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West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
November 2008

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Its been about a year since I left West Virginia and started working with the Soil Survey Program in a new capacity.

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[NRCS at the State Fair of West Virginia](#)



Katy McBride and many employees helped make the NRCS display a success. The Appalachian Plant Materials Center provided examples of their nursery plants for the display. ...

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West Virginia Crop Acreage for 2008, Managing for Excellence, MLRA Region Office Leaders Meeting

[More Info](#)

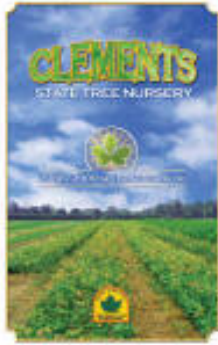
[Conservation Education](#)



About 500 Kindergarten to third grade students and many adult helpers visited the education part of the Forest

Festival ...[More Info](#)

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Compare the 2008 Farm Bill with Previous Legislation, National Geographic Features Soil, Unclaimed Property, Clements State Tree Nursery, Photo albums in PowerPoint. [...More Info](#)

Civil Rights



Managing A Special Emphasis Program, New American Indian Alaska Native SEPM, New NRCS Recruitment Banner Stand Exhibits Available. [...More Info](#)

Earth Team

Meet . . .

Jeffery Lewis, Diana Bokoch, Heather Hinson. [..More Info](#)

Personnel News

To submit news items for the February *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

Thank you again for a very successful FY2008. It was a record year for NRCS-WV in several ways:

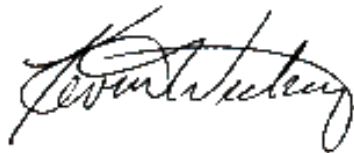
- Contract Obligation - 547 contracts written in 6 Farm Bill Programs on 50,807 Acres obligating \$12,294,628 in financial assistance.
- Practice Implementation – Over 9800 individual conservation practices installed.
- Project Activity – Little Whitestick, Elkwater Fork, Lost River 16, Deckers Creek, Dunloup Creek, New Creek 14 (Rehab), and North Fork of the Hughes.
- Planning Activity – 154,700 acres with Conservation Plans, 102 CNMPs, Big Sandy Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA), Clarksburg dam removal study, and began the Lower Shenandoah RWA.
- Soils/Resource Inventory – 405,000 acres updated, 4 written reports, 1 new series, new interpretation for composting, saturated conductivity and on-going soil phosphorus studies.
- RC&D – 6,100 acres benefited, Purple Loosestrife control, 27 mile trail construction underway – North Bend State Park.

The list could go on with more accomplishments. It has been a very successful year and it is due to your hard work and the cooperative efforts of our partners and customers. We also made substantial and lasting structural changes to our organization in FY08 including duty changes in the State Office and re-aligning our service boundaries with our Conservation District partners.

One of the major goals I have for FY09 is continuing to emphasize a culture of performance. For me that means:

1. Personal performance - Every position is needed and precious so we need everyone to be fully performing.
2. Project management – Defining objectives, identifying tasks, scheduling resources, communicating activities, making adjustments, and delivering results.
3. Team performance – Sharing loads, filling gaps, communicating, working across staff or area boundaries.

As good as FY08 was, we can't stay there. We have enormous new challenges in front of us for FY09 and large changes for our agency as our country again successfully completes a peaceful transition of power. We have a new farm bill to implement and we will soon see new leadership in our agency - so we must keep focused on our agency goal – helping people help the land.



Kevin Wickey
State Conservationist
West Virginia

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From the Field

Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Crumpler Wastewater Meeting

The Mountain RC&D facilitated the Crumpler Community wastewater meeting sponsored by the McDowell Coalition. This meeting was held to determine public interest in obtaining a collection and treatment system for their community. Of the 110 residual homes less than 20% have adequate wastewater treatment. Because of the overwhelming local support, WVU's Engineers Without Borders will be conducting a feasibility study beginning this fall to determine the best course of treatment for this rural mountain community. Water monitoring by the Coalition has shown fecal contamination to be at such high levels in this watershed that the natural stream balance is in desperate need of help.

