



South Carolina's Current Developments



Enjoy the Last Days of Summer!



Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation--Helping People Help the Land

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

August/September 2005

From the Office of the State Conservationist
Walter W. Douglas



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Dear NRCSErs,

I enjoyed speaking with many of you at the recent small group meetings and hearing how things are going in the field. As we approach the end of FY 2005, I know you are working diligently to accomplish the multiple priorities that lie ahead. You are doing an outstanding job, against tight deadlines, and I truly appreciate your dedication.

During the August National Public Affairs and Earth Team Conference in Philadelphia, Chief Knight introduced the new NRCS tag line: *Helping People Help the Land*. He encouraged all NRCS employees to use this phrase on newsletters, news releases, banners, etc. It expresses NRCS' mission in five simple words and encompasses the true spirit of our agency.

I would also like to congratulate our staff on the excellent job they did with South Carolina's first Small Farmer Initiative sign-up. We received additional funding for this program bringing the total to \$750,000. With your efforts, South Carolina secured nearly 300 eligible applications totaling over 2 million dollars. Small Farmer Liaison Wilfred Pace is currently working with the East National Technology Support Center (ENTSC) in Greensboro to develop a Small Farmer Practice Guide which will enhance this initiative. Thanks for your efforts to make this initiative a success.

I appreciate all your hard work this fiscal year. By helping people help the land, you are securing the future of South Carolina's natural resources.

photo: Lance Brewington, NRCS Soil Scientist, York Field Office

Notes from the Field.....

Rewarding the Best: 2005 CSP Signing Ceremony in Edgefield

On July 26, 2005, NRCS hosted a CSP signing ceremony in Edgefield County at the Lewis Holmes Farm. A peach farmer, Holmes was awarded a CSP contract for his outstanding conservation stewardship. Richard Coombe, NRCS East Regional Assistant Chief, presided over the ceremony and announced that approximately 150 contracts will be offered through CSP in South Carolina. The contracts cover 100,000 acres of agricultural land and provide over \$1.9 million to producers. South Carolina had four eligible watersheds in 2005 including the Black, Lynches, Saluda, and South Fork Edisto River watersheds. A program sign up was conducted from March to May of 2005.



left to right: SC NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas, NRCS East Regional Assistant Chief Richard Coombe, CSP participant Lewis Holmes, and Edgefield NRCS District Conservationist Bob Bowie sign the official CSP contract at the July 26 ceremony.

including the Black, Lynches, Saluda, and South Fork Edisto River watersheds. A program sign up was conducted from March to May of 2005.

“CSP participants are conservation innovators. What they do today will lead to additional environmental benefits for the nation as they share their knowledge of conservation with others,” said Coombe. Addressing the audience, Holmes explained that his conservation ethic was passed down from family. “My grandfather always said that if I took care of the land, it would take care of me.” CSP provides financial assistance (over a ten-year period) for a broad range of conservation work that is protecting and enhancing natural resources including water quality, soil quality and wildlife habitat.

CSP contracts in 2005 cover about 9 million acres of private land in 220 eligible watersheds nationwide. USDA expects to fully invest the \$202 million provided by Congress for this fiscal year. “All successful applicants have achieved high technical standards for protecting soil and water quality,” said NRCS South Carolina State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas. “This program is designed to reward producers like Mr. Holmes and encourage them to do more. We’re looking for others to follow their lead, and we want more landowners to meet the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations,” explained Douglas.

NRCS also extended the comment period on the interim final rule for CSP to September 9, 2005. This extension will give the public additional time to comment on key issues regarding implementation of the program.

CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America’s natural resources. NRCS financial and technical assistance promotes the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes. CSP will be available each year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows. Additional information on CSP, including the self-assessment workbook and Federal Register notice, is at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>.



Douglas, Coombe, Holmes, and Bowie in the peach orchard following the CSP signing ceremony.

Riding for Life— Expedition Nutrition!
SC Earth Team Volunteer Cycles Cross Country
 by Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

Obesity and health-related diseases are on the rise in America, and some say fast-food is to blame. The push for healthier lifestyles, which combine smart food choices with physical activity, is starting to catch on. At least this is what one South Carolina Earth Team volunteer hopes. Alex D. Gleason of Calhoun Falls, SC, is hoping to stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle with a cross country bike trek.

