



New Jersey NRCS FY 2018 Accomplishments



**THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)
PROVIDES INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION
SOLUTIONS TO RESTORE, ENHANCE
AND PROTECT NEW JERSEY’S PRIVATE
WORKING LANDS.**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey strives to use our conservation tools in creative ways to provide positive environmental uplifts on New Jersey’s private working lands. We strive to demonstrate that agricultural productivity is enhanced by good land stewardship and that good land stewardship not only benefits the farm footprint, but has far reaching benefits for the watershed community.

Because we only work with landowners and operators on a voluntary basis, we pride ourselves on developing respectful relationships and providing good customer service. This report attempts to capture New Jersey NRCS’s accomplishments and successes for fiscal year 2018 which covers October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

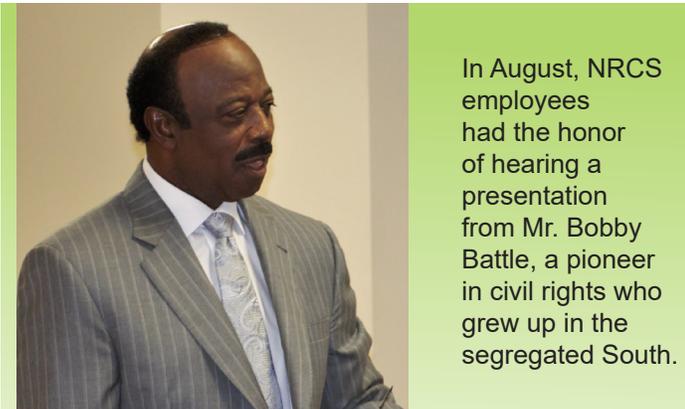
CARRIE LINDIG, State Conservationist

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Civil Rights and Outreach

NRCS employees receive training to help them develop and implement outreach plans and strategies to ensure that NRCS is serving all parts of our communities.



In August, NRCS employees had the honor of hearing a presentation from Mr. Bobby Battle, a pioneer in civil rights who grew up in the segregated South.

Mr. Battle told the NRCS assembly about his life experiences and what led him to work for racial equality in the U.S. armed forces and our justice system.

Mr. Battle retired from his post as director of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for the New Jersey state courts in 2014.



NRCS and partner employees attended a 2 ½ day training to learn more about Working Effectively with Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Producers. The course covered the historical and recent developments in Asia and the Pacific Islands, farming trends in these communities, cultural values and norms. The 28 participants toured two farms and spent time with the Asian producers, learning about their farm operation and their experience working with NRCS.



Nearly sixty people from four states were at the Cape May Plant Materials Center (PMC) in September for the Cape May PCM Field Day. The day-long training prepared by NRCS staff with support from the Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District and conservation partners included presentations about pollinators and cover crops, and demonstrations of seeding and tillage equipment, and the seed cleaning process.

Seventeen staff and partner employees took part in a Soils Field Day in September. The group had the opportunity to observe the physical properties of soil – texture, structure, and color. They discussed the diverse geographic regions of New Jersey, why soils can be different colors, what environmental changes can impact a soil’s physical properties, how texture can impact the functionality of the soil, what structure can indicate about the health of the soil, and how the structure can impact the functionality of the soil.



Outreach

NRCS employees routinely share the conservation message, information about NRCS conservation programs, and their technical expertise in the communities they serve.



NRCS offers exhibit that demonstrates the impact of various cropping methods

NRCS New Jersey conservationists are using the Rainfall Simulator to demonstrate the impact various cropping methods have on run off and infiltration. Both a table top simulator and a full-size exhibit are available for meetings and events. These exhibits are a great tool for communicating the benefits of no-till and cover crop. Contact the NRCS office that serves your county to learn more.

