

National Bulletin: 230-13-

Date: March XX, 2013

Subject: EOP – NRCS Civil Rights Policy Statement

Purpose. To announce the NRCS Civil Rights Policy Statement.

Expiration Date. January 31, 2014.

Background. Each year, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) officially renews the commitment to Civil Rights and transmits the NRCS Civil Rights Policy Statement. In light of the Cultural Transformation Initiatives and the Secretary's Blueprint for Stronger Service, now is the perfect time to remind all employees of NRCS leadership's commitment to civil rights.

Explanation. Attached to this bulletin, you will find a copy of Acting Chief Weller's Civil Rights Policy Statement. Please ensure that the policy is posted in all agency offices where it can be viewed by employees and customers.

Contact. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Compliance Branch, Civil Rights Division, at (301) 504-2182.



Jason Weller
Acting Chief

Attachment

DIST: E



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

MAR 13 2013

SUBJECT: EOP – NRCS Civil Rights Policy Statement

TO: All NRCS Employees

File Code: 230-15

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees represent an array of cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds, and that diversity helps us meet our mission. I am committed to enforcing the Secretary's zero tolerance policy on discrimination. Prohibited discrimination is a violation of Title VI and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

It is NRCS' policy to treat all customers and employees equitably regardless of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and expression), religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, parental status, and protected genetic information. It is also our policy that customers and employees be free from reprisal or harassment in the pursuit of fairness and equal employment opportunities.

Complainants, representatives, and witnesses involved in complaints of discrimination must be unimpeded and free from restraint, coercion, or retaliation in the exercise of eliminating discrimination in the workplace. Reprisal of any kind against customers or employees will not be tolerated. Agency officials, managers, supervisors, and other employees will be held accountable for discrimination, reprisal or harassment, civil rights violations, and related misconduct.

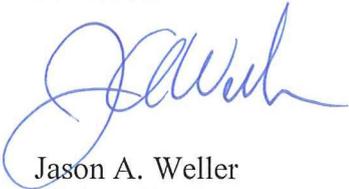
Managers and supervisors are responsible for the environment in which their employees work and have a duty to take both affirmative and corrective action to ensure equal opportunity and civil rights for customers and employees. To deter violations, managers and supervisors are required to take appropriate corrective or disciplinary action on findings of discrimination, reprisal, civil rights violations, and related misconduct in employment and program matters. They must demonstrate an elevated regard by supporting civil rights, equal employment opportunity, and diversity in the workplace.

All NRCS employees are expected to adhere to this policy. NRCS will ensure appropriate corrective or disciplinary action is taken against violators who engage in discriminatory behavior.



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The Civil Rights Division will continue to provide guidance and ensure the agency's compliance with the laws and principles of equality for employment and programs. If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints of discrimination, contact the Civil Rights Division at (301) 504-2181.



Jason A. Weller
Acting Chief