

101 South Main Street
 Temple, Texas 76501

Contact us at **254-742-9800**
www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land



JANUARY 2011

Activity *report*



In this issue >>>

Programs	1
New Hires & Vacancies	2
Watershed Program	3
Soils	4
Information & Outreach	5
Upcoming Events	11

Programs

The Title II (Conservation Programs) of the 2008 Food, Energy and Conservation Act (Farm Bill) have been allocated and received in Texas. The following are initial allocations by program for FY 11:

- AWEP - \$3,270,000**
- CStP - 1,600,000 Acres**
- EQIP - \$66,800,000**
- FRPP \$2,552,000**
- GRP \$4,664,000**
- WHIP \$873,000**
- WRP \$13,191,000**

These figures are initial allocations. As funding is obligated and funds exhausted, additional funding will be requested with the hope of receiving more.

EQIP/WHIP

A statewide initial ranking cutoff deadline has been established and will be January 28, 2011. Applications for these programs received in the field offices will be evaluated and ranked for funding of FY 2011 allocations. Subsequent funding cut off periods may be necessary to fully obligate local county base and statewide resource

concerns. All NRCS programs have an open sign-up period and applications are accepted throughout the year.

AWEP/CCPI/CIG

NRCS is currently soliciting requests for proposals for AWEP (Agricultural Water Enhancement Program) and CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Part-





New Hires & Vacancies

NRCS Currently Has 37 Vacancies:
NOTE: Some of these job announcements have closed with selections pending and others are currently open or are to be announced in the near future.

- 6 Civil Engineers
- 12 District Conservationists
- 2 Forester
- 1 Rangeland Mngmt Specialist
- 1 RC&D Coordinator
- 3 Soil Conservationists
- 3 Soil Scientist
- 2 Construction Control Inspectors
- 3 Engineering Technicians
- 1 Physical Science Technician
- 1 Soil Conservation Technician
- 1 Human Resources Assistant
- 1 Secretary

NRCS has made the following 11 selections resulting in accessions in Fiscal Year 2011:

- 1 Rangeland Mngmt Specialist
- 1 Soil Conservationist
- 2 Soil Scientist
- 1 Contract Specialist
- 1 Soil Conservation Technician
- 1 Purchasing Agent
- 1 Secretary
- 3 Voucher Examiners

More information about open positions within the agency can be found at: www.usajobs.opm.gov/



Programs—Continued

nership Initiative). The deadline for proposal submission is January 27, 2011. For specific information regarding these funding opportunities see the Federal Register at www.regulations.gov. The proposals are similar to last year's format.

The announcement for pre-proposals for CIG (Conservation Innovation Grants) has been announced and closed on December 28, 2010. Proposal applicants should be hearing soon whether or not they will be requested to submit a full proposal.

WRP

NRCS has very ambitious goals for WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) this year, as well as for the balance of the Farm Bill tenure. The acceptance of wetlands into the program has been streamlined and the easement payments have been revised to better re-



flect the value of the land. We would encourage anyone who may be interested to sign up and check the program benefits as they have changed since the last Farm Bill.

CRP

Several field offices across Texas have been diligently working on conservation plans for the 39th sign-up for CRP (Conservation Reserve Program). NRCS was charged with completing over 5400 plans in 3 months with a deadline of December 31, 2010.

CSP

The first sign-up period deadline for CSP (Conservation Security Program) applications has been extended until January 21, 2011. This will allow more time for prospective applicants to evaluate their options and NRCS to prepare for ranking applications.

Watershed Program

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) >>>

- \$19.7 million of ARRA funds obligated for repair, rehabilitation, and mitigation of dams in Texas.
- ARRA projects in Texas provide \$2.2 million in annual benefits.
- Construction has been completed on all but 2 ARRA projects: Chambers Creek 128 repair (Navarro County) and Calaveras Creek 6 rehabilitation (Bexar County).
- Work continues on 3 mitigation projects, with most of them expected to be complete by March 31.

Watershed Operations Program >>>

- Agreements are in place with the TSSWCB for engineering design and construction inspection of dam repair projects funded by the TSSWCB Dam Repair program.
- Construction is underway on recreations facilities (Phase II) at Attoyac Bayou Site 23A (Nacogdoches County).
- Work is underway to obtain the 404 permit for construction of Elm Creek (1250) Site 1A Rev. in Taylor County.



