

NRCS Alabama Current Developments



October 30, 2002

From The State Conservationist - *Robert N. Jones*

The lazy days of summer are gone, and the new fiscal year has begun. During the summer months, I attended the district supervisor meetings across the state. It's always good to interact with these groups. We share a common goal of promoting conservation efforts in our state, and together we face the challenge of the Farm Bill.

As an agency, we just spent a couple of days together at the Cultural Diversity meeting in Point Clear, Alabama. The meeting was poised between hurricanes Isidore and Lili; couldn't have asked for better timing. It was an informative meeting, as well as a time to get better acquainted with co-workers.

I'm always impressed with the talent and breadth of experience of our employees. We recognized employees who have 39 years of service with the agency. What a wealth of experience! And, we had a few employees who had been on board only a few days. As new employees, they bring a fresh approach and perhaps a different point of view that will be beneficial to the agency. In between the senior employees and the new employees, are the

tried and true—employees whom day in and day out provide the services that we as an agency are known for.

Chief Bruce Knight has been on the job for just a short while, but in that short time frame, he has made it very clear what our priorities should be for the next few years. His number one priority for the agency is implementation of the new Farm Bill. The Department of Agriculture asked for a lot and we got a lot. And, now it's time to produce.

We have much to do in FY 2003. We must use all our creative abilities to get people involved in programs and to provide the technical assistance to service those programs. We have been, and will continue to be, an agency that is all about service—service to the land, service to landowners, and service to America's taxpayers. Utilizing all the sources available to us, I'm confident that we can meet Chief Knight's challenge

Bob

Tom Hughes Recognized

The Houston County SWCD Board of Supervisors recently recognized Tom Hughes, former District Conservationist, for 21 years of dedicated service. Tom worked with NRCS in Houston County from 1981-2002. He recently was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations for the North Team.

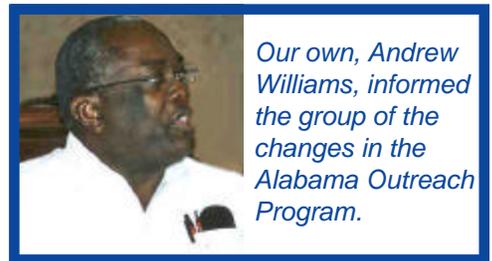
(L-R) are Coy Poitevint, Tom Hughes, Pat Raley, and Glenn Forrester. Board members not pictured are Danny Mathis and Norman Williamson.



Gaining Strength Through Cultural Diversity

By Fay Garner, Chair of the Civil Rights Advisory Committee, Auburn, AL

The Civil Rights Advisory Committee did an excellent job scheduling the Cultural Diversity Event in Point Clear, October 1-2, between two hurricanes. The weather and facilities were beautiful, the food and fellowship was fantastic, and the program was varied and offered enlightenment to employees on several subjects.



Our own, Andrew Williams, informed the group of the changes in the Alabama Outreach Program.

The meeting was deemed by most as a huge success.

We look forward to getting together again in the future.



Dr. Denise Decker, (r) Human Resources Management Specialist from NRCS in Washington, (pictured with her Seeing-Eye Dog Quadrant) informed the group of how we should treat "People with

Disabilities: Our Colleagues and Customers." (C) Deb Sloat, West Administrative Coordinator, and James Currington, Russell County DC.



The first day was topped off by an all you can eat "Surf and Turf" banquet. The food and service was excellent, and I don't believe anyone went hungry.



Bob Pasquill, U.S. Forest Service, informed the group about the Civilian Conservation Corps and the part NRCS played. He displayed interesting items to illustrate his message.

Presenting "Changing Faces of Agriculture in Alabama," the lively charts of Jim Cravey, (R) ALFA in Montgomery, and Dr. Robert Taylor, Eminent Scholar, Auburn University, allowed the group to see changes in Alabama and national agriculture over the past 60-70 years.



The group was especially honored to have Eddie Tullis, (R) Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, attend the entire meeting. This honor is likened to a visit by the President of the United States. Chairman Tullis gave a history of the Creek Indians in Alabama and thanked NRCS for help in getting a conservation plan and other items started

for the Creek Indian people. Marcy Arrowchis, the National Acting American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager, and a Ute Indian from Utah, presented Chairman Tullis with a token of respect, and shared with the group the true meaning of diversity--"Everyone working together for a common goal."

