletter

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/WV/Almost%20Heaven%20WV%20Mountain%20State%20Rural%20Express%20January%202008.pdf>

Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management Planning, Top Farmers' Best Management Practices

Farmers are adopting best management practices in record numbers, according to a survey just released by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI). The survey was designed to gain a better understanding of environmental management measures on U.S. farms and barriers to adoption. Responses were received from nearly 2,000 farmers nationwide representing 2.5 million acres of farmed cropland.

http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=about_news_topbmpjan08

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West Virginia's Civil Rights



[West Virginia Civil Rights Committee Members](#)

Demographics by ZIP Code

(submitted by Barbara Broxterman)

[Zipskinny](#) provides an interesting "first glance" at a ZIP Code area.

This site uses 2000 data obtained from the Census website. <http://www.zipskinny.com/>

For more complete information go to the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/>

Demographics by county or city may also be found at <http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/54000.html>

February is Black History Month

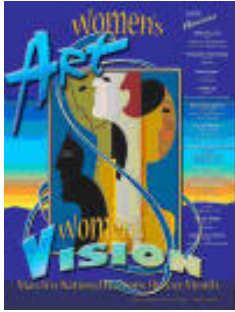


The 2008 poster features Carter Woodson who is recognized as the father of Multiculturalism. Mr. Woodson had a West Virginia connection having worked in the coal mines of Fayette County, attending school and later teaching in Huntington, West Virginia.

[Marvin Kerr](#) is the Black Emphasis Program Manager.

March is Women's History Month

To honor the originality, beauty, imagination, and multiple dimensions of women's lives, *Women's Art: Women's Vision* is the 2008 theme for National Women's History Month.



The history of women and art is quintessential women's history. It is the story of amazing women's accomplishments acclaimed at the time but written out of history. For more information, go to <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>.

Women's History Month printable brochure at http://www.nwhp.org/whm/2008_NWHP_brochure.pdf

[Carol Lagodich](#) is the Federal Women's Program Manager.

WV Women's History Quiz

What do you know about the history of some WV employees? All these women were featured in past *News and Views*.

Who is originally from Hundred, WV?

Who conducted crop and soil research in Costa Rica?

Who raised truck crops during the summer for their FFA project?

Who became the first woman to hold the State Administrative Officer position in West Virginia?

Who starting as a student trainee in Jefferson County in 1983?

Who worked as a rafting photographer and as a mountain bike tour guide prior to joining NRCS as a Soil Scientist?

Who started their NRCS career in 1998 as an Earth Team Volunteer?

Who serve in a liaison position at Canaan Valley Institute?

[Answers](#)

One-Third of Young Women Have Bachelor's Degrees

About 33 percent of young women 25 to 29 had a bachelor's degree or more education in 2007, compared with 26 percent of their male counterparts, according to tabulations released by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information go to <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/011196.html>

The EEO Statement

The EEO statement is required on all materials with a non-internal audience. It is required on partnership pieces to which we lend our logo, if we have contributed funds for the publication.

The reference on this question is Departmental Regulation 4300-3, Equal Opportunity Public Notification Policy, issued by the USDA Office of Civil Rights, November 16, 1999.

This states that the "nondiscrimination statements shall be used in the next issuance of publications, immediately after the approval date of this regulation." On page 3, the regulation specifies that "the statement...shall be...included, in full, on all materials (includes print and non-print, audio, video, Internet, etc.) produced by USDA agencies..." This would include partnership pieces to which we contribute funds for printing, etc.

On page 4, the regulation notes: "If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material will at minimum include the statement, in print size no smaller than the text, that "The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

For more information, contact:

Robert Gresh

Visual Information Specialist

NRCS S&FCB

202.720.3933

The EEO statement may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/>

[_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navtype=FT&navid=NON_DISCRIMINATION](#) or go to the link at the bottom of the WV NRCS homepage <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

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History Quiz Answers.

Below is the question, answer, and the link to more information about the employee.

Who is originally from Hundred, WV?

Nicole Viars

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/05nov_nv/meet_1105.html

Who conducted crop and soil research in Costa Rica?

Jude Jardine

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07feb_nv/meet.html

Who raised truck crops during the summer for their FFA project?

