

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

Subject: 3-4-10 eBlast from NRCS



March 4, 2010

USDA DEPUTY SECRETARY KATHLEEN MERRIGAN VISITS UTAH

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan is in Utah today to discuss the local impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and to visit with agricultural producers and USDA employees. Traveling with the Deputy Secretary are NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen, FSA Director Art Douglas, and RD Director Dave Conine. The



accompanying photograph shows Merrigan and Gillen seated at one of the meetings this morning.

Merrigan visited the Utah Food Bank in Salt Lake City that received \$64,000 in recovery funds to add to the already large supplies provided by USDA's commodity food program. Later today they are

visiting the Cache Valley Community Health Center construction site where a Recovery Act project funded through RD is creating jobs and improving community medical care. The tour will conclude with a visit to Utah State University as part of USDA's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" College Tour.

In a meeting this morning with USDA employees in the State Office, she took time to thank all USDA employees in the state, whose "boots are on the ground," and who help make that Department's programs successful. Among other things, she talked about the Department's support for the small family farm, the need to work more closely with Tribes, and the need to improve our recruitment to fill positions left by an expected retirement bulge. She mentioned specifically the need to hire more NRCS employees, noting an estimate that one NRCS employee now services 70 contracts.

 **Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah**

To see blasts from the past go to [e-Blast archives](#)

Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

125 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84138; (801) 524-4550; (801) 524-4403 - fax; www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

To submit news items or subscribe/unsubscribe to the mailing list, contact NRCS Public Affairs Specialist Ron Francis at 801-524-4557; ron.francis@ut.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.