Waterbus—Watershed Approach to Teaching Environmental Responsibility

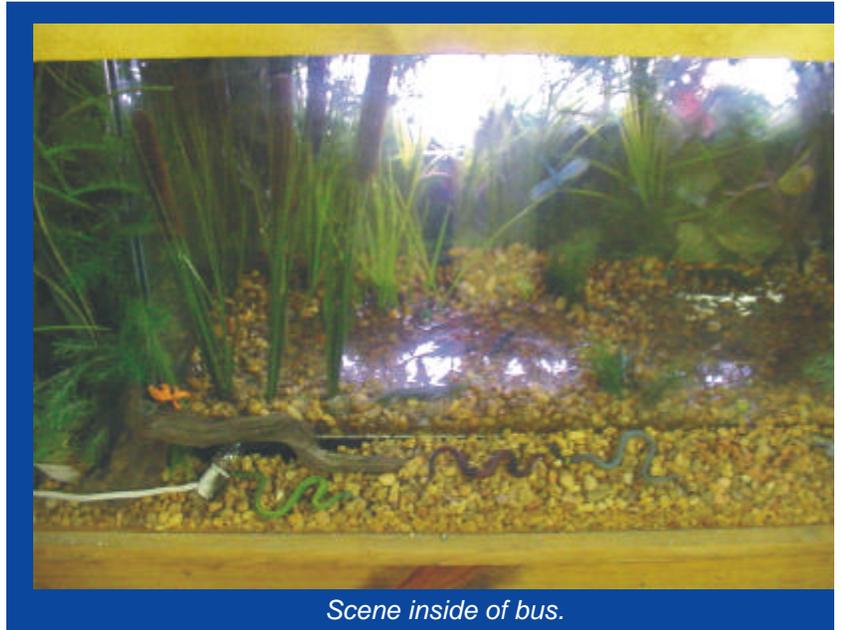
By Barbara Campbell, Walker County District Administrative Coordinator, Jasper, AL

The Walker County SWCD, in a joint effort with NRCS, the Walker County Forestry Planning Committee, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Cawaco RC&D, and the Walker County Board of Education, developed a rolling classroom that will be used in the city and county school system. To fund the project, the Walker County SWCD received a \$15,000 grant from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations and a \$2,000 grant from the Cawaco RC&D Council to develop the Waterbus project.

The bus features scenarios on point and non-point source water pollution, a landfill, ground water demonstrations, and a computer lab where students can study the ecology of a pond, learn about earth science, use a GPS system, and record what they have studied on the microscope.

Collaborative efforts of numerous individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses have contributed to the balance and success of the Environmental Education Initiative. Their input will remain vital as the Waterbus phase continues to progress. We have received technical support, financial support, and leadership to ensure the stability of the project.

We know that students involved in all aspects of our programs have become more responsible and aware of their impact on their environment. We are confident that today's efforts to change the way we all approach the environment will become visible as today's youth become tomorrow's leaders. The Walker County SWCD believes that the overall effect of creating environmentally responsible citizens through education is well worth the initial investment.



Scene inside of bus.



Developing Alternative Uses for Litter

By Mike Roden, RC&D Coordinator, Tennessee Valley RC&D, Decatur, AL

Agriculture is important for everyone. Our food, fiber, tax-base, and our way of life depends on it. In north Alabama, poultry provides the agricultural base for this rural way of life for many counties, especially in the Sand Mountain region.

For many years, chicken litter, the on-farm by-product of the poultry industry, has provided cheap fertilizer for pastureland and hay fields that has resulted in vibrant, diversified small farms featuring chickens and cattle. However, too much of a good thing can sometimes have bad results. Because the chicken litter is normally land-applied near the house of origin, some of the fields have high levels of phosphorus. Having good fertility is a good thing, but when the soil phosphorus levels are high, the plants can't utilize the extra phosphorus when new litter is land-applied. The danger of the soluble phosphorus leaving these fields and getting into streams is great. Also, in the winter months the uptake of the available phosphorus by actively growing plants is reduced. This too increases the chance that additional land-applied phosphorus could leave the fields and enter the waterways.