His growing concern over America's high consumption of fast foods, along with an inactive lifestyle, prompted him to embark on a 3,500 mile bicycle trip across the U.S. this summer to promote the importance of healthy living through the proper consumption of agricultural products. "My goal is to call attention to the impending risks of obesity, the importance of proper nutrition and an active lifestyle," stated Gleason.

In appreciation for Gleason's devotion to promoting healthy foods and agricultural products, NRCS made him an honorary member of the South Carolina Earth Team Volunteer program. "I admire Alex for his willingness to dedicate his summer vacation to this worthy cause," stated Amy Maxwell, SC NRCS Public Affairs Specialist. "His efforts will serve as a wake-up call to the millions of people that ignore their health as it relates to what they are eating." Maxwell attended a press conference and farewell luncheon on June 15, 2005, where she presented Alex with an Earth Team hat and shirt for his trip.



NRCS Public Affairs Specialist Amy Maxwell (right) attended a press conference to kick off Alex Gleason's cross-country bike trip to promote healthy eating and consumption of agricultural products.

His trip carried him through fifteen states, including Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, ending in Charleston.

This trip across the country may seem daunting to many, but for Gleason, it was just another challenge he was willing to tackle. An active member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), Gleason is former State Vice President of the SC FFA, a member of the State Champion Envirothon Team, and a State Spokesperson for Agriculture for the SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association.

He is a Dean's List biology major on full scholarship, a Collegiate All-American Scholar and Secretary of the Erskine College Student Body. In addition, he and nine other Erskine students and a professor backpacked 600 miles across Spain earlier this year.

Gleason said the route from coast to coast is "relatively easy." He rode about 80 miles a day, burning between 8,000 and 10,000 calories per day.

SC NRCS is proud to have such a devoted person as a part of the Earth Team.

For more information, visit the SC FFA website at www.scaged.org/Pub_Rel/SCFFA/05-06NR/05AlexTravel.htm.

Farming has taken a back seat as a way of life in today's world of fast-food, high-speed internet, and drive-thru convenience. There are a faithful few who actually farm for a living, even after they retire, and it's because they have a deep love for the land and view farming not only as income, but also as a way to care for natural resources. Farmers like Horace "Pete" Boozer, Jr. of Newberry, SC, care for the land because the land takes care of him. "If we don't take care of the land, there will be nothing left for the future," explains Boozer.

A 2004 Conservation Security Program (CSP) participant, Boozer was rewarded through the new program for his outstanding conservation ethic and his commitment to effectively manage his cattle operation in the Smyrna Community of Newberry.

CSP is designed to reward the best conservationists and motivate the rest. The voluntary program provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, and plant and animal life on Tribal and private working lands. South Carolina was one of only 22 states invited to participate in the debut of the program in 2004. South Carolina producers in the Saluda River Watershed were eligible to apply, and Boozer's application was accepted and funded.

Standing in one of fifteen lush green pastures, he beckons his herd with a series of calls which immediately set the cattle in motion. Over the years, Boozer set up a progressive system of cross fencing, allowing him to rotate the herd for optimal grassland health and production. As he moves them from one pasture to another, it's clear that Boozer feels comfortable on the farm. After all, he grew up on

a cotton farm in Newberry before joining the Marine Corps.

Boozer and his wife, Mazie, of 60 years have lived at their present location since 1948. While the farm has seen several changes over the years, such as cotton crops and a chicken operation, conservation has always been a central focus for the Boozer's.

They began working with NRCS in the 1950's, when the agency was known as the Soil Conserva-

tion Service (SCS). Since that time, Boozer's Angus Farm has received technical and financial assistance to install a variety of conservation practices, including a pond.



Boozer had existing wildlife and grazing enhancements on his operation which made him eligible for CSP. His grazing management component included cross-fencing and rotational grazing on the 100-acre cattle farm. Rotational grazing and cross fencing allow better control over livestock grazing and provide a system to move livestock from field to field in a way that allows the grass or other plants they eat to recover and grow. Cattle are allowed to graze only one pasture at a time and they rotate systematically to prevent soil erosion caused by over grazing. Craig O'Dell, the Newberry NRCS District Conservationist who has worked with Boozer for years, explains, "With this type of management, the grass is always going to be just as green on the other side of the fence." Grazing management results in healthier, heartier grasslands and reduces the need to supplement the cattle's feed with hay, which can be costly. Last year, Boozer only fed one

large round bale and about 25 small bales of hay. In addition, Boozer uses organic fertilizer to enhance grassland growth.