East Fork above Lavon Site 1A Rehabilitation, McKinney, Texas.

<<< Watershed Rehabilitation Program

- Construction has been completed for rehabilitation of East Fork Above Lavon Site 1A.
- Mountain Creek 10 (Ellis County) rehab plan has been authorized by the NRCS Chief for funding; funding for construction in 2011 has been requested.
- East Fork above Lavon 2A (Collin County) has been authorized by the NRCS Chief for funding.
- Rehab planning for Plum Creek 6 (Hays County) is underway.
- Rehab planning for Olmitos-Garcias 7 (Starr County) will begin in the near future.
- Assessments of high hazard dams: 34 assessments and reports have been completed; the remaining 140 assessments will be completed by September 30, 2011.

Funding for Watershed Projects in FY 2011

- Initial allocations have been received for on-going projects.
- Funding for new projects unknown at this time (continuing resolution).

Celebrating a Historic Milestone on Texas Soils

After 111 years, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently celebrated completing the last soil survey mapped in Texas. The historical event was commemorated with a “Last Acre Ceremony” held in Temple at the USDA-ARS, Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory and Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center. The ceremony signified the completion of 171,891,840 million acres of soils mapped—a milestone in Texas history.

The state’s soil mapping program began in 1899. The first soil survey was published for Montgomery County in 1901. Since that time, soil surveys have been completed in all of Texas’ 254 counties. Over the last century, the surveys have evolved from hand-drawn maps and handwritten notes to the digital technologies of today.



Jose Dodier, Chairman, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, talks about the benefits of the soil survey program to land users throughout the state.

The event, moderated by Dr. Tom Hallmark, Texas A&M University, featured remarks from representatives of the key agencies and organizations involved in the cooperative soil survey. Additional speakers included: Salvador Salinas, NRCS Texas acting state conservationist; Dr. Tom Gerik, resident director, Blackland Research and Extension Center; Dr. Daren Harmel; lab director, Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory; Michael Golden, NRCS National Soil Survey Director; Dr. B.L. Allen, pro-

fessor emeritus, Texas Tech University; Dr. Larry Wilding; professor emeritus, Texas A&M University; Jose Dodier, chairman, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board; Scott Buckles, president, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Dr. Craig Nessler, director, Texas AgriLife Research; Dr. Edward Smith, director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Dr. Dan Upchurch, southern plains area director, Agricultural Research Service.

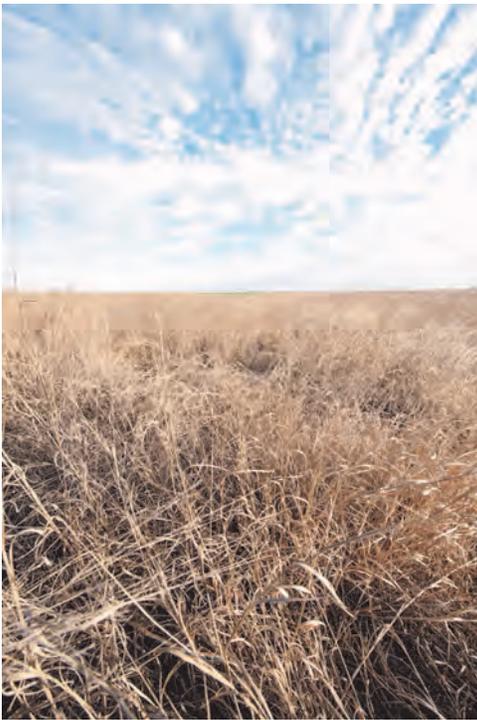
Buckles announced that the ATSWCD is seeking to have the Houston Black Clay designated as the official State Soil by the 82nd Texas Legislature.

Some special guests were recognized during the event, which was attended by over 200 people. Wilson “Booger” Moon, retired USDA-NRCS state conservationist, received a standing ovation for his participation in the ceremony. At 99 years old, Moon is the oldest living USDA soil scientist in the United States. He began his career with the NRCS in Texas in 1934, one year before it became an official USDA agency.

Williamson remarked that the soil survey program is led by the NRCS, with the Experiment Stations, Extensions Service, Universities, other federal partners and state agencies, as well as local soil and water conservation districts, which provide funding, personnel, soil analysis and research.