Left unattended, these problems could negatively affect water quality, the poultry industry, the rural quality of life, and agriculture in Alabama.

To address these issues, the Tennessee Valley RC&D Council, Inc. organized a task force composed of members from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), NRCS, Alabama Department Of Agriculture and Industries, the Poultry and Egg Association, the Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA), Alabama Farm Bureau, Auburn University, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), The Clean Water Partnership, farmers, poultry industry, and other related stakeholders. The purpose of this group is to identify ways that the land application, distribution, and alternative uses for the litter can be developed.

As a result of this task force effort, the Tennessee Valley RC&D Council, with grant assistance from the ADEM and partnerships with stakeholders, is assisting farmers and vendors to do a better job managing their litter by:

- Establishing a Poultry Litter Hotline (1-866-LITT123) to help farmers who have too much litter to get together with vendors and other farmers needing the litter.
- Providing a trucking incentive of \$2 per loaded mile to move litter out of two heavily impacted counties (Cullman and Marshall). Over 3,000 tons were moved to south Alabama where the soil is phosphorus deficient and where the plants can utilize the nutrients in the winter months.
- Establishing two commercial composting business demonstrations to show other farmers how to develop "value added" alternative uses of the litter for horticultural and soil replacement markets.
- Establishing sand litter houses in order to keep litter in the houses for longer periods of time to reduce trucking costs.
- Establishing deep-tilled hayland renovations to allow the distribution of the phosphorus into the root zone where the plants can better utilize it and reduce the surface phosphorus levels.
- Organizing cooperative/educational meetings with private companies, individuals, farm groups, farmers, and poultry officials to investigate developing alternatives.
- Surveying poultry growers, with industry cooperation, on the amounts, clean out schedules, and other valuable information with the intent of providing this information to prospective litter processing (value added) business or cooperative that may wish to locate in north Alabama.



Alabama NRCS Soil Scientist Attends "17th World Congress of Soil Science"

By Lawrence McGhee, Soil Scientist, Tallapoosa
County, AL

The 17th World Congress of Soil Science was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand, August 14-21. Soil Science: Confronting New Realities in the 21st Century was the theme. The World Congress of Soil Science is held every four years. The Congress registered more than



2,000 scientist, government officials, students, and non-professionals, representing over 100 countries. The program was filled with activities including poster and oral presentations of nearly 2,000 scientific papers covering 62 symposia; soil study exclusions; tours within Thailand; an exhibition on soil education; and a special tribute to His Majesty the King's remarkable efforts to promote sustainable

land development in Thailand.

I was one of the NRCS representatives from the United States and I presented a poster presentation on a scientific paper titled "Updated Soil Surveys on Two Military Installations in Alabama." The publication was based on work that John Burns and I recently completed on soil survey updates on Pelham Range of Fort McClellan and Anniston Army Depot located in north central Alabama. The opportunity to participate in this conference in Southeast Asia was educational and culturally enlightening.



The 18th World Congress of Soil Science will be held July 9-15, 2006, in Philadelphia, PA.

2002 Farm Bill

By Alice Love, Farm Bill Specialist, Auburn, AL

The 2002 Farm Bill was signed May 13, 2002. This action made an immediate impact on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for 2002. The concurrence process among agencies (NRCS and the Farm Service Agency) involved in the EQIP application process was eliminated to enhance customer service to USDA program participants. The "bid down process" was also eliminated, allowing participants to compete on an equal basis. Program cost-share rates carried a maximum rate of 75 percent compared to 60 percent prior to May 13, 2002.



Below is a brief outline of other conservation programs included in the 2002 Farm Bill:

- **Farmland Protection:** Authorized nationwide funding is set at \$100 mil. in FY2003 alone. The purpose of this program is to protect Agricultural Land from conversion to other land uses.
- **Conservation of Private Grazing Land:** This program is designed to provide technical assistance to manage and improve private grazing lands.
- **Wetland Reserve:** No more than 250,000 acres may be enrolled in this program per year nationwide.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program:** Provides cost-share assistance to develop and protect our nations wildlife and their habitats.
- **Conservation Security Program:** This program is designed to assist producers who practice good stewardship on agricultural lands. This will be implemented through a three-tier payment system, which will offer eligible producers treatment levels in which contracts can be developed for payments.