He also installed twelve water troughs for his cattle and supplies water through underground pipes linking to a well rather than through a pond. This practice helps prevent the spread of disease among the cattle and provides cleaner water for the cattle and the environment.

As part of his CSP plan, Boozer agreed to implement additional conservation practices. These include intensive rotation (rotating the herd at least every seven days) and introduction of clover into his fields. Legumes like clover can be a valuable part of a cattle feeding program. In fact, legumes can actually improve animal performance by encouraging intake, providing greater amounts of micro-minerals and by fostering a better use of forage nitrogen content.

Boozer is also dedicated to providing wildlife habitat on his operation and personally constructed and installed over 50 birdhouses on the fence posts around his property. He and Mazie especially enjoy watching Purple Martins and Bluebirds.

"Mr. Pete has proven to be a leader in conservation through his commitment to improving and protecting his land," said O'Dell.

For more information about CSP in South Carolina, visit www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp2005.html.



Horace "Pete" Boozer (left) and Newberry District Conservationist Craig O'Dell discuss conservation practices on Boozer's cattle farm in Newberry, SC.

South Carolina NRCS Enters Unique WHIP Partnership

by Amy O. Maxwell, State Public Affairs Specialist



Craig Ellis, SC NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, signs a cooperative agreement to improve wildlife habitat on nearly 10,000 acres in Newberry County through WHIP.

On July 21, 2005, NRCS in South Carolina became one of the official partners involved in the Indian Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration Initiative in Newberry County. A signing ceremony was held to mark the official kickoff of the project, and NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

Craig Ellis signed the official agreement on behalf of State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas.

"This unique partnership will improve habitat for species that depend on grasslands and similar habitat," explained Ellis. The project was funded through NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). The habitats which will be protected have declined sharply across the Southeast resulting in significant declines of bobwhite quail and songbirds such as the Prairie Warbler, Loggerhead shrike, and Bachman's sparrow. Popular game species like white-tailed deer and wild turkey will also benefit from planned management of the area.

Practices to be implemented include prescribed burning, spraying to open up congested areas and ridding of undesirable species, native grass planting, and thinning to open up areas for wildlife.

This particular project will protect private land and National Forest lands in the U.S. Forest Service's Enoree & Tyger Districts in Newberry County. Project lands total approximately 9,100 acres.

Partners involved in the initiative include private landowners, USDA Forest Service, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, S.C. Forestry Commission, NRCS, Clemson Cooperative Extension Service, Quail Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the East Piedmont Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Camp Conservation Teaches Youth about Conservation in Newberry

by Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

While conserving natural resources is an important step toward protecting our environment, spreading the conservation message to young people is also an essential part of natural resources protection.

Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Education Coordinator Annette Davis is a firm believer in the importance of environmental education. Davis heads up *Camp Conservation*, a week long program that encourages children ages 9-12 to take a hand in conserving and protecting their natural resources and environment. "Since much of Newberry County is agricultural, I felt this program would be a great way to help local children develop an interest in agriculture, conservation and nature," explained Davis.

The camp is hosted at Lynches Woods Park, a 250 acre area surrounded by ponds,

"Since much of Newberry County is agricultural, I felt this program would be a great way to help local children develop an interest in agriculture, conservation and nature."

*-Annette Davis,
Newberry SWCD
Education Coordinator*

streams and a variety of biking, hiking and equestrian trails. This nature lover's paradise has lots of room to explore and discover all aspects of nature and camp participants are exposed to a variety of activities that focus on **SWAPHA**—**S**oil, **W**ater, **A**ir, **P**lants, **H**umans and **A**nimals. Participants enjoyed hands-on activities such as studying streams, soils, and reptiles, and field trips. This included visiting a dairy farm and then a local grocery store to discuss the production of meat and other produce.

Guest speakers were also a part of the camp program, offering expert information on a variety of natural resource and agricultural subjects. Speakers taking part in the program were from NRCS, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

(SCDHEC), as well as Clemson University and Newberry College.

Davis and the Newberry Conservation Partnership put a lot of energy, creativity, time, and passion into the planning for *Camp Conservation* each year. But, Davis says it's worth it when she realizes the impact this one week has on the children. "They leave with a greater understanding of how they effect the world they live in and what they can do to protect soil and water."

In the future, Davis hopes to expand the camp. "My real goal is to build a permanent nature education center here in the park which will enable us to reach more children through conservation programs and activities all year long."

For more information, please visit www.campconservation.com.



James Williams, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Operations (left), visited the camp and worked with participants.



Two campers study rocks and other aquatic life in the streams throughout the park.