Mountain View High School Outdoor Classroom



The Mountain RC&D Council received an \$11,000 dollar DEP grant to help with the development of an outdoor classroom at Mountain View High School in McDowell County. This facility will be used to help students learn about their environment, watersheds, and impacts humans have on water quality.

The amazing part on this project was the 30 day turn around time given. Site layout, design, bids, and construction had to be completed between September 1st and the 30th. Project members pooled resources and got the job done. Additional enhancement work is scheduled for this coming year.

Ury Community Project



The RC&D with the assistance of NRCS soil scientist's Rob Pate conducted a soils investigation on the Ury wastewater site for the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association and Crab Orchard PSD.

A package plant with a subsurface drainfield is planned for this community of 15 homes. Water quality degradation due to fecal contamination is one of the most prevalent concerns facing southern West Virginia. Research conducted by area watershed associations found a common fact that was nearly 70% of residual homes have no or inadequate wastewater management.

For more information contact [Mike Gasper](#)

Lewisburg Field Office

4th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival

October 4, 2008, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

The Lewisburg Field Office participated in the 4th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival that was held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery.

According to Catherine Gatenby, Ph.D., Project Leader, the National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006 called for the creation of pilot outdoor classrooms at national fish hatcheries and WSSNFH was one of only two facilities in the country chosen for the honor, bringing national attention to the hatchery, the town of White Sulphur Springs and West Virginia. Their hope is to turn the hatchery into a "living" outdoor nature center to help connect children and their families to nature.

The Lewisburg Field Office, along with employees from the Beckley Area Office and the State Office, are assisting the hatchery with the development of a teaching wetland, possible stream restoration, and a handicapped accessible walking trail. NRCS will also be participating in educational opportunities for tourists visiting the area.

The festival included a family friendly day of music, food, local crafts, and hands on educational activities to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of freshwater resources.

NRCS handed out information on *Backyard Conservation*, *Fun Facts on Farmers (For the Good of the People)*, and other relative information.

For more information, contact [Katy McBride](#)

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Soil Survey: Restructured and Moving Forward

Submitted by: Scott Hoover, Soil Scientist, Marietta MLRA Soil Survey Office

Its been about a year since I left West Virginia and started working with the Soil Survey Program in a new capacity. The soil surveys for the counties are all done, now what? There is still plenty to accomplish. This office is responsible for the soil surveys in the northern half of Area 1, southeastern Ohio, and southwestern Pennsylvania – over 10 million acres in all. You would think that it would take quite a few people to cover that big of an area, right? Well, according to NRCS math, it only takes three. Tim Dilliplane, stationed in McMechen; Dan Benyei, a Soil Scientist from northern Ohio, now in Marietta, Ohio; and myself, also in Marietta, have been charged with this task.

We will be updating soil survey information and making soil correlations across county and state boundaries. We will be doing this by developing small, manageable projects. We have already been in touch with some offices in Area 1 to look at the Gilpin-Upshur map units in their counties. With this project we will combine similar map units across county and state boundaries.

The Mt. Clare office requested that we provide interpretive data for areas that are mapped only as “Strip Mine” or “Udorthents” without any real soil data. That request has now turned into a project for us, and we are not only looking at Harrison County, WV, but also these types of map units in PA and OH. We will be assigning a soil series to these miscellaneous areas, developing new map units, and providing useful data to you and all users.

We are also monitoring piezometers, which help us identify if water tables are present, in Upshur soils. The deep red colors in these soils may mask the gray

mottles, so it is difficult to determine drainage class. Historically, these soils have been called well drained, but some people believe these soils have a drainage problem.



The piezometers should give us good data to better classify these soils. We are also using Amoozemeters, shown in the picture, which measure the in situ hydraulic conductivity of the soil.