More detailed information is available at the USDA website at: <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.

Toolkit /Arcview Training Increase Technical Skills

By Shannon Weaver, ASTC-FO East Team, Auburn, AL

NRCS employees in Alabama increased skills through 11, three-day Toolkits and Arcview training sessions held between mid June and the end of August.

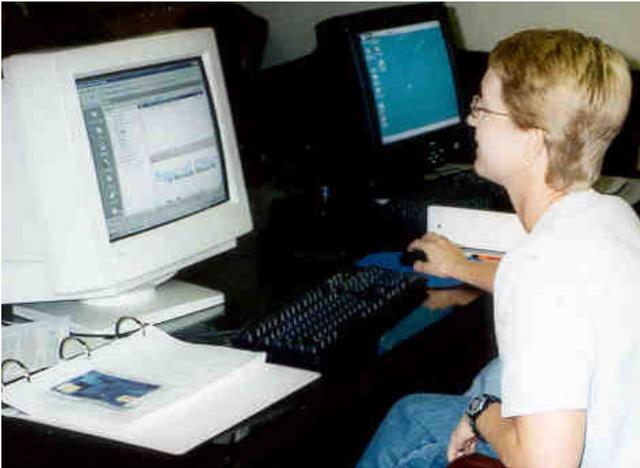
Toolkit and Arcview are computer tools that help NRCS create professional quality conservation plans. The plans are computerized so that changes can be made without redoing a plan from scratch. Arcview is a computer software program that combines the use of aerial photography and overlays of soils layers, topographic layers, streams, roads, etc. Arcview also allows the user to overlay lines, symbols, shading, and notes onto the photo base. Arcview is available to all offices and is most useful to the 42 counties with Digital OrthoPhotography. Toolkits is software for conservation planning that allows short cuts for drawing in Arcview.

The NRCS State Office conference room was reserved for hands-on training and management committed computers and personnel. This is the first time Alabama NRCS has hosted in-house hands-on

group computer training. The training consisted of six Basic Skills sessions and five Intermediate. A one-day overview session was also held for Soil Scientists and other state office specialists to help them understand how field offices use the soil data in conservation planning.

Instructors Bill Hughes, Steve Musser, Rick Zellmer, and Tracy Cole, were instrumental in the success of the training. After training, NRCS employees Eddie Jolley, Zona Beaty, Pam Mason, Detra Boutwell, and Pam Flemming volunteered to assist by being available to answer questions during the exercise portion.

Overall, about 120 people attended the training from all disciplines— DC's, SC's, DAC's, Technicians, Engineers, Soil Scientists, and others— from both NRCS and the Conservation Districts.

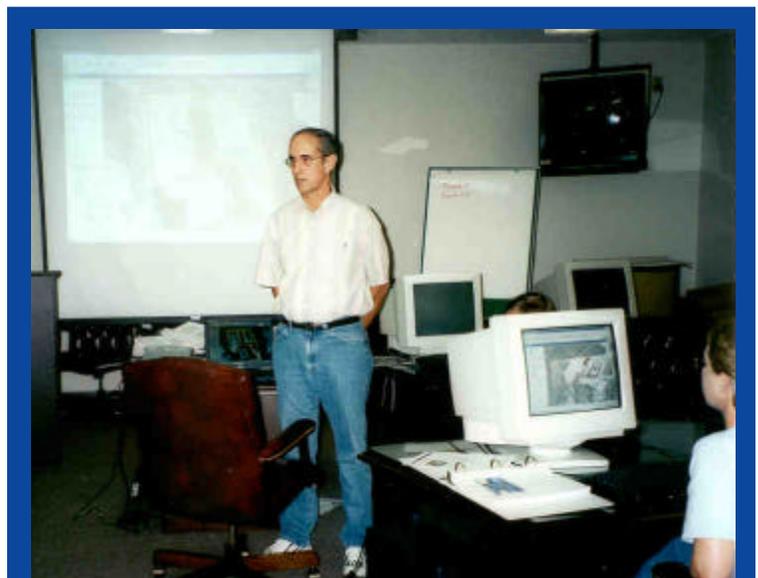


Trainee Judy Hill explores software.