Two Outstanding Earth Team Volunteers Lend a Hand This Summer

Florence Earth Team Volunteer Visits State Office

Daniel Peeler, Florence Conservation Partnership Earth Team Volunteer, visited the South Carolina NRCS State Office in July for two days. Peeler worked with Public Affairs Specialists Amy Maxwell and Sabrenna Bennett to learn about their roles in the public information field. He met the state staff, including NRCS State Conservationist Walter



Florence Earth Team Volunteer Daniel Peeler (left) and Public Affairs Assistant Sabrenna Bennett.

W. Douglas, and also had a chance to experience a minor emergency in the day of a state office employee. While updating the SC NRCS website, there was a server malfunction and the live website was temporarily disrupted, until NRCS

repaired the problem.

After his first day of orientation and a short session on computer software, Peeler was assigned several projects to complete, including assisting with preparation for an upcoming Conservation Security Program (CSP) signing ceremony the following week. In addition, he created a Power Point presentation entitled "Why You Should Be an Earth Team Volunteer."

Peeler will begin his college career this August as a freshman at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. NRCS truly appreciates his time and energy over the past three years as an Earth Volunteer and we wish him the best!

What the Earth Team Means to Me

by Anna Ruttan, Newberry Conservation Partnership Earth Team Volunteer

I've been volunteering with the Newberry Conservation Partnership for two summers. I have learned a lot and I enjoy assisting SWCD Education Coordinator Annette Davis with a lot of stuff, like Camp Conservation.

One of the things I've learned is that there are a lot of jobs you can apply for in natural resources. You can work in the field offices and help with Farm Bill programs, like the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Or you can help people with problems they are having like what kind of algae is growing in their ponds. You could also help them in constructing a pond or you could test their soil. Along with the CSP program, I have learned a lot about many other programs in NRCS.



13-year old Anna Ruttan volunteered in the Newberry Field Office this summer.

I helped Mrs. Davis prepare for Camp Conservation and register the kids. Camp Conservation teaches you about conservation jobs that involve animals, timber, and many other things. It lets you experience the real nature of the outdoors and teaches you to go out and explore instead of sitting at home watching television or playing video games. You can see things that you wouldn't find in your backyard in Lynches Woods Park, where you can try to get a glimpse of many different species of plants and insects. I think Camp Conservation is a great camp and every county should have a camp that involves these kinds of activities.

Also, this experience has helped me learn a lot more about natural resources and agriculture than most kids my age have never heard of. I think I was real lucky to have met with Mrs. Davis, because if it wasn't for her, I would have never have learned so much about natural resources.

What does the Civil Rights Committee Do For Me?

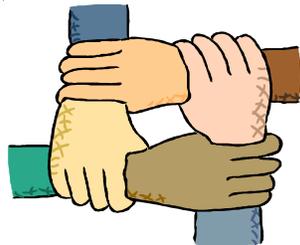
by Lynette Savereno, Florence NRCS District Conservationist and Civil Rights Committee Member

The Civil Rights Committee (CRC) serves as a bridge between management and employees to facilitate working on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) issues of common interest.

The Committee advises management on EEO programs, such as the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program, multi-year affirmative action plans, observation of special emphasis events, discrimination complaint trends, veterans employment program, selective placement program and training on sexual harassment prevention.

The committee also communicates with top management concerning employee morale, action plans, training, and EEO issues. The CRC meets bi-monthly to discuss the above mentioned items, and to develop and plan for specific events, such as Cultural Awareness Day. Federal law mandates that all federal agencies have the following Special Emphasis Programs: Federal Women's Program (FWP), Hispanic Employment Program (HPM), and People with Disabilities Employment Program. NRCS in SC also has a Native American Employment Program, Black Employment Program, and Asian Pacific Employment Program. The Special Emphasis Program Managers (members of the CRC) assist management with recruiting, publish bulletins/newsletter articles on special emphasis months, and generally seek to educate others on the role of diversity in our workplace. Members of the CRC usually serve a 2-3 year term as collateral duty.

Potential committee members may be asked to serve, or may volunteer and be appointed to serve. A common thread uniting all members of the CRC is the belief that diversity is one of the biggest strengths of NRCS.



