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NRCS EMPLOYEES ENCOURAGED TO **WEAR RED** THIS FRIDAY

On Friday, February 2, NRCS employees are being encouraged to join other Americans nationwide as they celebrate the Fourth Annual National Wear Red Day by wearing red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness. The Heart Truth campaign, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, introduced the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness in February 2003, to help spread the word that heart disease is the #1 killer of American women.

Jessie Barrett, Women's Special Emphasis Program Manager for NRCS in Utah, notes that NRCS and the Department of Agriculture are joining Federal agencies across the country by encouraging all employees to wear red. By wearing red--whether it is a red dress, shirt, tie, or the Red Dress Pin--and encouraging your colleagues and friends to do the same, you will be sending a lifesaving message: "Heart Disease Doesn't Care What You Wear-It's the #1 Killer of Women."

To help you plan, the National Wear Red Day Online Toolkit is available at www.hearttruth.gov. It contains ideas and tools (including how to order the Red Dress Pin) to help you participate in the National Wear Red Day celebration.

First Lady Laura Bush said, "When it comes to heart disease--education, prevention, and even a little red dress can save lives."

 Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

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