Sadly, we are the main users of the soil surveys. You know the problems associated with your surveys. Let us know about them, and we will do our best to fix them. We know there are problems with each survey and we want to fix the errors. Our phone number is 740-376-0252 x232 for myself and x234 for Dan, and Tim's phone number is 304-242-0576 x117. You could also contact one of your other friendly neighborhood Soil Scientists.

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NRCS at the State Fair of West Virginia

Submitted by Katy McBride



The State Fair of West Virginia is an annual state fair for West Virginia. It is held annually in mid-August on the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea, near Lewisburg, West Virginia in the southeastern part of the state. The theme this year was *West Virginia's Biggest Garden Party*.

Katy McBride coordinated the NRCS display. Tom Vance, Teddy Hanson, Lee Godbey, Susan Davis, Dewey Broyles, Clay Handley, Laura Davis, Rob Pate, Warren Haynes, Randall Lester, Bill Harris, Debra Murphy, Crystal Buchanan, Abby Dilley, and David Gardner helped with the NRCS display.

The Appalachian Plant Materials Center (PMC) provided examples of their nursery plants for the display. The Appalachian PMC serves a wide variety of land users in the Appalachian Region by conducting systematic observations and evaluations of plants needed to protect our natural resources. New techniques are developed for the propagation, establishment, management, and use for new or improved species of grasses, legumes, shrubs and trees. Plants are an important tool for conservation. The PMC program is devoted to promoting and providing plant materials and technology for conservation. The plants included:

- Forage Queen alfalfa
- Graze King alfalfa
- Will ladino clover
- Penngraft crown vetch

- Ky bluegrass
- Linn perennial ryegrass
- Benchmark orchardgrass
- Dwarf Essex rape
- Emperial birdsfoot trefoil
- Cinnamon Plus red clover
- Ky 31 tall fescue
- Climax timothy
- Big bluestem
- Little bluestem
- Switchgrass
- Indiangrass
- *Liatris spicata* - dense blazing star
- *Chasmanthium latifolium* - river oats
- *Rudbeckia hirta* - black-eyed Susan
- *Lobelia cardinalis* - cardinal flower



Available Publications included *Backyard Conservation, Pond Construction & Mgt., Estimating Soil Moisture, WV Grazing Calendar*, etc. Greater Kanawaha RC&D provided additional display materials.



Dense Blazing Star is an example of a native species grown at the PMC.



Seeds were also displayed.



Greg Stone (Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations) and Susan Davis (Buckeye Service Center District Conservationist) discussing local issues.



Laura Davis (Summersville Soil Conservation Technician) and Kevin Wickey (State Conservationist) reviewing some of the handouts at the display.

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Bits and Pieces

2008 Golden Auger Award goes to Peg Reese



Kevin Wickey (left) presented the Golden Auger Award to Peg Reese (right). The award recognizes Peg's outstanding commitment and unselfish contribution to the soil survey program and soil science in West Virginia over the current year. It is a joint award given by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists.

West Virginia Crop Acreage for 2008

Winter wheat planted in West Virginia for 2008 is estimated at 12,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 2007. The projected harvest for grain is 9,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 2007.

Corn planted is estimated at 43,000 acres, down 7 percent, or 3,000 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 26,000 acres for grain, down 4 percent, or 1,000 acres from last year.

Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 19,000, up 27 percent, or 4,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acreage is projected at 18,000, up 29 percent, or 4,000 acres from 2007.

All hay harvested is forecast at 610,000 acres, up 2 percent, or 10,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested is expected to total 30,000 acres, up 20 percent, or 5,000 acres from last year. Other hay harvested is expected to be 580,000 acres, up slightly, or 5,000 acres from last year's harvest. If the 580,000 acres of other hay is realized, it will be a new record high for West Virginia. These estimates were based on results from the June 1, 2008, Agricultural Survey.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/West_Virginia/Publications/

[Current_News_Release/Acreage0608.pdf](#)

Managing for Excellence



Managing for Excellence

Many newer and some more experienced WV NRCS employees attended Managing for Excellence in Flatwoods, WV. and This course is an introduction to management.

