



**Natural Resources  
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# News Release

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## Oakes Retires as State Conservation Engineer of USDA-NRCS

AUBURN, Ala., January 30, 2014 – Perry L. Oakes, State Conservation Engineer for USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Auburn, Alabama, retired after 34 years service. He was honored at a reception in the NRCS State Office on January 8, 2014. Many current and retired employees, partners, and family members stopped by to wish Perry a gracious farewell.

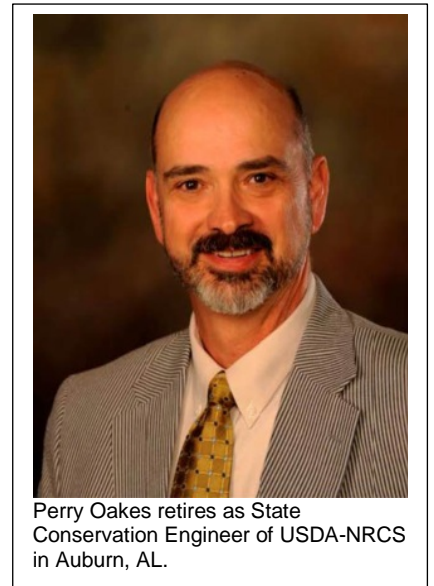
For 19 years as State Conservation Engineer (1994 to present), Perry oversaw the entire NRCS engineering program for Alabama and served as the Emergency Watershed Protection Program Coordinator. During his career, he assisted landowners and communities with planning, design, and construction of numerous conservation practices involving erosion control, water management, waste management, and flood control.

Perry was instrumental in helping develop the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas. He has served in many state-wide voluntary leadership roles including chair of the Alabama Interagency Waste Management Team, consisting of some 50 members who convene to further innovation in this arena. He worked on the committee to develop the Animal Feeding Operation Rule for the State of Alabama; served as Environmental Advisor to the Poultry and Egg Association for Alabama’s top-3-ranked poultry sector; and co-authored draft language for an Alabama Safe Dams Act to improve public safety through regulation of high hazard dams.

As a nationally-recognized authority, Oakes was selected as the 2008 NRCS National Engineer of the Year. He was also honored by the National Society of Professional Engineers as one of the top ten finalists for the prestigious 2008 Federal Engineer of the Year award. He continues to be actively involved in the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

“Perry has gained the respect of his peers and is recognized as a leader in the engineering field,” said NRCS State Conservationist Dr. William Puckett. “He will be missed.”

Oakes received Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Auburn University in 1978 and 1981, respectively. He began working for NRCS (then the Soil Conservation Service) in 1976 while a student at Auburn University.



Perry Oakes retires as State Conservation Engineer of USDA-NRCS in Auburn, AL.

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“I look forward to the next chapter of my life spending time with my family, gardening, hunting, and fishing,” said Perry.

Originally from Sylacauga, Perry graduated from B. B. Comer High School in 1974. He currently resides in Auburn with his wife, Janey. They have two daughters, Alison (Chris) Baker and Ellen (Justin) Spencer, and three grandchildren.

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(l-r) Dr. William Puckett, State Conservationist and Perry Oakes.



(l-r) Engineering Secretary Stacey Riggins and Perry Oakes.



(l-r) Perry with his wife Janey and daughter Allison Baker.

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