

101 South Main Street  
Temple, Texas 76501

Contact us at 254-742-9800  
[www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov)

*Helping People Help the Land*



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# Activity *report*



## Texas NRCS receives national USDA partnership award

A partnership effort in Texas among the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and the Polk-San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District which focuses on restoring longleaf pine to its historical range, has received a 2011 Two Chiefs' Partnership Group Award from USDA NRCS Chief Dave White and Forest Service (FS) Chief Thomas Tidwell.



NRCS Chief Dave White (right) presents Texas NRCS State Conservationist Salvador Salinas with a plaque recognizing Texas' 2011 Two Chiefs' Partnership Group Award during the Central Region State Conservationist's meeting recently held in St. Louis, Mo.

## Updates from the Field

### Pilot Project with the National Cotton Council (NCC)

NRCS Agronomist Brandt Underwood is working with Dr. Bill Robertson with the National Cotton Council to provide technical assistance with the development of new management files for cropping systems in the RUSLE2 model. NRCS data and technical assistance is helping NCC in their efforts to develop a new working tool for farmers, known as the "Field Print Calculator." The High Plains region was selected as one of two sites for this pilot project.

### NRCS to be featured in *This American Land* series on PBS

A video shoot was recently completed on the Texas High Plains focused on producers working with NRCS to implement good management practices in production agriculture over the Ogallala Aquifer. The video segments feature producer's David Ford and Harold Grall showcasing their farming operations. A second video was shot featuring producers working with NRCS and it's partners in the Lesser Prairie Chicken five-state range imitative, including Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas. The shows are scheduled air in the Spring of 2013.

### Ken Burns, "The Dust Bowl" Premieres November 18 & 19 on PBS

*The Dust Bowl*, a two-part, four-hour documentary from Ken Burns, chronicles this critical moment in American history in all its complexities and profound human drama. It is part oral history, using compelling interviews of 26 survivors of those hard times—what will probably be the last recorded testimony of the generation that lived through the Dust Bowl. Check your local PBS station for times.

# NRCS Programs Update

The table below represents our Farm Bill program allocations for FY12.

PROGRAM	Applications Received	Application Acres	Total Dollars Requested	Contracts Obligated	Contracted Acres	Obligation Amount
EQIP	7,625	3,602,840	\$119,333,908	4,068	2,134,050	\$75,969,020
AWEP	353	98,250	\$8,633,808	254	67,731	\$6,788,997
WHIP	100	65,844	\$1,559,604	8	23,482	\$219,860
CSP02	-	0	\$0	71	299,967	\$952,179
CSP20112-1	837	1,676,723	\$9,897,142	435	1,155,951	\$7,581,146
WRP	32	13,934	\$18,669,636	17	10,254	\$17,649,240
GRP	57	47,918	\$67,658,272	8	6,687	\$9,992,578
FRPP	6	1,404	\$5,583,000	6	1,404	\$5,583,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>9,010</b>	<b>5,506,913</b>	<b>\$231,335,369</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>3,699,526</b>	<b>\$124,736,020</b>

## Water Quality Updates



### Eagle Mountain Lake

- At present, 89 percent of the goal has been reached for the 150 conservation plans that should be accomplished by the end of the year.
- To date, 134 conservation plans have been written and 36 are in an EQIP contract to help install conservation practices.
- As of November 2012, there are 195 interested customers with 134 conservation plans written for 26,692 acres.
- There are 43 EQIP contracts totaling \$587,653 on 5,636 acres.
- Of the 13 sub-watersheds in Wise County, 41 percent of the contracts have been written in Walnut Creek, Blue Creek and Salt Creek sub-watersheds, which are recognized by the Tarrant Regional Water District contributing the largest amounts of nutrients and sediment loading into Eagle Mountain Lake.



### Chambers Creek

- Total obligation thus far is approximately \$4.28 million thru 61 contracts.
- Total conservation practices applied to date total \$723,487.
- To date, conservation practices applied are brush management (215 acres), cover crops (6,006 acres), fencing (4,955 feet), ponds (8), and conservation tillage (205.2 acres).