USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Arkansas Conservation News

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

In this Issue ...

A surge valve installed on poly pipe controls the flow of water by sending a surge of water down one line of pipe for a set amount of time and then switching to send water down a second line of pipe for a set amount of time. The water is oscillated back and forth resulting in a more uniform filling of the soil profile down each furrow. For information on this and other irrigation water management components, see Page 4.

Did You Know ...

State Technical Committee meeting Sept. 11

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee meets at 10 a.m. Sept. 11 at the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Arkansas River Room, at 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, in Little Rock.

Main agenda items include FY14 program funding results, FY15 local led conservation proposals, subcommittee reports, Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

The meeting is open to the public.

Arkansas Wildlife Magazine features NRCS programs

Arkansas NRCS is featured in the September/October issue of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's (AGFC) Arkansas Wildlife magazine.

See Did You Know on Page 10

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

HEALTHY LAND & WATERS NATURALLY

From the State Conservationist

Dear Arkansan,

As fiscal year 2014 comes near the end, we have a chance to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year. The most important was the passing of the new farm bill. The new farm bill provides landmark support for conservation, which will further invest in both rural land and rural economies. The conservation programs in the farm bill provide producers with strong tools to protect land and water resources across rural America.

Lane Oliver (center), discusses irrigation water management practices on his farm with Ann Mills, USDA deputy under secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; and Mike Sullivan, state conservationist.

In May, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Ann Mills was in Little Rock attending the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force meeting. She and other federal and state officials discussed strategies addressing water quality problems in the Mississippi River Basin and the Gulf of Mexico.

Prior to the hypoxia meeting, I had a chance to tour with Deputy Under Secretary Mills, along with several federal and state officials, and conservationists, several farms near Stuttgart. She met farmers in the delta working to improve water quality and water quantity using landscape initiatives, including the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). She saw firsthand, how voluntary, incentive based approaches are helping farmers in the Arkansas Delta maintain productivity while reducing water use and nutrient pollution.

Arkansas NRCS, along with our conservation partners, has developed a reputation as a strong organization with a "can-do" spirit when it comes to helping people help the land. I believe the deputy under secretary left Arkansas seeing some excellent examples of our great partnership, dedicated employees and hard work.

Improving the health of our Nation's soil and water is one of our most important endeavors and some of this country's best conservationists are right here in Arkansas. In recent years, Arkansas has led the nation in MRBI, the Illinois River Sub Basin and Eucha-Spavinaw Lake Watershed Initiative and Conservation Stewardship Program obligations. We are also a leader in Environmental Quality Incentives Program obligations.

As we prepare to move into our next fiscal year, we will continue to work with our conservation partnership to promote every avenue and opportunity to provide our customers the services they need to be good stewards of the soil, water and other natural resources. Working together, we will continue to help people get conservation on the ground offering technical and financial assistance through our direct relationships with farmers, ranchers and foresters.

Sincerely,
Mike Sullivan

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

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Phone: (501) 301-3133, Fax: (855) 681-7044

E-mail: Reginald.Jackson@ar.usda.gov or Creston.Shrum@ar.usda.gov

All submissions are the property of NRCS and may be edited for content or space limitations.

For more information on Arkansas NRCS visit: Web site: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov; Twitter: https://twitter.com/arkansasnrcs

Irrigation Water Management conservation practices take guess work out of water application, efficiency, cost

When do you apply irrigation water? How much irrigation water do you apply? How efficiently do you apply your irrigation water? How much is your irrigation water actually costing you?

If you have been farming for a while, then you may have been asked these questions and you probably estimated the answers you gave. However, through conservation practice (449) Irrigation Water Management, the guess work can be eliminated and the data evaluated to allow informed decisions to be made that provided huge benefits to the land, the aquifer and to the producer.

Irrigation water management is the process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.

The key element in managing the water is knowing when to irrigate a crop. But this possesses a challenge. Waiting until crops show signs of stress tends to mean that irrigation is applied too late. Irrigating on a set schedule can result in over or under irrigation, depending on weather.

With an IWM plan and tools to assist with IWM, an operator can determine the optimum time to irrigate instead of guessing.

