



United States Department of Agriculture

Louisiana Conservation Update

September 2015

25 Years of CWPPRA Construction

Soils Protect the Natural Environment

Story from the field
Continuing the Family Legacy

A cooperative partnership with local
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and
Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

Projects • Successes • Partnerships



Table of Contents

Ag Facts.....2

Notes from the State Conservationist3

25 Years of CWPPRA Construction.....4

International Year of Soils.....6
Soils Support the Natural Environment

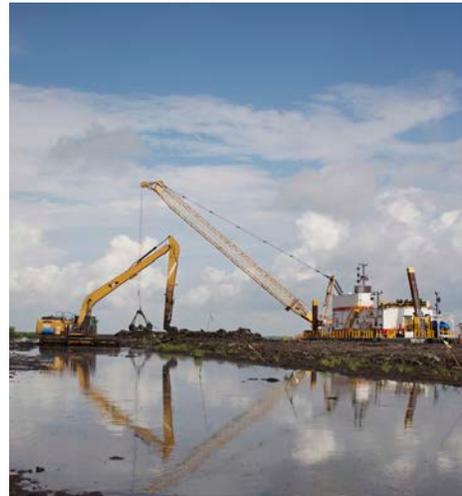
StrikeForce.....6

Story from the Field.....7
Continuing the Family Legacy

Upcoming Events.....7

Contact Information8
Call us with your questions

On the Cover



Construction on coastal restoration projects is happening across the coast, to learn more about how NRCS is working to protect and restore these valuable wetlands, see pages 4 and 5.

The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

If you would like to receive monthly issues of the Conservation Update, please send your mailing address or e-mail address to:

Adele Swearingen
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
or
adele.swearingen@la.usda.gov

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
(318) 473-7751



Follow us on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/LouisianaNRCS>

Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/NRCS_Louisiana

Notes from the State Conservationist

We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Congress enacting the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) this year. Since its inception, the CWPPRA Task Force agencies and local sponsors have seen success on a number coastal protection and restoration projects. Nowhere else in the country will you find five diverse federal agencies and state government working hand-in-hand with local governments and landowners in setting priorities, goals, and sharing responsibility in accomplishing the work.

Over the past 25 years, CWPPRA has authorized funding for 204 projects, of which 101 have been constructed. NRCS is the federal sponsor of 67 of the total projects and has completed construction on 43. We have also partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to design and oversee construction on 14 of their sponsored projects.



NRCS is a proud partner in the effort to conserve and restore these valuable wetlands in south Louisiana. We have enjoyed great success in the CWPPRA program due to our long-standing history of working with private landowners on private lands and our ability to partner successfully with other federal, state and local agencies, as well as non-governmental entities. We are carrying out our mission of “Helping People Help the Land” when we plan, design and construct these projects.

In this month’s issue of the Louisiana Conservation Update, we are highlighting some of the CWPPRA projects currently being constructed by NRCS. The work stretches across the entire coast using a variety of techniques. In many situations, CWPPRA Task Force agencies are implementing and modifying our approaches and overall strategy in a continual learning model in our complex and dynamic coastal environment. We are planting vegetation in critical areas of our coast, repairing and restoring drainage networks while also preventing saltwater intrusion, and creating a lake rim and marsh in an area that was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

On October 14th, there is a 25th Anniversary Celebration of CWPPRA being held at Grand Isle State Park, and I hope that you will make plans to attend and celebrate the success of this program with us.

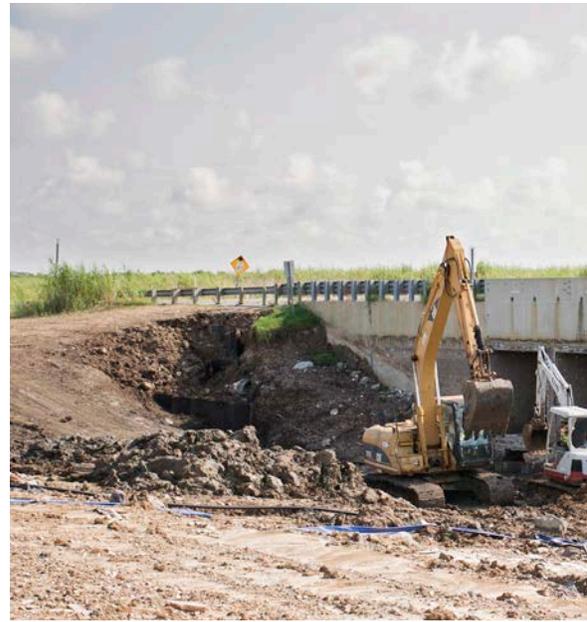
Kevin D. Norton
State Conservationist

CWPPRA is authorized through 2019

To date, CWPPRA has completed construction of 101 projects across the coast

CWPPRA is the oldest and largest federally funded coastal restoration program in Louisiana

CWPPRA Facts



25 Years of CWPPRA

Twenty-five years ago, Congress passed the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) in response to the land loss crisis in Louisiana. A rare partnership between five federal agencies and the state of Louisiana was born and the work to protect and restore coastal Louisiana began.