Arcview has a steep learning curve and having uninterrupted training time for repetition was key to the learning process. Timing couldn't have been better – training was held just as EQIP plans were being developed. Trainees went back to offices and immediately applied their new skills.

An Advanced Level course may be scheduled in the future and would focus such things as incorporating GIS data from GPS units, analyzing spacial data such as census data, and other advanced features. For example, census data could be used to produce a map showing the location of limited resource farmers.

Instructor Bill Hughes says, "I think the Toolkit/Arcview program provides NRCS personnel very powerful tools to analyze, display, and record natural resource information that landusers need to make better decisions and plan for the future."



Instructor, Bill Hughes answers questions from trainees.

Sharing NRCS Technical Expertise

By Bill Hughes, Resource Conservationist, Auburn, AL

Many agricultural, environmental, land development, engineering, and soils professionals in Alabama depend on technical materials provided by our agency. These users traditionally had to stop by field offices or have hard copies mailed. As of August 26, this information is available to everyone on the Internet nationwide. The electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) consolidates the FOTG from every state into one easy to access and easy to use location.

The birth of the eFOTG in Alabama was a concerted effort by many specialists in the Ecological Science, Soils, Engineering and Public Affairs staffs. We want to take this opportunity to showcase the eFOTG in the state and recognize the contributions of these employees.

For NRCS employees the eFOTG is accessed on the Wide World Web at <http://my.nrcs.usda.gov> and typing in your PRMS login. The public can get the same information by accessing the national NRCS web site at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, clicking on Technical Resources, then e-FOTG, then the state of Alabama on the national map. The material is still organized in traditional format, Sections I - V.

Section I—General Resource References-Maps, Cost Data, RUSLE

Section II—Natural Resources Information-Soils, Water, Plants, etc.

Section III—Resource Management Systems and Quality Criteria

Section IV—Practice Standards and Specifications

Section V—Conservation Effects—Beneficial and negative effects of conservation systems

Technical guides provide soil interpretations, planting and management guidance for crops, forages, forestry, wildlife habitat, potential productivity impacts of conservation systems, environmental impacts, minimum standards of conservation practices, economics, cultural resources, and much more. Users include crop consultants, foresters, wildlife management specialists, engineers, real estate developers, just to name a few.

NRCS state office staff developed and organized the technical materials and linked it to the national eFOTG site. We especially want to recognize Fay Garner, Deloris Jones, Sarah Walker, Scott Anderson, and Sue Daniel who posted over 1,200 files within a very short time frame.



Fay Garner (State eFOTG Administrator (L) trains Content Managers on linking files to the national eFOTG. (L-R) Deloris Jones, Sue Daniel, and Sarah Walker.

Land Judging in Alabama

By Kenneth W. Johnson, Resource Soil Scientist-West Team, Grove Hill, AL

Jerry Johnson turned over the coordination of the Land Career Development Event (Land Judging) to me a couple of months before he went on sick leave. Bobby Fox, Milton Tuck, and I will coordinate and set up the State Land Judging Contest. We will assist with county and district contests and answer questions concerning contest rules and regulations.

In order to better serve the field while working with SWC Districts and FFA Chapters in setting up and conducting contests, we are establishing a Land Career Development Event web site as part of the Alabama NRCS homepage. This site should be online in the near future. The site will include photos of district and state contest winners, calendar of events, the Alabama Rules and Regulation Handbook, and links to the national contest, FFA, and forestry and agronomy sites. In order to have up-to-date information, we need good quality photos of your contests along with any newsworthy items about land judging activities in your area.

After attending several national contests, it became apparent that if Alabama contestants are to compete on the national level, contest rules need to be changed. Given a fair chance, Alabama students could be very competitive in the national contest.