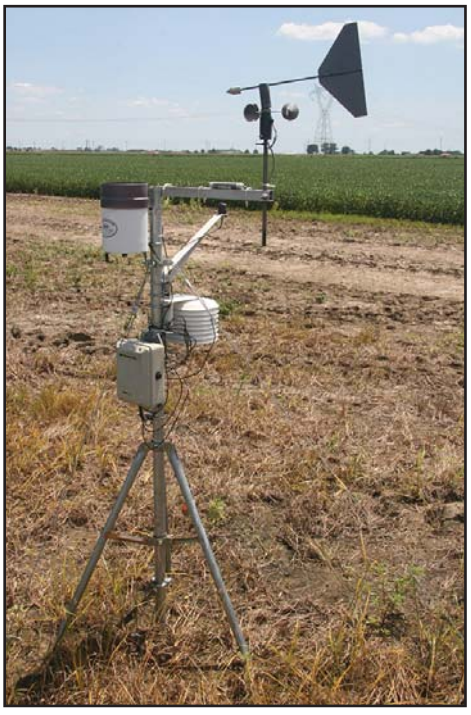
Some of the tools used to help eliminate the guess work are soil moisture sensors, atometers, and weather stations, just to name a few. These components, used individually or in combination, can be manual equipment, requiring physical labor for the collection and recording of data. Through new technologies, this equipment can also electronically record, collect, and in some cases, operate other equipment by the process of telemetry and automation.

Energy and operation costs have shown to decrease along with the volume of water used when utilizing these tools. It's a win-win situation.

Eligible producers can receive financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to purchase these components and technical assistance in creating a plan that is reasonable and beneficial for them and their farm.

NRCS also provides assistance on equipment and technical expertise on such things as surge valves, computerized hole selection software and flow meters.

Stop by your local NRCS office today for additional information and assistance.



(Far left) A remote sensor with pump automation collection station. (Left) A field specific weather station (weather vane, rain bucket and temperature gauge).

First CSP participants can renew contracts for five more years

The first participants of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) have until Sept. 12 to renew their contracts and make decisions on additional conservation activities that will benefit priority natural resource issues.

CSP helps farmers and ranchers take conservation investments to the next level.

In Arkansas, 580 contracts are reaching the end of their initial five-year contract period and may be renewed for an additional five years where participants agree to take additional conservation measures. Nationally, about 20,000 contracts are set to expire this year.

The program provides opportunities for farmers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them improve water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat.

"CSP farmers are conservation leaders and go the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources," NRCS Arkansas State Conservationist Mike Sullivan said. "The 2014 Farm Bill continued that strong commitment and heightened the program's focus on generating conservation benefits."

Since CSP began in 2009, more than 58 million acres have been enrolled in the program – an area the size of Indiana and Wisconsin combined. CSP participants boost their operations' conservation benefits by installing new conservation activities that make positive changes in soil, water, air and wildlife habitat.

"This program allows landowners to reach the next level of conservation and opens the door to trying new conservation activities," Sullivan said.

NRCS contract payments require registration through DUNS, SAM

Who needs to register?

Businesses with an Employee Identification Number (EIN) applying to participate in any USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service program.

Background

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 requires entity recipients of federal financial assistance to have Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers and to maintain current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) database (formerly CCR). The appendix to your application/contract includes this requirement and provides a reference.

Step 1 - DUNS

A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). The federal government uses DUNS numbers to identify organizations that receive federal funding. This helps grant administrators keep applications and contracts organized across all federal agencies.

If you are not sure if you have a DUNS number, you can find out by calling D&B at 1-866-705-5711. If you do not have one, you may request an application to fax back. Tell the operator you are applying for a federal financial assistance program. Your organization can also register for a DUNS number through D&B's federal website http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

There is NO charge for businesses required to register for federal financial assistance.

Have the following information prepared when requesting a DUNS number:

❑ Name of your organization (as filed with the IRS)

❑ Organization address and phone number

❑ Name of the CEO or organization owner

❑ Legal structure of the organization (corporation, partnership, proprietorship)

❑ Year the organization started

❑ Primary line of business & SIC Code. You can look up your SIC code online at www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sic_manual.html

❑ Total number of employees (full- and part-time)

NOTE: Obtaining a DUNS number places your organization on D&B's marketing list that is sold to other companies. You can request not to be added to any marketing list during your application. You are also not obligated to purchase any of their products.

Step 2 - SAM

Once you have a DUNS number, you must register with the System for Award Management (SAM) and complete other reporting requirements. To register with SAM, go to www.sam.gov.

There is NO fee to register for this site. You are not eligible to receive payments if you fail to register with SAM.

SAM is a government wide registry for vendors doing business with the federal government.

SAM centralizes information about federal financial assistance recipients and also provides a central location for you to change your organizational information.

