

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **NRCS AND ND STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SIGN CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

Bismarck, ND, September 2, 2004— A contribution agreement between the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee (NDSSCC) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was signed today in Bismarck. J.R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist, and Keith Bartholomay, NDSSCC Chair, represented their agencies in the signing of the agreement.

“NRCS and the NDSSCC have the common goal of helping to bring about the conservation and wise use of land, water, wildlife, and related resources. This agreement will help deliver technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation programs designed to address National, State, and local resource priorities,” said J.R. Flores.

“We feel this is a good method of doing business,” added Bartholomay. “This is a bold and exciting step in the right direction.”

The NDSSCC receives State of North Dakota funding for the Soil Conservation District Assistance Program with an objective of which is to promote soil, water, and plant health through reduced damage to North Dakota agricultural land from wind and water erosion. Under this agreement, NRCS and NDSSCC will each contribute \$170,245 to support conservation efforts in the State.

The conservation programs authorized or re-authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill increased the need for technical assistance. This pooling of resources by the NRCS and NDSSCC will

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result in conservation priorities being addressed in a more efficient and effective manner, as opposed to each entity operating independently, according to Flores.

In the past, local soil conservation districts have utilized the assistance of soil conservation technicians through the NDSSCC Soil Conservation District Assistance Program to assist NRCS in delivery of USDA programs. This agreement formalizes the process. The agreement will allow the NDSSCC and NRCS to increase staff resources in all North Dakota counties that had sought financial support from the NDSSCC to address conservation priorities. This will result in an additional soil conservation districts being able to participate in the Soil Conservation District Assistance Program.



*J.R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist, and Keith Bartholomay, NDSSCC Chair, at the signing of the contribution agreement*

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