Nonnative Invasive Plant Species of South Carolina

A Clemson University Extension Satellite Course

Invasive or exotic pest plant species are a growing problem in South Carolina. Nonnative plant invasions can be seen in natural areas, croplands, rangelands, pastures, forests, wetlands and waterways, wilderness areas, parks and refuges, and highway rights-of-way. They are disrupting the dynamics of ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, pushing native species toward extinction, and are causing billions of dollars of direct damage to human enterprise. The objective of this satellite workshop is to—

- ◆ Inform stakeholders on details of this growing problem;
- ◆ Identify the major terrestrial species that are a problem in SC;
- ◆ Provide information on practical direct and indirect control methods; and
- ◆ Discuss overall management strategies including site restoration.

The courses will be held on October 4 and 11, 2005, in 20 different locations. Each session will begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. Registration is \$140. Early registration ends September 30, 2005.

For more information, visit www.clemson.edu/extfor, or call Susan Guynn, Extension Associate Coordinator, Continuing Forestry Education, at (864) 656-0606.

NRCS Student Interns Complete Summer Work Experience

On July 28, NRCS Student Interns arrived in the State Office, along with their supervisors, to make presentations about their experiences with NRCS this summer. The interns included: Christina Lucia, Clemson University sophomore, Walhalla Field Office; Darla Simons, Clemson University sophomore, Edgefield Field Office; and Vincent Nicholson, North Carolina A&T sophomore, Marion Field Office.

The interns delivered lively PowerPoint presentations which illustrated the diverse work expe-

periences they received working in the field with NRCS personnel. They got hands-on experience in pond construction, computer programs such as ToolKit, surveying, and the day to day operations of a field office.

NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas complimented the interns on their presentations and thanked them for their feedback on the Summer Intern Program. "It is encouraging that many of these interns are returning year after year to get work experience through NRCS, and I hope that someday these folks will become full time employees," he explained.



left to right: Edgefield District Conservationist Bob Bowie, Intern Darla Simons, Intern Christina Lucia, Walhalla District Conservationist Heather Stephens, Marion District Conservationist Rebecca Harper, Intern Vincent Nicholson, and State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas.

An Interview with Alex Johnson: Recently returned from Afghanistan

Alex Johnson is the District Conservationist in the Horry County Field Office.

Where were you stationed and what was it like?

I was stationed in Ghazni PRT, located in the Ghazni Province of Afghanistan, from the middle of January 2005 to the middle of July. A week at the beginning and end, I was at the Embassy Compound in Kabul, the capital. PRT stands for Provincial Reconstruction Team. Our working area was Wardak and Ghazni Provinces, about 75-100 miles south of Kabul. The lowest altitude we worked was at 7200ft (where we lived). The highest was 10,100 ft. Temperatures varied about 40 degrees a day. It got down to around -15 degrees in February and up to 103 degrees in June before I left. We had 4 ft of snow on the ground in March, which is where most of their water source comes from. The rainfall, including snow, is less than a foot a year.

What were your main duties? I was there to support the PRT, a mixture of National Guard and fulltime Army Civil Affairs and Force Protection units, in their effort to support the new Central Government, improve national security, and initiate projects that would

provide both short term and long term benefits to the local people. My work varied from crops to equipment to buildings to flood work. All of it was for support of the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, and to win the "hearts and minds" of the locals which also improved security. **What did you miss the most?** Southern cooking and ice.

How did your tour of duty affect the way you look at life back in America? I have traveled enough in third world countries to know how much I have to be thankful for in America. All Americans need to spend a few weeks in a third world country. It will change their lives. This trip did make me much more thankful for good roads. Bouncing up and down and sideways with a 30 lb flack jacket on for hours at a time, day after day, can work on an old man's bones! Nice to have good roads again. The freedom to go and come without an armored convoy is also nice.

Will you do it again? I am not ruling out going again. I miss the people. They treated me well. Many became good friends. It was difficult to say goodbye. Rough Pashtun security guards with tears in their eyes was the kind of goodbyes I had. Only a small percentage are trying to kill you - even though they work at it very hard. It really was a lot like work here at home. It is not about the land. It's about the people. We seemed to have forgotten that somewhere along the way. When you care about the people, fixing land and water problems takes on a different light.

How did your NRCS career prepare you for what you encountered? My background of education, farming, and 31 years of USDA experience all were helpful in what I encountered.



Alex Johnson, Horry County District Conservationist, served in Afghanistan from January-July 2005.

Conservation Photo Contest Winners



First Place: Lance Brewington, Soil Scientist, York County.
Photo featured on front page of Current Developments



Second Place: Ann Bentley,
Soil Conservation Tech., Charleston County
Photo featured on top banner of SC NRCS web site.



