

ARKANSAS CONSERVATION NEWS



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Third Quarter
2018

Room 3416, Federal Building, 700 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 301-3100 • Website: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov

Third Quarter
2018

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Thank You

NRCS Employees Make the Difference



Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





From the State Conservationist



This week has been dedicated to making sure public servants across the country get the recognition they deserve. That's because May 6–May 12, 2018, is Public Service Recognition Week—an annual celebration of the men and women who serve the United States as federal, state, county and local government employees.

One of the great joys of being state conservationist for me, is the honor of serving with dedicated conservationists and public servants who make remarkable contributions to our nation and our state every day. I have seen you deliver amazing successes for our producers and I am always proud of your “can-do” spirit to provide the best customer service. You won't hesitate to go the extra mile. It is that generous spirit of “service” that truly characterizes the men and women who sustain the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) rich legacy.

We are here to serve the public every day. I applaud your commitment as a public servant, and I am proud and blessed to be a part of such an outstanding team here at NRCS. I hope others will take the time to celebrate and recognize your great work, not only during Public Service Recognition Week, but every week of the year.

It is for this reason that I am especially gratified to highlight NRCS's commitment to public service and how our employees—each one of you—meet our obligations to our customers and our partners, not just during this special week, but every day.

I would like to use the week as a time to honor employee achievements. Last month, during their area meetings, the three assistant

state conservationists for field operations presented Performance Service Recognition Awards and Incentives for Fiscal Year 2017 in the following categories:

- The Field Service Center (FSC) with the Least Number of Expiring Contracts within 120 days over the fiscal year (excluding Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts that are certified).
- The FSC with the best Practice Implementation Rate over the fiscal year.
- The FSC with the best/most innovative Outreach/Partnership Activity over the fiscal year.
- The FSC with the best Contract Implementation Rate over the fiscal year.
- The FSC with the best Success Stories/ Articles Published over the fiscal year.
- The Field Service Team of the Year recognized as the team with the Best Overall Performance compiled from the above listed categories and other key performance metrics used at managements discretion.
- Other Team Awards

The next few pages will show the awardees in each of the three areas. Congratulations again to all.

Whether you recently came on board with NRCS, or you are a career employee who has dedicated your life to agriculture, I am deeply grateful for your commitment to conservation. At work, at home, and in the community, you are role models of service. You're helping make government better for everyone, every day.

Thank you Arkansas NRCS!



Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist

ARKANSAS CONSERVATION NEWS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



The Arkansas Conservation News is published quarterly by the Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please send submissions to [Reginald L. Jackson](#), State Public Affairs Specialist, or [Creston Shrum](#), Public Affairs Specialist at: Room 3416, Federal Bldg.; 700 W. Capitol Ave.; Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 301-3133, Fax: (855) 681-7044

Please send image submissions to [Christopher Willis](#), Visual Information

Specialist. Phone: (501) 301-3167. All submissions are the property of NRCS and may be edited for content or limitations.

For more information on Arkansas NRCS visit:
Website: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/arkansasnrcs>

Arkansas NRCS Public Affairs Email Addresses:
Reginald.Jackson@ar.usda.gov
Creston.Shrum@ar.usda.gov
Christopher.Willis@ar.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found on line at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the

form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at: USDA; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or by email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).



Northwest Area (NW) Awardees



I would like to recognize each employee for their extraordinary public service. Many employees engage with landowners and local, federal and state governments on a daily basis. This does not account for the 100 plus meetings, training sessions, webinars, and deadlines that are embarked upon by employees. This level of dedicated service is commendable. On behalf of thousands of farmers and myself who have benefited from your public service, please accept my heartfelt Thank You. Not only have you all set the all time record for the NW Area but you have immeasurably enriched our communities.

Employees are and will always be our greatest asset. Your abilities and contributions are an important key to the success of our entire agency.

Again, thank you for your continued Public Service.