A granite marker, with stone quarried from the same site as that used for the State Capitol, was erected to dedicate the Last Acre Ceremony site to commemorate the comple-



management plan for San Antonio Bay to identify status and trends in water quality.

TSSWCB and NRCS hosted a **tour at the Honey Creek State Natural Area** for the Texas Forest Service employees on November 2.

The Breckenridge Field Office worked with Stephens County Agent to produce the **Stephens County Brush and Weed Control Workshop** that had around 30 attendees.

NRCS participated in the **Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration** on December 4, 2010 by exhibiting at the event and providing handouts about how NRCS is working to help people help the land.

Ross Brown, NRCS district conservationist, spoke at the **Harrison County Cattlemen's** annual meeting on November 5, 2010. He discussed farm bill programs available to producers including EQIP, CStP, GRP and WHIP. Brown also provided producers at the event the results of the 47 hay samples sponsored by the SWCD.

NRCS in **Zone 1 completed CRP contract development and field reviews** for new and existing acres for contracts on 4,065 acres in sign up 39.

Throughout the month of November and December **zone-wide training for Zone 2** employees was held for **CCRP**. One more training will be held in January in San Angelo. After the completion of this training, all Zone 2 employees involved in the program will have attended CCRP training.

In November and December the Bowie County SWCD began distribution of their Annual Report Calendar to producers. These calendars contain information including monthly reminders for producers that include items such as gardening does and don'ts, when to plant crops, perform woodland improvements and culling of cattle. The calendar also includes pictures of different events that the SWCD assists with throughout the year.

De-Go-La RC&D co-sponsored a **San Antonio Bay Partnership** stakeholders technical workshop on November 1-2, which was attended by over 60 stakeholders to develop a

Elementary schools in Childress and in surrounding rural communities attended the **2010 Agri-Day** at the Childress Coliseum on November 5, 2010. Fifth grade students rotated through 10 agricultural stations to learn about different crops, products and natural resources shared by ag industry professionals. NRCS provided a program on soil and water conservation. Additional learning stations included cotton, wheat, wildlife, equipment, agriculture by-products, beef, auctions, dairy and other animals.



Kids gathered around the Southwest Dairy Association's Traveling Dairy Classroom at the Agri-Day held in Childress on November 5.



The Graham Field Office (Young County) produced a **Range and Wildlife Field Day** with 50 attendees, along with a 5th grade field day having 85 students and teachers in attendance. The field office also continued to assist with the Plant ID judging team in Young County.

The Albany Field Office participated in the **Stephens County Ag Chemical and Range Field Day** targeting Texas winter grass plant communities back to warm season vegetation.

Cultural Resource Training

More than 35 USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees and conservation partners learned about the habitats of rare, threatened and endangered plant as well as plants of cultural concern that inhabit rangeland areas of South Texas, on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 in Rio Grande City.

Ted Herrera provided invaluable assistance in this training exercise by leading a discussion about rare plant species that are of Cultural Concern to the Indigenous People of South Texas. Herrera is from the Coahuilteco Nation and is one of five Tribal Leaders of the Texas recognized Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation which is headquartered in San Antonio. Herrera is the founder, and spiritual leader of the Rio Grande Native American Church. He also serves on the USDA-NRCS Texas State Technical Advisory Committee

(STAC), as an advocate for stakeholders of tribally owned land and land owned by Tribal members. Herrera also serves as an Elder of the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA) for NRCS.



Ted Herrera shows a Star Cactus to NRCS employees and others who attended the rare and endangered plant species training in Rio Grande City.

The Trans-Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) all gathered at Belding Farms located outside of Fort Stockton, Texas to welcome over 60 fifth-graders to the **21st Annual Educational Field Day** on November 5th.



Kyle Wright, NRCS district conservationist, hosted the plant identification/crop station during an educational field day held at Belding Farms located outside of Fort Stockton, Texas.

On November 6th the Alamo RC&D hosted a **disposal event in Wilson County**. Residents disposed over 7000 pounds of hazardous and electronic waste free of charge during the collection event at the City Park in Poth, Texas.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of Midland County and Agrilife Extension Service of Glasscock County held the annual **Third Grade Farm Tour** in St. Lawrence, Texas on November 9. Classes from St. Ann's Catholic School of Midland and Glasscock County ISD Elementary of Garden City participated in the Farm Tour.