We are proposing the following changes to Part I of the scorecard under Land Class Factors:

- Surface texture - Change the choices from coarse, medium, and fine to coarse, moderately coarse, medium, moderately fine, and fine. These USDA soil textural groupings are widely accepted. The soil texture grouping would also be used in defining permeability classes of the subsoil. The scorecard changes would be accomplished by changes in texture definition similar to the national contest.
- Soil Depth – Change the rules to allow contest judges to set depth by use of a string guide in a “No Pick Zone” regardless of on-site soil depth conditions.
- Erosion – Soil surface loss should be expressed as a percentage of the original soil surface thickness instead of inches. The original surface would be determined by contest judges and given as on-site rules.
- Soil Drainage - Conditions would be given on-site; this section of the scorecard would be replaced with surface runoff ratings in rapid, moderate, slow, and very slow which are based primarily on slope and infiltration.
- Major Limiting Factor – Change the scorecard to read surface runoff instead of soil drainage. These changes would not affect the Homesite scorecard and would only apply to Crop, Pasture, and Forestry cards. All other sections of Land Class Factors Part I would remain unchanged.

So more than one team from a county could compete at the district level, we would like to reward those counties who have more than two teams competing. We want to change the number of Alabama teams attending the national contest from one to five.

This is our contest, and a very good outreach effort from NRCS and Districts to the local school systems. We need to support it. Send me your comments and suggestions about the proposed changes--ken.johnson@al.usda.gov.



Choctaw, Clark, & Washington Counties hold joint land judging contest in January 2002.

Monsanto Field Day at Loxley

by Ben Moore, Resource Conservationist

Monsanto hosted a field day on August 15 at the Agronomy Center in Loxley. The Agronomy Center is one of 41 Centers of Excellence that Monsanto operates in the United States. About 140 local farmers, retailers, extension agents, and NRCS employees attended the event. Featured were new technologies that will improve crop yield potentials and be beneficial to conservation tillage and soil quality efforts. A summary of the new technologies featured on the tour at the field day follows:

- Enhanced Roundup Ready cotton that will allow cotton growers to apply Roundup over the top, beyond the four-leaf stage, will simplify and improve weed control in conservation-tillage cotton systems.
- The new Bollgard II cotton will improve insect pest control in cotton production. This new product has better activity on several devastating cotton insect pests than does current Bollgard products.
- A new formulation of Roundup herbicide is more concentrated, moves into the plant quicker, and can withstand a rain 30 minutes after application without any reduction in plant activity.
- A project to develop a permanent insect refuge crop for growers of Bollgard cotton was viewed and discussed. Currently, a variety of Paulownia tree is being used in the research and is showing promise.
- A conservation tillage study was viewed and discussed. Most of the no-till and strip-till treatments were the most profitable or equally as profitable as the

conventionally-tilled treatments. A rainfall simulator demonstration on a soil with and without residue cover was shown. Erosion and runoff occurred on this flat soil site where no residue was present. Where the residue was present, no erosion or runoff occurred.

- Farm equipment and pickup trucks fueled with products made from corn and soybeans were displayed. The pickups use a fuel that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The tractors use fuel that is 20 percent soybean oil and 80 percent diesel fuel.

Monsanto is a leader in many new technologies in production agriculture and is a partner in our conservation efforts. The field day and tour was very informative.



From The Field

Conservation Practices Installed in Cotaco Creek Watershed

Mr. Thornton Stanley installed conservation practices with a cost-share contract funded with Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) 319 Demonstration funds through the Morgan County SWCD. A portion of Stanley's property joins Cotaco Creek. He was concerned about non-point pollution. Erosion, nutrient, and bacteria loading concerns were addressed in his five-year plan to reduce non-point source pollution for a 303d segment that flows through the 380-acre farm. Mr. Stanley planned for perennial grass planting, heavy use cattle feeding areas, fencing, and water supplies. He also signed up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, which was used to fence and buffer the stream from 80 to 180 feet on both sides. Bottomland hardwood trees were planted in the buffer areas the entire 1.5-mile length of the stream. A 25-acre shallow water area that will be managed for waterfowl habitat is under construction. With proper resource management, Mr. Stanley is improving the water quality in the watershed and protecting the natural resources on his property.

Fred Evans, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician (L) and Thornton Stanley (R) prepare to survey the site for his 25-acre shallow water area to be managed for waterfowl habitat.



Vivian B. Adams School Erosion Control Project

Vivian B. Adams School in Dale County serves six counties as a school and training facility for people who are mentally and physically challenged. The bus parking area and access road were severely eroded and were not usable by the buses. The school's baseball field was being used for alternative parking. The weight of the wheelchair lift and the buses were rapidly degrading the area.