Since that time, NRCS has been the federal sponsor of 67 CWPPRA projects across the coast. Construction has been completed on 43 of those projects, an investment of over \$290,000,000 in the future of coastal Louisiana.

Currently under construction are LA-39 Coastwide Vegetative Plantings, LA-3b Coastwide Nutria Control Program, BA-27c Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline

Protection, Construction Units 7 and 8, and repairs to the CS-29 Black Bayou Culverts project.

The LA-39 Coastwide Vegetative Plantings project is currently in Year 5. Over 217,000 plants have been installed at eleven critical areas across coastal Louisiana in the first four years of the program.

Now in its 14th year, the LA-3b Coastwide Nutria Control program provides trappers an incentive payment to harvest nutria. This program is federally sponsored by NRCS, state sponsored by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Over the first 13 years of the program, an average of 337,071 animals have been harvested each year.

This program has been very effective in reducing the acres of marsh damaged by herbivory, from about 100,000 acres prior to the program to about 6,000 acres in 2015.

The CS-29 Black Bayou Culverts project was constructed to provide additional drainage capability within the western edge of the Mermentau River Basin. Ten 10' x 10' box culverts were installed in Black Bayou at the intersection of Louisiana Highway 384 which allowed floodwater to escape the basin, while also preventing saltwater from entering the basin from the Calcasieu River. Construction on this project was completed in January 2010.

Not long after construction completion, the area began experiencing tidal saltwater





Construction

ingress through voids that developed underneath the culvert structure due to poor soils. To repair this problem, sheet pile was installed and will be tied into the existing structure which will stop water from passing underneath the structure.

NRCS has also partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to design and manage construction on 14 of the projects that they sponsor. Construction is complete on nine of the projects.

BS-16 South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration project in Plaquemines Parish is currently under construction. This project aims to restore areas of the southern and western shorelines of Lake Lery and the surrounding wetlands that were severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Construction recently began on this project that will restore and/or create approximately 551 acres of marsh. The contractor is currently excavating material from the bottom of Lake Lery and using it to create approximately 35,000 linear feet of new shoreline along the southern and western lake rim. Plans are to vegetate this area of new shoreline with smooth cordgrass and bullwhip.

Crews are also using material from the bottom of Lake Lery to create containment dikes for the planned marsh creation cells that are behind the new shoreline. Once these dikes are completed, the contractor will mobilize dredges to come in and begin pumping material into the cells to create brand new marsh.

All of the projects constructed through CWPPRA are important to our coast. These unique areas of our state are valuable real estate for diverse populations of wildlife and fisheries. These same areas also provide Louisianans and out-of-state visitors many recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing. Communities and other critical infrastructure are protected during major storm events by these wetlands.

NRCS construction engineer, Dale Garber, has spent his career overseeing the construction of many of these projects.

“It is so rewarding to be able to look at a map and know that I played a role in building these projects” said Garber. “I know what I am doing every day is truly making a difference for the future of Louisiana.”

Over the past 25 years, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force has approved 204 projects across coastal Louisiana. Construction is complete on 101 projects and has begun on an additional 13 projects.

Most of these projects use one or more of the following restoration techniques:

- Freshwater Reintroduction
- Outfall Management

- Sediment Diversion
- Marsh Creation
- Shoreline Protection
- Sediment and Nutrient Trapping
- Hydrologic Restoration
- Marsh Management
- Barrier Island Restoration
- Vegetative Plantings
- Terracing
- Invasive Species Control Program
- Delta Management





2015
International
Year of Soils

Soils Protect the Natural Environment

Submitted by: Mitchell Mouton, Assistant State Soil Scientist

No matter what part of Louisiana you live in - the soil beneath our feet has an important role in protecting our natural environment.

Most of us enjoy hiking through our state and national parks because of the beautiful wildlife and trees. But, little attention is given to the soil under our feet that helps keep those trees healthy! The soil is what gives the trees support and provides the nutrients and water that they need to survive and flourish. The soil also provides a habitat for diverse ecosystems that helps foster the food web.

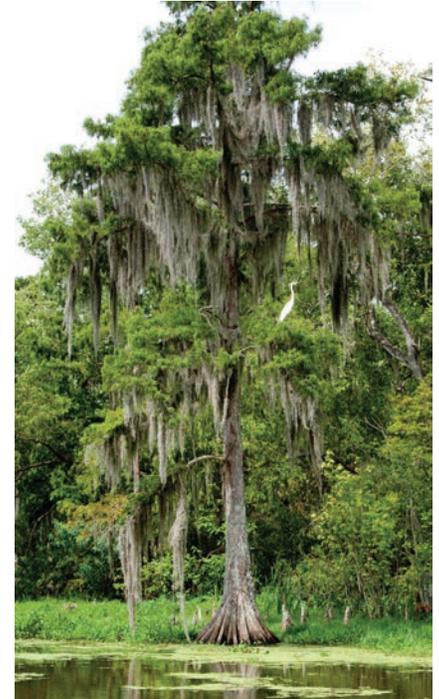
One of our state treasures is our wetlands. Louisiana is home to more than 3 million acres of wetlands. Wetland soils often form in flat, low-lying areas like the Gulf

Coast or in back swamp areas like the Atchafalaya Basin and the countless depressional areas on the landscape where water collects. Wetlands are important habitats for wildlife from fish to frogs...to ducks, geese and alligators. They protect against floods by soaking up water and holding it like a sponge. Wetlands have very productive soils that capture or sequester large amounts of carbon dioxide. The oxygen-poor environment causes very slow break down of the plants material, which allows wetlands to store large amounts of carbon.