The NRCS offices in Pecos, Fort Stockton and Monahans hosted their **annual educational field day** on November 10th.

East Fork Lavon Site Dedication

Supporters and constituents joined the NRCS in a **dedication ceremony** celebrating the completion of the dam rehabilitation of **East Fork above Lavon (EFAL) Floodwater Retarding Structure (FRS) Site 1A** on November 5, 2010. Landowners Lawrence and Wanda Freeman and city officials from McKinney, Texas were among those present. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was U.S. Representative Ralph M. Hall (R-TX) from the 4th Congressional District of Texas. The recognition ceremony acknowledged the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies in developing and implementing the rehabilitation of EFAL FRS Site 1A, which is located in Collin County near the city of McKinney. At a cost of approximately \$3 million, with NRCS contributing 65 percent of the cost, the project was the fifth watershed dam to be rehabilitated in Collin County.



Congressman Ralph M. Hall (R-TX), 4th Congressional District of Texas, shows the many supporters and constituents attending the dedication ceremony on Nov. 5, 2010, a recognition award presented to him by NRCS Texas for his efforts in getting the dam rehabilitation of EFAL Dam Site 1A completed.

NRCS was a sponsor of the **Communication Officers of State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA)** held in Austin November 7-10 and NRCS presented to more than 50 attendees from across the U.S. about NRCS work in Texas and also the partnership with the Texas Department of Agriculture and other agencies, like APHIS and Texas Animal Health Commission, who were in attendance at the conference. Salvador Salinas was featured in the COSDA follow-up video on interagency cooperation highlighting his presentation about NRCS' partnerships. <http://pi.amspictures.com/buzz/cosda-2010/cooperation/> NRCS PAS specialists had the opportunity to network and learn about USDA-APHIS and FDA updates and new communication techniques. They also attended a training session with John Bender while they were in Austin.



NRCS Texas Acting State Conservation Salvador Salinas (second from left) with COSDA Keynote Speaker Karen Hughes (third from right) and the NRCS Texas public affairs staff.

CAST Convention

Thousands of educators descended on Houston November 11-13, 2010, for the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teachers or CAST. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees from Bryan, Houston and Temple participated in the event with an educational exhibit. More than 400 exhibitors blanketed the tradeshow floor. On the

natural resources and conservation themed aisle, NRCS employees spent hours visiting with attendees educating them about the agency, along with topics such as conservation education in the classroom and on the ground conservation. Once again this year, the pollinator poster was a big hit with more than 900 being handed out to attendees.



Photos captions: Harris County Soil Conservationist Delwin Cannon (left) and State Public Affairs Specialist Bob Stobaugh (right) visit with attendees at the November CAST conference.

NRCS Zone 2 staff aided in the **planning of the upcoming 2011 Texas Section Society for Range Management** annual meeting that will be held in San Angelo, Texas. Ranch tours will highlight work done on surrounding rangeland using Farm Bill Programs. NRCS will also have speakers throughout the three day event.

The NRCS Bryan Zone 4 office held **Cultural Resources Training** for 119 NRCS field office and Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board employees. State Cultural Resources Specialist, Calvin Sanders, conducted the training, which included policy, identifying artifacts and recognizing prehistoric and historic archeological sites. The training was provided to every employee in Zone 4 who is putting conservation on the ground.



During the Zone 4 training, Calvin Sanders, state cultural resources specialist, discusses how lithic flakes would have been used as scrapers and other tools by Native peoples.



NRCS exhibited at the **15th Annual World Championship Ranch Rodeo's Ranch Expo Working Ranch Cowboy Association (WRCA)** in Amarillo November 11 – 14, 2010. The ranch-based business trade show featured a diverse group of offerings, including trailers, cattle chutes, handling equipment, animal health products, feeds, ag investment firms, natural resources environmental conservation information, chemicals and much more.

Throckmorton Field Office presented information on **NRCS careers** to the Woodson ISD Ag Science Class resulting in a STEP applicant for FWP recruiting.

In November, NRCS served on panel for TTU at the College of Agriculture Education and Communications classes on the importance of career preparation and understanding the work place environment.