MLRA Region Office Leaders Meeting



The MLRA Region Office Leaders Meeting was hosted by the MLRA Soil Survey Region 13 Office.

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Conservation Education

Forest Festival



About 500 Kindergarten to third grade students and many adult helpers visited the education part of the Forest Festival on Thursday, October 3, 2008 in Elkins, WV. The students enjoyed looking for the creatures shown on the *Soil is Alive* poster in pans of soil and leaf litter using large magnifying glasses.

Backyard Conservation booklets and posters, *For the Good of the People*, and *Soil is Alive* activity packets were handed out.



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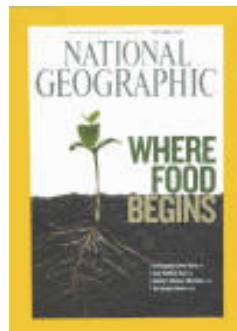
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Useful Links

Compare the 2008 Farm Bill with Previous Legislation

Side by Side: Old and New. On the following pages is a side-by-side comparison of the new farm bill with previous legislation. Summarized but substantive, it offers a time-saving reference to farm bill provisions. In addition to key provisions and details by Title, the side-by-side includes links to related ERS publications and to analyses of previous farm acts. New features include a user's guide, an A-Z list of major provisions, and a search function.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008/>



National Geographic Features Soil

Submitted by Rob Pate

The September 2008 National Geographic article *Where Food Begins* features NRCS soil maps referenced on page 93 of the magazine. NRCS Public Affairs Division staff have been working with National Geographic photographers and writers for the past several years to help develop the story. Links to two soils stories are below.

Soil, Our Good Earth. The future rests on the soil beneath our feet.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/09/soil/mann-text/1>

Haiti Soil, Dirt Poor

Haiti has lost its soil and the means to feed itself.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/09/soil/bourne-text>

Unclaimed Property

Are you one of the millions of Americans with long-forgotten assets from a bank account? [MissingMoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com), a database of governmental unclaimed property records, could help you find lost assets." Common types of unclaimed property include:

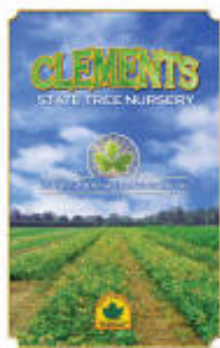
- Bank accounts and safe deposit box contents
- Stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and dividends
- Uncashed checks and wages
- Insurance policies, CD's, trust funds
- Utility deposits, escrow accounts

<http://www.missingmoney.com/Main/Index.cfm>

West Virginia Unclaimed Property

<http://www.wvsto.com/Unclaimed+Property/DefaultUP.htm>

Clements State Tree Nursery now Accepting Seedling Orders



Division of Forestry officials are accepting orders for bare root tree seedlings at the forest tree nursery in West Columbia, W.Va. Clements State Tree Nursery grows and sells both deciduous and conifer seedlings that landowners can plant for reforestation, erosion control, Christmas trees, shelter belts, windbreaks, strip-mine reclamation or wildlife habitat.

This year the nursery offers 22 different types of tree seedlings, including American and Chinese chestnuts, sycamore, black walnut and various species of pine and oak.

To help landowners decide which species meet their needs, the Forestry Division created a new seedling catalog that can be downloaded from the Web site, www.wvforestry.com. Because many species sell out early, landowners are encouraged to order as early as possible. Orders are shipped starting the week of Thanksgiving.