Jackie (Stewart) Byars

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07feb_nv/meet.html

Who was the first woman to hold the State Administrative Officer position in West Virginia?

Charlotte A. Elliott-Friend

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07may_nv/meet.html

Who starting their NRCS career as a student trainee in Jefferson County in 1983?

Rebecca MacLeod

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07may_nv/meet.html

Who worked as a rafting photographer and as a mountain bike tour guide prior to joining NRCS as a Soil Scientist?

Eileen O'Neill

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/07aug_nv/meet.html

Who started their NRCS career in 1998 as an Earth Team Volunteer?

Wendy J. Noll

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/08feb_nv/meet.html

Who serve in a liaison position at Canaan Valley Institute?

Angela Greene

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/08feb_nv/meet.html

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Meet . . .



Ed Schafer
Secretary of
Agriculture

Ed Schafer was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 28, 2008.

Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive.

Read more about Ed Shafer http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=bios_schafer.xml



Wendy J. Noll
Soil Scientist
MLRA 127- Eastern Allegheny Plateau & Mountains

In 1998, I had the opportunity to begin as an Earth Team Volunteer for the Major Land Resource Area Office Region 13 (MO-13 Office), at the WV NRCS State Office here in Morgantown and as "they" say, "the rest is history".

In the ten years between being a volunteer and now, I have had the opportunity to work in a number of different places with many good people. I have worked in soil

survey project offices in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and as a staff member of the MO-13 National Resource Inventory (NRI) data collection team. As part of my duties with the NRI team, I learned to use ArcGIS software. After the duties of NRI data collection was transferred to the East Regional Office in Greensboro, NC, my knowledge of GIS helped me to transition back into soil survey.

From July 2005 until this past October, I worked as a Soil Scientist/ GIS Specialist on the MO-13 staff to update the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database to a digital format. I also participated as a member of a national team developing and testing new technology to be use as part of the new digital age of Soil Survey Update.

My new position as a Soil Scientist (Geoinformatics), on the MLRA 127 Soil Survey Project Staff will allow me use of some of the newest technology developed for updating Soil Survey data. I will also have to opportunity to spend time in the field, verifying the maps and databases created in the office. I have always felt that a map that can't be verified in the field is little more that a nice picture, with little meaning.

I was fortunate to have been raised on my family's farm in Kersey, Pa. My parents taught me and my 4 siblings the value of a "good day's work". For this I am grateful. My husband, Joe, and I live in Grafton, WV. One of my hobbies that borders on an addiction is cooking. I also like gardening. I have recently become a member of the Mountaineer Kennel Club and am working to train my 2 ½ year old Lab, Zoey, for Agilities and Rally Obedience competitions. If all goes well, Zoey and I hope to compete in local and regional AKC contest either this fall or next spring.



Angela Greene
Civil Engineer, Elkins WV

I relocated to West Virginia NRCS from North Carolina in July 2004 to serve in a liaison position at Canaan Valley Institute, a non-profit group headquartered in Thomas, WV. When the liaison position expired in December 31, 2007, I once again became a full-time NRCS employee at the Elkins Service Center (where Chuck Thornhill and Larry

Casseday have made me feel right at home). I am Civil Engineer on the Water Resources staff supervised by Bill O'Donnell, ASTC-Programs.

My primary focus while working as the NRCS Liaison at CVI was natural stream restoration—education, assessment, planning, design and construction implementation—in the Horseshoe Run Watershed in Tucker County. The implementation of natural stream restoration at 6 project sites on Horseshoe Run was a rewarding finish to my liaison assignment.

I began work with the Soil Conservation Service at Wilkesboro, NC as an engineering student trainee in 1977. Since that time, I have had the privilege to serve many farmers and other clients while providing assistance through the engineering phase of the Agency's soil and water conservation programs. I have worked for SCS/NRCS in the following positions and locations:

Student Trainee-Engineer

- Wilkesboro, NC, Area Office: 1977
- Salisbury, NC, AO: 1978
- Raleigh, NC, SO, Design Unit: 1978-1979

Civil Engineer

- Goldsboro, NC, AO: 1979-1980
- Burlington, NC, AO: 1980-1982
- Yadkinville, NC, Technical Services Office: 1991-1995
- Yadkinville, NC, TSO, Natural Stream Specialist: 1998-2004
- Detail-Quincy, IL: January & February 1994