Erica Westbrook

ASSISTANT STATE CONSERVATIONIST
NORTHWEST AREA

LEAST NUMBER OF EXPIRING CONTRACTS



Paris Field Service Center

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY



Conway Field Service Center

CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Ozark, Salem, Heber Springs, and Melbourne Field Service Centers

PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Fort Smith, Harrison, Mountain View, and Mountain Home Field Service Centers

EXCEEDING GOAL FOR NEW CLIENT GATEWAY PARTICIPANTS



Marshall, Fayetteville, Harrison, Morrilton, Conway, and Salem Field Service Centers

FIELD SERVICE TEAM OF THE YEAR: SALEM FIELD SERVICE CENTER



(left to right) Erica Westbrook, Northwest Area assistant state conservationist; Derek Hall, soil conservation technician; Aaron Shelton, soil conservationist; and Mike Sullivan, Arkansas state conservationist. Not pictured Kelly Shrable, district conservationist. Photo by Reginald Jackson



Northeast Area (NE) Awardees



SUCCESS STORIES/ARTICLES PUBLISHED



Lonoke Field and Technical Service Center

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY



Osceola Field Service Center

CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Searcy Field Service Center



Ash Flat Field Service Center

CONSERVATION PLANNING



Rich Joslin and Chris Culver

PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Lonoke Field Service Center



Paragould Field Service Center



Pocahontas Field Service Center



I would like to thank the NRCS NE Area Employees for their tireless effort to provide the best Customer Service through difficult management of programs and providing guidance to our customers. It takes determination and commitment to deliver day in and day out the services we provide to the public.

Providing awards through Spot Awards for extra effort, program awards, Success Stories, Outreach and Field Service Center team awards are ways to show gratitude for the work that takes place in the NE Area.

I am very Proud of the NE Area and the accomplishments we have on a National level. While being proud and appreciative of each one of you, I am humble to be able to serve alongside you daily.

Thank you for your public service!

Doug McClellan
ASSISTANT STATE CONSERVATIONIST
NORTHEAST AREA

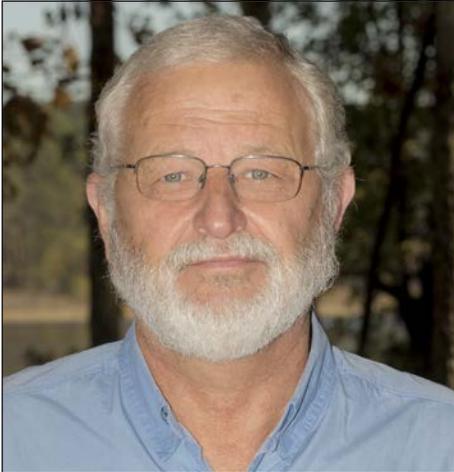
FIELD SERVICE TEAM OF THE YEAR: LONOKE FIELD SERVICE CENTER



(left to right) Mike Sullivan, Arkansas state conservationist; Kevin Cochran, Lonoke County district conservationist; Miche'la Martin, soil conservationist; Robert Smith, MRBI soil conservationist; Bryce Burke, soil conservation technician, and Doug McClellan, Northeast Area assistant state conservationist. Not pictured Morgan Morrissett, soil conservationist; Haley O'Cain, program support specialist; Andrea Fought, district secretary; Martha Park, district secretary; John Dobson, irrigation specialist. Photo by Chris Willis



South Area Awardees



Congratulations to all South Area employees who recently received non monetary awards for leading the way in Field Office management, information and education, outreach, and success stories. Your dedication and public service has not gone unnoticed.

This goes for all South Area employees who continually excel in providing service to all who come through our doors. Job well done!! Many thanks!

Thanks to all of you for your public service.

Steve Jacks

ASSISTANT STATE CONSERVATIONIST
SOUTH AREA

LEAST NUMBER OF EXPIRING CONTRACTS



Hamburg Field Service Center



Malvern Field Service Center



Hope Field Office

PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Warren Field Service Center



Malvern Field Service Center



Camden Field Service Center



Texarkana Field Service Center



Arkadelphia Field Service Center



DeWitt Field Service Center



Hot Springs Field Service Center



Ashdown Field Service Center

CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION RATE



Ashdown Field Service Center



Warren Field Service Center

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY



Hamburg Field Service Center

SUCCESS STORIES/ARTICLES

FIELD SERVICE TEAM OF THE YEAR: DEWITT FIELD SERVICE CENTER



(left to right) Mike Sullivan, Arkansas state conservationist; Marshall Handcock, Arkansas County district conservationist; Candra Thomas, soil conservationist; Sherry Pfaffenberger, conservation technician; Colton Rutherford, IWM technician, and Steve Jacks, South Area assistant state conservationist. Not pictured Jade West, soil conservation technician. Photo by Reginald Jackson



Public Service Recognition Week

IN FY 17
EMPLOYEES WORKED
523,951 hours

WITH OVER 240
EMPLOYEES
that equals more than

3,600
YEARS
of agricultural experience

DID YOU KNOW

THE AVERAGE NRCS
EMPLOYEE WORKS **15** YEARS