Amarillo Farm Show Setup - The setup process for farm and trade shows in Texas is a combined effort among many employees. It's not uncommon for em-

Matt Pruner, district conservationist in Canyon, visits with a producer at the Amarillo Farm Show the first week in December.

ployees from all disciplines to pitch to get the exhibit put together and in place for a show. The Amarillo Farm Show setup crew included the Zone 1 engineers from Amarillo, Troy Headings, Jeff Goodwin and Greg Hinders. Public affair staffs are appreciative of the generosity of help that Texas NRCS employees are so willing to give.

NRCS exhibited technologies to showcase technical applications used by NRCS in conservation planning and contracting **at the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show Amarillo November 30 – December 2, 2010.** Farmers, ranchers and the public had the opportunity to learn more about conservation planning and the NRCS applications used to design conservation plans. Approximately 30,000 agriculture operators attend the show from Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas.



NRCS Texas Acting State Conservationist Salvador Salinas delivers a talk on NRCS conservation efforts and Farm Bill Programs at the 2010 Commodity Symposium held in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch show.

Information & Outreach, cont'd

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Texas Forest Service (TFS) hosted a **Longleaf Pine Ecology** workshop December 2 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. There were 126 people present at the Longleaf Pine Ecology workshop. Presenters provided a comprehensive knowledge base to attendees gathered from studies and practical working experience with Longleaf Pine.

The North Rolling Plains RC&D assisted the Ogallala Commons with a **Community Internship Training in Clarendon on November 30, 2010.**

The program promotes educational opportunities for leaders.

The **Wes-Tex RC&D** assisted and continued sponsorship **Community Internship Training in Abernathy on December 2, 2010.** Ogallala Commons and other community and institutional partners have created more than 50 internships in 24 communities and six states. NRCS assists with instruction and teaching at these events.

NRCS state and zone staff hosted a **GRP workshop** in Mason, Texas on December 1. With over 30 landowners in attendance, the program offered a complete breakdown of the program and its options for those interested.

Chisholm Trail RC&D selected the following projects for \$500 **Community Improvement Grants**, including the Olney HOPE Backpack for Kids, Cooke County Fair Association constructing a wash rack for show animals, Lake Bridgeport



Jeanna Childers, NRCS Texas state forester and event coordinator welcomes the more than 120 people who attended the recent longleaf pine ecology workshop.

VFD fire equipment, Bowie HS Outdoor Learning Project, Camp Chaparral retaining wall, and Hood Community Improvement Club water well and electrical wiring for club house.

The Rio Bravo and De-Go-La RC&D Councils, NRCS and SWCDs co-sponsored three “**Water in Texas**” workshops in December that attracted more than 130 attendees. These one-day water workshops covered Texas water rights and regulations for both surface water and groundwater, including the latest water law issues and trends affecting landowners, producers, and rural Texans. Participants were introduced to the latest USDA agency programs and Texas Rural Mediation Services™, the USDA mediation program for Texas, and how it is applicable to them.

During November and December the Rio Bravo RC&D provided an additional \$13,355.05 for **water well service** for the community of Mirando City, which is providing water to 500 homes. The Rio Bravo RC&D Council is still overseeing the temporary

manager ship of an abandon water supply corporation in the Cain Subdivision in Kleberg County and is providing potable drinking water to 15 houses for the first time.

The Zone 4 staff in Bryan held a one day **zone-wide** resource team leaders and district conservationists’ **informational meeting** at the Plant Materials Center in Nacogdoches on December 8. Topics and discussions on all Farm Bill programs, along with policies and procedures were covered. The group also was provided with an update on public affairs outreach efforts.



Zone 4 zone-wide meeting at the Plant Materials Center in Nacogdoches.

Information & Outreach, cont'd

On December 8th the **Alamo RC&D** hosted its annual meeting which gave attendees the chance to learn about the RC&D programs completed and planned future projects.

Dalhart field office personnel attended the **Ag Appreciation Days for Producers** in Dalhart on December 16, 2010 hosted by the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce. NRCS exhibited the Farm Bill display and provided handouts to producers and others who attended the event. This is an annual event that NRCS has participated in for the past three years. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors this yearly event to show their appreciation to all who are a part of the agriculture industry. The Dalhart Texan newspaper published a photo of the event.