See DUNS, SAM on Page 9

Booneville Plant Materials Center

Customizing fertilizer recommendations for native warm-season grass production

The Booneville Plant Materials Center (BPMC) recently implemented a new study to correlate differing rates of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) to switchgrass dry matter yield. Native warm-season grass (NWSG) crops are often marketed as capable of producing similar dry-matter yields to bermudagrass with less total fertilizer application. Dr. Philip Moore and Dr. Dan Pote from the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have partnered with the BPMC and the NRCS Central National Technology Support Center on this study to determine the best fertilizer recommendations for maintaining switchgrass monocultures for hay or pasture. Five different rates of N, P, and K were applied to study plots in April 2014. Switchgrass yield will be evaluated over three years with a harvest frequency of two to three cuttings per year. Yield will also be recorded for control plots receiving no fertilizer.

Randy King (right), Booneville Plant Materials Center manager, discusses the study with Nancy Young, state resource conservationist and Tim Miller, Kansas grazing lands specialist.

The University of Arkansas soil testing lab gives landowners recommendations based on soil samples for establishing and maintaining native warm-season grass hay and forage crops; however, different NWSG species are consolidated into one crop code. Fields of switchgrass, eastern gamagrass, and mixes of native grasses are given similar fertilizer recommendations. Research from the BPMC indicates that these grass species have different nutritional requirements and should receive customized fertilizer recommendations based on yield goals.

Planting NWSG as hay or forage crops can help landowners diversify their forage base. NWSG can help landowners transition from fescue to bermudagrass by providing nutritious forage during May and June. NWSG species are ready to be grazed three to four weeks before bermudagrass in west-central Arkansas. Arkansas NRCS and the BPMC recommend planting a single NWSG species for forage production because different species reach peak nutritional quality at different times during the growing season. Contact the BPMC at (479) 675-5182 for more information or to schedule a visit to the farm.

By May 2014 the switchgrass has grown 4-feet high.

Arkansas farmers harness benefits of cover crops

A growing number of farmers in Arkansas have "discovered the cover" -- and for some very good reasons. By "cover," we're referring to cover crops, which are plants established when cash crops are not being grown.

Cover crops are planted because of their excellent benefits, including improving the health and function of soil. This leads to better nutrient cycling, improved water infiltration and more consistent yields over time. Cover crops also suppress weeds, prevent erosion, control diseases and pests as well as help pollinators.

Farmers not familiar with how mixtures of cover crops work together might ask, "Why would I want to plant a cover crop that uses up all my water?" But using diverse annual cropping rotations and cover crop combinations increases soil organic matter. And for each one percent in organic matter, there is a 25 percent increase in water holding capacity and up to 30 pounds an acre more of available nitrogen.

While cover crops use some water in the soil profile to grow, they simultaneously improve the soil structure by building soil aggregates, providing armor for the soil surface, and recharging the water in the soil profile though increased infiltration.

Common cover crops in Arkansas include crimson clover, cereal rye, wheat, and hairy vetch.

Planting cover crops is one of several key steps that farmers can take to improve soil health. The other two are rotating crops, including cover crops that are planted, and not tilling.

When a variety of cover crops are planted, especially when 10-12 plant species are planted, they increase the soil biology and speed soil health improvements. The more diversity you have, the more plant balance you have above ground, the better soil biology balance you have below ground. Plus, cover crops can help reduce compaction without deep tillage.

When only one cover crop species is planted, the single crop – or monoculture – will struggle in a drought or when facing pests.

Many farmers are working with NRCS to choose the right mix of cover crop seeds – or "cocktail" – for their farm.

Check out these two sites to help you identify cover crops:

❑ http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/health/?cid=stelprdb1077238

❑ http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crop-Topic-Room.

Southern Agricultural Cover Crops Conference provides forum to exchange information, learn about practices related to cover crops

The Southern Agricultural Cover Crops Conference, co-sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, will be held Oct. 28 through 29 at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center in Jonesboro. The workshop is designed to help farmers successfully adopt a cover crop management system.

The workshop will provide a forum for farmers to exchange information, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and learn about new and successful practices related to cover crops. Case study presentations will identify and discuss strengths and pitfalls of real applications.

Specific sessions will include soil management, water management, pest management, economics, cover crop management and no-till. Invited speakers include farmers, crop consultants, and university researchers who have extensive experience in cover crop management.

Certified crop advisors can earn continuing education units for attending this workshop.

For more information, contact John Lee, NRCS agronomist, at (501) 301-3173 or email at john.lee@ar.usda.gov, or Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts program administrator, at (501) 682-2915 or email at debbiepinreal@aol.com.

USDA NASS visiting area farms to gather conservation data from producers

2014 CEAP survey focuses on St. Francis River Basin

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reaching out to producers and agricultural landowners in the St. Francis River Basin to gather information on their conservation practices.

The survey is being conducted on selected areas of land in Arkansas and Missouri as part of the National Resources Inventory (NRI) Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP).