Seedling Catalog: <http://www.wvforestry.com/DOFclementsCatalogWEB.pdf>

Tree Order Form: <http://www.wvforestry.com/ClementsOrderForm.pdf>

Photo albums in PowerPoint

Submitted by LaRae Baker, Soil Conservationist

In PowerPoint you can quickly create a photo album, which is a presentation that consists of a title slide and a collection of graphic images, one or more per slide. You can get the images from graphics files or from a scanner or digital camera attached to your computer. To find out how, go to <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint/HA011593111033.aspx?pid=CL100626991033>

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Earth Team

2008 West Virginia Earth Team Report

Submitted by Peg Reese, October 15, 2008

Total number of volunteers: 45

Total number of hours worked: 1467

Total number of offices: 33

Number of offices using volunteers 11

Number of active individual volunteers: 35

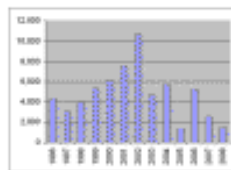
Number of individual volunteer hours: 1430

Number of active groups: 2

Number of group members: 10

Number of group hours: 37

ET volunteer statistics covering 1996 to 2006



[Click on Chart to enlarge](#)

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Meet . . .



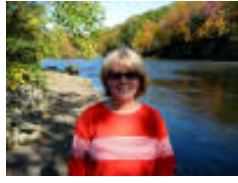
Jeffery Lewis
Purchasing Agent
Morgantown, WV

My name is Jeffery Lewis, and I am the new Purchasing Agent for the state office in Morgantown, WV. I have lived in New Geneva, PA for over 6 years.

My background includes 21 years active duty in the U.S. Navy. I have served overseas and aboard various ships on the east coast. I retired in 2003 as a Chief Petty Officer and moved to Pennsylvania to start a new career and to assist family members. Since arriving, I have worked for a furniture distribution company as the QA>Returns/Safety Manager and Logistics Coordinator. I accepted a term position with the federal service at NIOSH in Morgantown, WV in January. My background in the military and with the furniture distribution company allowed me the opportunity to come to work for the USDA NRCS.

My education includes some college while in the Navy at Central Texas College. I also attended various management training courses and have attended Penn State College campus in Uniontown, PA.

I am very excited to be here and look forward to assisting everyone. I appreciate the opportunity and thanks for the warm reception.



Diana Bokoch
Human Resource Manager
Morgantown, WV

On September 29th, I started as the new Human Resources Manager at the WV NRCS State Office in Morgantown. Although not from West Virginia, I previously worked for three years in Kingwood, two years in Wheeling, and I am proud to say that I climbed Briery Mountain at Camp Dawson.

I served in the Army (5 years active duty) and Army Reserves for over 28 years and retired as a Command Sergeant Major in 2004. My career highlight was in 1993, I was the first female to be promoted to this rank in my command, which encompassed five states. While serving in the Army Reserves, I also worked as a federal employee for the Department of Defense for 25 years. The last few years of my career involved mobilizing and demobilizing units, training, personnel and casualty assistance. My heart aches for the soldiers and their families; I think of them everyday.

Upon my retirement from the military, I changed civilian careers and went to work for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections as the Human Resources Director for SCI – Greene in Waynesburg, PA. I truly enjoy the challenges associated with Human Resources and have always committed myself to serving the needs of employees.

My husband's name is Phil; he is retired from Monongahela Railway and spends his time hunting, fishing, and fixing whatever is broke. We went on a fishing trip to Alaska a few years ago and it was there that I learned to enjoy fishing as well. I have one son, Aaron, who lives in Mt. Lebanon, PA, and manages a Salon & Spa in Cannonsburg. I also have two step-son's; Greg is from Columbus, Ohio, and is an auditor for Nationwide Insurance, and Mike, who is in the MD/PHD Program at Stanford.



Heather Hinson
Toolkit Coordinator/Farm Bill Specialist
Morgantown, WV

After graduating in 2003 from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Masters in Science for Forestry, I began working as an Environmental Planner for a private engineering firm in Houston, TX. The team that I was on completed environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, Phase I Site Assessments, and COE wetland determinations on various projects for the Texas Department of Transportation. After three long months, I was offered a job with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Henderson, TX.

