
Technical Assistance

NRCS employees travel throughout the world to provide short- and long-term technical assistance. NRCS bases its assistance on the needs of the host country. The following is a summary of international activities completed by agency personnel during fiscal year (FY) 2010.

Afghanistan and Iraq were again a main focus for NRCS in FY 2010. NRCS sent 14 specialists on short- and long-term assignments to assist in training, planning, development, and reconstruction efforts. They worked closely with Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and military representatives.

The following employees provided assistance or are currently serving in Afghanistan:

Maggie Rhodes, Allocations and Management Team Leader, Washington, DC
Bruce Dube, Natural Resource Specialist, Washington, DC
Willie Ruffin, Resource Conservationist, Washington, DC
Caroline Clarin, Agricultural Engineer, Jefferson, WI
Gary Domian, Assistant State Conservationist, Durham, NH
James Green, District Conservationist, Idabel, OK
Kim Lively, Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Meridian, TX
Arnold Norman, Rangeland Management Specialist, NTSC, Fort Worth, TX
William O'Donnell, Assistant State Conservationist, Morgantown, WV

The following employees provided assistance or are currently serving in Iraq:

Patrick Broyles, Soil Conservationist, Emporia, KS
James Helm, District Conservationist, Fairbanks, AK
Mary Kerstetter, District Conservationist, Ellicottville, NY
Tom Pick, Water Quality Specialist, Bozeman, MT
James Vancura, Project Coordinator, Dorris, CA

International Meetings

International meetings provide forums for the exchange of information and NRCS employees benefit by learning and sharing new ideas from our foreign hosts. One hundred nine NRCS employees attended international meetings in 17 countries for information exchange, as members of committees, or to present papers at the

meetings. Canada and Mexico continued to be the most frequently visited foreign destinations.

Foreign Visitors

This year agency specialists met with 107 foreign visitors from 38 countries. Topics covered during these meetings ranged from conservation programs and water resources management to overviews of NRCS's functions.

The agency's leadership, specialists, and field staff all played important roles as itineraries and training were developed for our foreign guests.

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