Third Place: Kathy Hodges
Soil Conservation Tech., Spartanburg County

Submit your best photos to
sabrenna.bennett@sc.usda.gov

Nominations Sought for State Environmental Award

The state of South Carolina is seeking nominations for an award to recognize individuals who are doing extraordinary work for the environment.

The S.C. Environmental Awareness Award, now in its 14th year, was established by the S.C. General Assembly during the 1992 legislative session to recognize outstanding contributions made toward the protection, conservation and improvement of South Carolina's natural resources.

Each year the public is invited to submit nominations that are then reviewed by an awards committee, which includes representatives from the state's environmental and natural resource agencies. In judging nominees, the committee considers excellence in innovation, leadership and accomplishments that influence positive changes affecting the natural environment.

Nominations will be accepted through Dec. 15. Nomination guidelines and forms are available on the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.dnr.state.sc.us/awards/environmental.html; contact Ann Nolte at (803) 734-9093; or e-mail: enviroaward@dnr.sc.gov

Members of the awards committee represent the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Forestry Commission and S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

January 3-6 Bridging the Gap 2006

Plans are well underway for the 2006 Conservation Partnership Annual Conference. This year, the conference will take place in Myrtle Beach at Kingston Plantation. Visit the conference website at www.dnr.state.sc.us/conservation/conference for more information and to register. See you there!

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees

- Lynne Newton, GS-12, was selected as the District Conservationist for Greenville, effective May 29, 2005.
- Daniel Griffin was selected as a Soil Conservationist, Career Intern, GS-0457-07, in Chesterfield, effective August 21, 2005.

Promotions

- Allerick Varner was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-07, in Hampton, effective June 12, 2005.
- Craig Ellis was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), GS-0457-13, effective June 12, 2005.
- David Arthur was promoted to Natural Resources Specialist, GS-0401-13, in Morgantown, West Virginia, effective July 24, 2005.
- David Findley was promoted to Soil Conservationist (Grassland Specialist), GS-0457-12, effective July 24, 2005.
- Maryann Trent was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-12, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, effective June 26, 2005.
- Rafael Mendez was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-09, in Newberry, effective July 24, 2005.
- Sabrenna Bennett, student Program Analyst, was converted to Career Conditional and promoted to GS-0343-07, effective May 29, 2005.

Resignations

- Brian Hardee, Soil Conservationist, in Sumter, GS-0457-09, resigned effective June 13, 2005.
- Derrick Lark, Soil Conservationist (Career Intern) in Laurens, GS-0457-05, resigned effective August 5, 2005.
- Robin Jordan, Human Resources Specialist, State Office, GS-0201-09, resigned effective July 11, 2005.

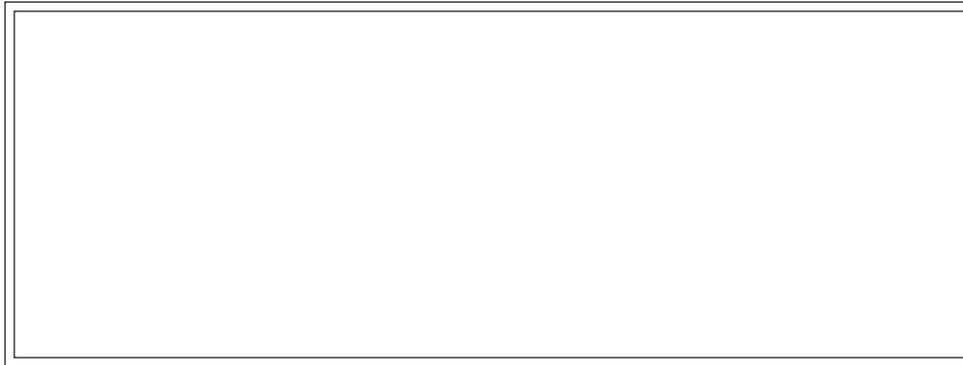
Reassignments

- Erica Goza, a Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-09, was reassigned to Edgefield, effective June 16, 2005.
- Tera Baird, a Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-07, was reassigned to Fish & Wildlife in Charleston, SC, effective June 26, 2005.

Retirements

- Walter Earley, District Conservationist in Hampton, GS-0457-12, retired effective June 3, 2005.
- Jim Lewis, State Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-12, retired effective June 3, 2005.

Helping People Help the Land



FIRST CLASS

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Visit us on the web at www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov

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Current Developments is published quarterly.

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