I spent one year in Henderson before being promoted and transferred to Franklin, TX. I went from the forests of East Texas to the range and crop country of central Texas. Besides learning a great deal about crop and rangeland, I also learned which came first (the chicken or the egg). Robertson County has an abundance of chicken farms and the smell to prove it. Amazingly enough, I still love to eat chicken!

After one and half years in Franklin, TX, I received the position of Transfer Technology Specialist for Zone 3 in Corpus Christi, TX. Zone 3 consists of 50 counties in the southern part of the state. My major task assignments were to train field and zone office staff on Customer Service Toolkit, PRS, ProTracts, and GPS systems. No questions are too great or too small. And if I do not have the answer, I know someone who does!

In June I married Jared whom I met in Corpus Christi. In September, while my husband and I were evacuating to avoid Hurricane Ike, I received a phone call from my Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations offering me this position here in West Virginia. I gladly accepted and here we are after driving 1,700 miles! I look forward to the new experiences, challenges, and people that I will encounter working here in West Virginia.

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Personnel Updates

(Submitted by Karen Fitchett as of Oct. 29, 2008)

Name	Action	Location
Canfield, Timothy	Reassignment Soil Conservationist	Ranson FO
Greene, Angela	Promotion State Consvr Engr	State Office
Bolyard, Amy	Promotion Sup Contract Specialist	State Office
Haid, Ken	Reassignment Soil Conservationist	Buckeye FO
Currence, Lurae	Resignation Cartographic Tech	Weston Summersville MAP Unit
Sattler, Aron	Reassignment Soil Scientist	Morgantown
Murphy, Debbie	Reassignment Program Asst.	Beckley AO
Lewis, Jeffery	New Hire Purchasing Agent	State Office
Haynes, Warren	Promotion Biological Sci Tech	Alderson-PMC
Campbell, Linda	Discontinued Service Retirement Carto Tech	Summersville Map Unit
Donelson, Denise	Preliminary Dis Retirement	Summersville MAP Unit
Bokoch, Diana	New Hire HR Manager	State Office
Duckworth, Brandon	Promotion Soil Conservationist	Gassaway FO
Hinson, Heather	Reassignment Toolkit Coord	State Office
-	-	-
Cook, Raeanna	Termination NTE Admv Clerk	Gassaway FO
Dill, Teresa	Termination NTE Admv Clerk	Ranson FO
Farrell, Colin	Termination NTE Student Clerk	State Office

Nester, Nancy	Termination NTE Admv Clerk	Philippi AO
Ward, Denise	Termination NTE Admv Clerk	Beckley AO
Ward, Isaac	Termination NTE Soil Con Aid	Mount Clare FO
Ruttan, Nikki	Termination NTE Sol Con Aid	McMechen FO



HR Minute

Submitted by Diana Bokoch

It is important for supervisors, and future supervisors, to be aware of and reminded of the purpose of discipline. Discipline is not just about punishment. It's purpose is also:

- To correct improper conduct.
- To enforce reasonable rules and regulations.
- To help employees to help themselves to be better workers.
- To save the employer's investment in training and replacement costs.
- To protect the health and safety of all employees -- and to protect the employer's reputation as well as its property and equipment on which all jobs in part depend.
- To deter employees from engaging in improper conduct or breaches of employer rules in the future.
- To warn other employees that breaches of conduct and rules will be punished.

What you can do as a supervisor:

- Coaching and counseling. Does the employee know what was expected of him or her? Establish accountability.
- Retraining, if necessary. Can training or retraining correct the problem?
- Honest and accurate performance management and appraisals.

- Contact HR to discuss any further action that might be necessary.

Favorite quotes:

The deepest human need is the need to be appreciated.

The best minute you can spend is the one you invest in people.