Texan photo by Susan Clay
Explanations and demonstrations were ongoing at the Dalhart Ag Appreciation Day.

Photo that appeared in the Dalhart Texan newspaper featuring the NRCS exhibit and District Conservationist Don Skiles.

The Bowie County SWCD, along with the Bowie County FSA and NRCS offices, hosted the **annual Christmas open house** December 16, 2010. This annual event gives Bowie County producers the opportunity to come together to discuss their diverse management techniques and their accomplishments for the year.

NRCS in the Media



The Fall 2010 issue of *National Sorghum Grower's* magazine featured a CSP article, **"Making the Most of CSP."** The article's author contacted Lubbock office PAS Quenna Terry and she put her in touch with Mark Habiger and a producer from Hale Center. The article has good quotes from both of these sources. <http://www.sorghumgrowers.com>

In continued support of NRCS' **Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative**, NRCS employees from Bryan and Temple traveled to Chambers County in mid-November to capture on video and in photos the central flyway zone migratory birds utilizing the abundant expanded habitat for feeding, resting and roosting. **Video footage will be utilized by NHQ** to highlight the national initiative.

November 2010 issue of Farmer-Stockman Magazine featured the story, "Feedlot gets Deal on Irrigation Upgrade" page IE8. This EQIP story was pitched by Lubbock office PAS Quenna Terry and written by magazine editor Alan Newport. Article featured Hansford County Feeders LLC and NRCS employees Rick Harrell and Greg Sokora. <http://www.farmprogress.com>

November 7 edition of the Temple Star Telegram featured the Texas Soils Survey program on the front page of their Sunday paper. The same edition also contained information about the Last Acre Ceremony which was held in Temple on November 10.

The **November 2010 issue of Texas Farm and Home magazine** featured Bryan Zone Office Public Affairs Specialist Beverly Moseley's story, **"Ranching Still a Way of Life"** article on Raymond Dollins. This was only the second publication for this new magazine based in Grapeland, Texas. www.texasfarmandhome.com

Kevin Derzapf, NRCS soil conservationist in the Weatherford Field Office, was featured with a Weatherford cattle rancher about the benefits from EQIP program in the **December 15 edition of Weatherford Democrat** newspaper.

NRCS Says Goodbye to State Conservationist Don Gohmert

After 42 years of federal service, NRCS Texas State Conservationist Donald (Don) W. Gohmert retired on December 31, 2010. Gohmert has been the state conservationist for NRCS in Texas since June 2007. Prior to coming to Texas, he served as the state conservationist in Louisiana and Arizona.

He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service, predecessor to NRCS, in 1970. In 1978, he received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University in New York. After which he served as state resource conservationist in Arizona. He then returned to Louisiana as an assistant state conservationist and deputy state conservationist. In late 1989 he transferred

to Texas as the deputy state conservationist. In 1990 he was selected as state conservationist for Arizona for 3 years. In 1993 he returned to Louisiana as state conservationist for almost 15 years.

Born and raised in Cuero, Texas, Gohmert received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He is a member of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Texas Wildlife Association, the Society for Range Management, National Association of Conservation Districts, and other professional organizations.

Don and his wife, Jo, will reside in Louisiana near their two children and five grandchildren.



Don Gohmert (left) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Executive Director Rex Isom.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 6, 2011— Zone 1 Range Training – Lubbock

Jan. 19, 2011— Zone 1 New Employee Orientation - Plainview

Jan. 19, 2011 — Conservation Day – Ogallala Commons Oak Grove Elementary – Brownfield

Feb. 8 – 10, 2011—Southwest Farm and Ranch Classic - Lubbock

Feb. 10, 2011 — West Texas A&M Career Fair - Canyon

Feb. 15, 2011— Zone 1 Sodbust and Swampbust Training – Canyon

Feb. 17, 2011 — Zone 1 Sodbust and Swampbust Training – Tahoka

Feb. 23, 2011 —Texas Tech University – College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)

Feb. 23- 25, 2011 — Red River Valley Association Meeting in Shreveport, LA

April 1- 2, 2011 — NRCS will participate in the 2011 Texas Farm & Range Forum. This year's theme is "Conserving our Rural Heritage".

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.