Area Engineer

- Wilkesboro, NC, AO: 1987-1991

Supervisory Civil Engineer

- Salisbury, NC: 1995-1998

(Note: Duke Power Company-Engineering, Construction and Operations Division, Mount Airy, NC: 1984-1987)

Over the years, I have worked in rural and urban areas on stream restoration projects, streambank stabilization measures, stream habitat improvement measures, wetland restoration, water retarding and water control structures, farm ponds, flood control structures, sedimentation and erosion control systems, farm drainage systems, farm irrigation systems, and animal waste management systems through a variety of programs such as CTA, PL-566, RC&D, EQIP, EWP, WHIP and WRP. I served as an instructor in the NEDC "Construction Inspection Course," Ft. Worth, TX from 1993-2000 and in the Interagency course, "A Framework for Stream Corridor Restoration," Monterey, CA from 1999-2000. Through a regional office agreement, I also provided assistance to Florida, Alabama and Kentucky from 1997-1998 on natural stream restoration training.

I am currently completing final reports and as-built plans for the Horseshoe Run Project and providing assistance to Loren Rice (Beckley AO) and Susan Davis (Buckeye FO) on the Knapps Creek Project.

I have a 21 year-old son, Sebron Jessup who took a semester off from college to spend some time in Davis, WV and to make snow at Timberline Ski Resort. Canaan Valley is a wonderful place to live since I love to spend time outdoors—hiking, cross country skiing, and site-seeing in beautiful WV.

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Personnel Updates

(Submitted by Lonnie Williams as of February 4, 2008)

Name	Action	Location	Change
Ali, James	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Northern Panhandle RC&D	-
Andrick, Herb	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	State Office, Programs	ASTC – FO Philippi Area
Aspey, Louis	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	State Office, Water Resources	ASTC – Operations
Bowen, Patrick	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	ASTC – FO, Philippi	State Office, State Resource Conservationist
Darnell, David	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Beckley AO	-
Elliot-Friend, Charlotte	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	State Office, State Admin. Officer	ASTC – Civil Rights/ Outreach
Findley, Sheldon	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D	-
Greene, Angela	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	Davis, WV	Elkins, WV
Heaslip, Richard	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	State Office	-

Kesecker, Ed	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Moorefield FO	-
Lewis, Cherry	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Huntington FO	-
O'Donnell, William	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	State Office, Technical Services	ASTC – Programs
Pierce, David	Retirement effective 01/03/2008	Philippi AO	-
Reese, Peg	Reassignment effective 01/06/2008	Morgantown FO	SO – Programs Staff



Ed Kesecker Retires

Submitted by: Pam Lupton



Ed Kesecker retired on January 3, 2008 after 32 ½ years of service with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Ed began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1975 as a Soil Scientist trainee on the Moorefield Soil Survey staff under the supervision of Ron Estapp. He also worked as a Soil Conservationist in Marshall, Ohio, Roane and Greenbrier Counties of West Virginia before returning to Hardy County as a District Conservationist in 1979. Throughout his career he saw many changes in the agency from different office locations, new employees, to changing of the agency name and how the different programs helped the development of relationships with the local farmers/landowners, contractors and local entities.



Roger Boyer and John Wagoner give Ed best wishes on his retirement.

Co-workers, friends and neighboring agencies were in attendance on January 3, 2008 to help celebrate Ed's retirement. He retired after many years of dedicated service to the community.



Richard Heaslip Retires

Rick Heaslip was the State Resource Conservationist in Morgantown since 1990. He started his SCS career as a Soil Conservationist in Santa Rosa CA in 1973. Rick majored in forestry and wildlife management at Paul Smith College and WVU.

Amos Thomas Turner Jr., 81, passed away December 1, 2007 in Morgantown.

He was employed for 37 years with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. He worked with the flood prevention program and was involved with flood control abatement dams throughout West Virginia.

Phone Directory

An updated phone directory is available at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/employeeDirectory/app?agency=nracs&state=wv>

Contact information may be found by searching on the employee name, city, all employees in the state, or by Service Center.

If your phone number or contact information is missing or incorrect, go to <https://icams.usda.gov/> (password required) and update your personal information.

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