Phone Directory

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

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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West Virginia's Civil Rights

Managing A Special Emphasis Program

In October, Marvin Kerr, Co-Chair, Recording Secretary, and Black Emphasis Program Manager (present Chairman); Crystle Buchanan, Disability Emphasis Program Manager (present Co-chair); and Carol Lagodich, Federal Women's Program Manager attended *Managing A Special Emphasis Program* presented by the Graduate School, USDA in Columbus, Ohio. The class covered developing a strategy for managing and implementing programs, an overview of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and affirmative employment, sponsoring appropriate SEP activities, conducting briefings and presentations and identifying employment barriers that impact target groups.

Winds up to 70 mph, remnants from Hurricane Ike, knocked power out in many parts of Columbus Ohio as the students arrived. The power in the classroom hotel was off for three and a half days. The class stayed at the hotel but moved to a room with windows so students could see the manual. The instructor wasn't able to use multimedia presentations. Candles or flashlights were needed for using the restrooms.



Marvin, Carol, and Crystal sharing a candle during a break.



New American Indian Alaska Native SEPM
Sarah Fitzwater

My name is Sarah Fitzwater and I am the new American Indian Alaska Native SEPM. I have worked for NRCS for almost 5 years and enjoy working in the field with landowners. I am currently located in the Keyser Field office. I have been chosen for this position because I have American Indian Heritage. My Great Grandmother was a full blooded Cherokee Indian and lived and died on an Indian reservation in Salamanca, New York. I have visited my family on the reservation many times and love the fact that I know where I come from. My family is part of the Iroquois Nation of Indians and is a Federally recognized tribe. There are very minimal laws on a reservation and virtually no taxes. I have three wonderful children and a great husband. I hope to be able to pass my ancestry and heritage on to my children in the proud way it was passed to me. This summer I plan to go to our family reunion on the reservation. In conjunction with the Reunion there will also be a Pow-Wow. The reservation on;y has a Pow-Wow once every ten years and the last time I was at one I was only 16. I hope to learn more about my history and have a better understanding of what my family has endured over the years. If anyone has question or concerns about AINA please fell free to contact me at 304.788.3843 ext 106

Sarah Fitzwater

Soil Conservationist

251 Carskadon Lane

Keyser, WV 26726

1-304-788-3843 ext 106

Choctaw Code Talkers Finally Recognized

Legislation signed by President Bush last week authorizes Congressional Medals of Honor be issued to the Choctaw Nation and family members of the 14 "Choctaw Code Talkers" from the Army's Thirty-Sixth Division. The "Choctaw Code Talkers" utilized thier traditional Muskogean language/delivery methods to strategically hasten the end of World War I, defeat well seasoned German forces, and save numerous American and Ally troops in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign.

For more information, go to http://groups.msn.com/bayareaindiancalendar/alertbulletin.msnw?action=get_message&mview=0&ID_Message=6290

State Office Native American Heritage Month Potluck

Sarah Fitzwater, the new American Indian Alaska Native SEPM, was the lunch time speaker at the annual potluck. She explained tribes and nations, what to call Native Americans, talking “Indian” (explaining place names) and what it is like on a reservation. Sarah’s great grandmother was Cherokee so she spoke from personal experience—making the presentation more engaging than just facts. About 40 building employees attended and enjoyed the presentation

[New NRCS Recruitment Banner Stand Exhibits Available](#)

A new series of four recruitment banner stands featuring a similar look and feel as the new *Challenging Careers* brochure is available from LANDCARE. To reserve an exhibit, send an email to landcare@usda.gov or call Alan Benge at 888-LANDCARE (888-526-3227 ext. 104) and let him know the title of the exhibit, the dates you need the exhibit (date of arrival and date it will be shipped back), and the style -- floor (approximately 10' x 8'); table top (5.3' x 5.5'); banner stand (84" x 31"); or horizontal banner (dimensions variable).

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