With assistance from the Wiregrass RC&D Council, the school applied for funds to improve the parking area. The entire road and parking area was filled and shaped, outlets installed to divert water, and block sod was placed along the road banks. The area is now both usable and attractive.



Representative Steve Clouse (C) presents a check for the finished project to School Director Patti Martin, and Facilities Supervisor Mickey Outlaw.

Pike County Agencies Host Pond Workshop

Small impoundments are important components of many farms in Pike County. They are used as a source of water for livestock and irrigation and for on-farm recreation. Pike County agricultural agencies held a pond workshop, October 23, at the Cattleman Park in Troy to provide information on how to manage farm ponds for livestock/irrigation purposes and recreational use. Representatives from Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and NRCS presented material relative to pond weed and mosquito control, pond management, state services, permit process/construction, and water law. The Pike County Cattlemen's Association hosted the meeting; the Pike Farmers Co-op sponsored lunch.

Randy Hale (R) Pike County NRCS District Conservationist, talks with a landowner about pond management.



Personnel

Accessions

Jason Burcham, Soil Conservationist, Russellville, AL
Jeffrey Ethridge, Soil Conservation Technician, Abbeville, AL
Michael Hildred, Soil Conservation Technician, Anniston, AL
Wade Hill, Soil Conservationist, Geneva, AL
Wade Williams, Soil Conservation Technician, Eutaw, AL

Promotions

Amy Bell, Soil Conservationist to District Conservationist, Monroeville, AL
Evelyn Bostick, Human Resources Assistant, Auburn, AL
Jeff Holloway, Civil Engineer, Oxford, AL
Heidi Janes, District Conservationist, Wedowee, AL, to RC&D Coordinator, Oxford, AL
April Jones, Soil Conservationist to District Conservationist, Montgomery, AL
Larry McCray, Agricultural Engineer, Tuscaloosa, AL
Danny Williams, District Conservationist, Russellville, AL to District Conservationist, Huntsville, AL

Transfer

Barbara Creech, Purchasing Agent, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior, Canon City, CO to Purchasing Agent, Auburn, AL

Reassignments

Eddie Davis, Student Soil Trainee, Washington, IA to Soil Scientist, Huntsville, AL
Jason Gardner, Soil Conservationist, Philadelphia, MS to Soil Conservationist, Cullman, AL
Tanga Skinner, Soil Conservation Technician, Abbeville, AL to Soil Conservation Technician, New Brockton, AL
Joe Wilson, District Conservationist, Blakely, GA to District Conservationist, Dothan, AL

Retirements

Janice Erwin, Office Management Assistant, Centre, AL

Retiree News From Jesse Bush

SCS/NRCS Retirees met in Gulf Shores on September 18-19. Due to numerous circumstances, the attendance was smaller than expected, but the setting, the program, the food, and fellowship were outstanding. Quite a few came early or stayed later to enjoy the Gulf and other beautiful scenes.

We are initiating a system of communicating with retirees by email. Using your email address, we can send you information about other retirees, upcoming meetings, and other information without the expense of "snail mail" which now cost almost 50 cents a letter. We'll continue to send meeting announcements by regular mail to those who don't have email. Please send your email address to cgbush@mindspring.com.

Plans are to hold the spring 2003 meeting in Tuscaloosa in late April. More details of the spring meeting will be available in the next newsletter. See you next time!

NOTE: This newsletter is now being posted, in color, on the Alabama NRCS home page (<http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov>). NRCS employees no longer receive black and white hard copies, but receive an e-mail notification when the newsletter is posted.

Retirees who prefer to access the newsletter this way and not have a hard copy mailed, please send Fay Garner, Public Affairs Assistant, (fay.garner@al.usda.gov) your e-mail address with a request to be added to the list of people receiving the announcement when the newsletter is posted. You will then be removed from the hard copy mailing.



NRCS held a Farm Bill meeting for Limited Resource Farmers in Montgomery, September 27. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the programs, benefits, and accessibility of the 2002 Farm Bill and how the legislation affects the small-scale farmer. NRCS wants to ensure that the limited resource farmers have adequate program information. Over 100 people attended.