



**Natural Resources
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Ben Malone named New State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alabama

AUBURN, Ala., September 21, 2015 – USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Jason Weller today announced that Ben Malone of McCalla, Ala. will begin serving as Alabama’s State Conservationist on Monday, October 5, 2015.

Malone currently serves as NRCS Alabama’s Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO) for the Central Area in Bessemer. He holds a degree in forest management from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M). Malone began his career in conservation as a student trainee in New York and Maine with the U.S. Forest Service during his studies at Alabama A&M. He served as a Forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Vermont until he accepted a position with the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Mobile, Ala. in February 1997.

Over the next few years, Malone became a District Conservationist and served in the Jasper and Mobile Ala. offices. In 2003, he accepted a position as a Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in Hammond, Louisiana. During this time, Malone worked extensively on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. In March 2008, Malone became Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations for the Central Area. He has served on two National Technical Teams and in the summer of 2014, he served as Acting State Conservationist in Alabama.

“I would like to thank Chief Weller for this great opportunity. I’m looking forward to working with the great folks in the state of Alabama,” Malone said.

A native of Monroeville, Ala., Malone was heavily involved in 4-H during his childhood which guided him to a career in natural resources. He is married to Felicia, his wife of 12 years. They are the proud parents of Benjamin and Alan. In his free time, Malone enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends.

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