The soil that is located in our forests, wetlands and other natural environments affect the water in our bayous and rivers. All soils filter and capture water, affecting both water quality and quantity. They remove harmful chemicals and help capture sediment that would otherwise get into our water bodies. A majority of the water we drink will have more than likely traveled through soils at one time or another. The soils helped purify it along the way.

So, whatever part of Louisiana you may

live in - always know that soils are helping protect our natural environment.



StrikeForce Initiative Louisiana Update for Rural Growth and Opportunity

When Louisiana received its StrikeForce designation in 2014, NRCS entered into agreements with grassroots organizations to assist NRCS with its outreach efforts to Rural Louisiana. Not only has NRCS benefitted from having the grassroots organizations conduct joint StrikeForce outreach meetings, but both of our sister agencies, the Farm Service Agency and Rural Development, have also benefitted from the joint meetings.

On August 27, 2015, Trailblazer RC&D conducted a Webster Parish StrikeForce Meeting in Minden, Louisiana. To-date the Webster Parish StrikeForce Meeting was the largest attended meeting with 84 people in attendance. Church members and community leaders Jerri Lee and Vera

Davison worked with Trailblazer RC&D and NRCS to make this record attended meeting a success.



After the meeting, USDA received a total of 16 requests for assistance and 95% of those requests were from first-time USDA customers.

Additionally, Deputy Assistant Director Amanda M. Urbaneck with the USDA

National Appeals Division made a presentation at the meeting regarding the appeal rights that were afforded to individuals who had been turned down for USDA assistance.



On Thursday September 3, 2015, a StrikeForce Meeting was held in Arcadia, Louisiana. This was the last StrikeForce meeting scheduled for fiscal year 2015. A new round of meetings for Fiscal Year 2016 will be announced soon.

Story from the Field

Continuing the Family Legacy

Submitted by: Rick Adams, District Conservationist, Bossier City Field Office

Willie Davis is a life long resident of Bossier Parish. Following in the footsteps of his late mother, Clara Davis, who was an advocate for conservation, Davis strives to make his cattle operation the best it can be while also conserving all of the natural resources.

Looking to improve livestock production, Davis contacted NRCS for assistance. NRCS personnel visited the farm and developed a conservation plan for his operation in 2012. Davis wanted to focus on improving the conditions of water sources for his herd, controlling soil erosion on the farm, and increase forage production.

Receiving financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Davis was able to install pipeline and watering facilities for his herd, heavy use protection pads to control soil erosion, cross fencing for rotational grazing, herbaceous weed control to eliminate competition and prescribed grazing for forage production.

Davis didn't stop there. He applied for and received additional financial assistance through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to retrofit his watering facilities for wildlife escape and rotating supplemental and feeding areas for his cattle.

By working with NRCS to install all of these practices, Davis has achieved his goals of maximizing the production of his land while also conserving natural resources.



Upcoming Events

October 14, 2015

CWPPRA 25th Anniversary Celebration

The CWPPRA Task Force will be hosting a 25th Anniversary Celebration at 10:00 am on October 14, 2015, at Grand Isle State Park in Grand Isle, Louisiana. For more information or to register to attend, please contact Nikki Cavalier at 337-266-8626 or by e-mail at ncavalier@usgs.gov.

October 24, 2015

Vermilion River Cleanup

The Vermilion SWCD is partnering with Keep Abbeville Beautiful, Abbeville Garden Club, LSU AgCenter - Louisiana Sea Grant, Rotary Club of Abbeville, LDAF - Office of Soil and Water Conservation, Vermilion Parish Sheriff and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to sponsor the Vermilion River Cleanup on October 24, 2015, from 9:00 am until noon. For more information or to register to participate, please contact Mitzi Dohrman at 337-893-5664 ext. 3.

CONSERVATION
CLIENT GATEWAY
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE JUST A CLICK AWAY

- 1 REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 2 APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- 3 REVIEW, SIGN & SUBMIT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS & MORE
- 4 TRACK YOUR PAYMENTS

Sign up today for the Client Gateway!

Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway for step-by-step instructions. If you need additional help, personal assistance is available at (970) 372-4200.

Contact your local office for more information on this new way to work with NRCS.



United States Department of Agriculture

Contact Our Offices

Visit our web site at:
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	332 Lake Road, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Quachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterling Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410. Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.