The survey will focus on producers in the following counties in the St. Francis River Basin in Arkansas:

Arkansas, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Faulkner, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, St. Francis, White and Woodruff.

Local NASS representatives are visiting producers and landowners in the area to personally gather information on farm production practices; chemical, fertilizer and manure applications; tillage; irrigation use; and installed conservation practices for the 2012-2014 crop years.

"As part of a cooperative agreement with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NASS is conducting this survey to collect comprehensive information on the effectiveness of current conservation practices," said Becky Cross, director of the Delta Regional Office. "By participating in the CEAP survey, producers are helping to maintain productive farmland, to protect the environment, and to preserve clean water in their community and downstream."

Information provided by respondents, for all NASS surveys, is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

"Over the past several years, we have worked with our conservation partners to accelerate the pace that producers are addressing resource concerns that affect water quality, water quantity and wildlife habitat," said Mike Sullivan, Arkansas state conservationist for NRCS. "This survey will offer us information about the impact of NRCS conservation programs, such as the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, in the St. Francis River Basin," Sullivan said. "It will also help us learn what's happening on the land and how we, and our conservation partners, can evaluate our progress to better serve farmers, ranchers and foresters in the future. It also gives the producers a chance to tell their story and help us understand how the land is being farmed and protected."

Listed below are six additional reasons why participation in the CEAP survey is important:

- Determine the most beneficial conservation practices for the St. Francis River Basin to help improve the quality of natural resources and cropland;
- Determine areas in the St. Francis River Basin that will benefit most from the use of alternative conservation practices to provide more valuable natural resources to local farmers;
- Evaluate resources farmers may need in the future to further protect the soil and water in the area;
- Illustrate the good work that farmers in the region are already doing to conserve natural resources.
- Improve and strengthen technical and financial programs that help landowners plan and install conservation practices on agricultural land; and
- Maintain the very conservation programs that can help producers' bottom line – while also protecting the soil, water and habitat we all depend on.

"The CEAP survey will provide a much needed complete picture of conservation practices in the St. Francis River Basin," said Cross. "And at the end of the day, maintaining conservation programs benefits producers themselves by protecting the environment upon which their livelihood depends."

For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact the NASS Delta Regional Office in Little Rock at (800) 327-2970 or visit www.nass.usda.gov.

High tunnels provide more locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables

It's hard to beat produce grown in the Arkansas Delta area. It's often fresher and tastier, uses less energy for transport, and helps farmers in the local community. But the off-season presents a big challenge for farmers who grow fruits and vegetables and for consumers who want to find local produce throughout the year.

When farmers can lengthen the growing season, even by several weeks, their options change. That's why the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service promotes seasonal high tunnel as such a powerful tool.

High tunnels are plastic-wrapped, metal-framed structures that are fairly easy and inexpensive to build. They are designed to extend the growing season into the colder months, helping to increase the availability of local produce, keep plants at a steady temperature and even conserve water and energy.

Eric Cole, manager of the high tunnel for East Arkansas Enterprise Community, Inc. in Forrest City, waters cabbage.

High tunnels are similar to greenhouses, except they are considered "passively heated." That means they do not require electricity to heat – only sunlight. The plastic on the frame actually provides enough insulation to add up to 12 extra weeks to the growing season. The inside of a high tunnel boasts its own microclimate, often producing crops of higher quality and quantity than those in traditional farm fields.

High tunnels are also different than greenhouses in that the plants are actually in the ground, not in pots or on tables. You can think of it as a plastic covering over a field.

High tunnels can cut costs for the producer by conserving water and requiring fewer inputs, like fertilizers or pesticides. In high tunnels, these inputs are often applied through tubes that run along the base of the plants, allowing water and fertilizer to be delivered directly above the soil. Outside of high tunnels, these inputs are often dispersed on a larger scale and require more to ensure the plants receive an adequate amount.

NRCS helps farmers build high tunnels, providing technical expertise and funding. Local and regional markets often provide farmers with a higher share of the food dollar, and money spent at a local business often continues to circulate within community, creating a multiplier effect and providing greater economic benefits to the area.

NRCS started helping farmers incorporate high tunnels into their operations in 2009, and in the three years since, more than 7,200 high tunnels were built across the United States. Eighty-nine of those high tunnels were built in Arkansas.

To learn if they're right for you and your land, contact John Lee, state agronomist, at john.lee@ar.usda.gov, contact your local NRCS office at a USDA service center near you or log on to http://go.usa.gov/gh4W for additional information.

DUNS, SAM

Continued from Page 4

If you have the necessary information ready, on-line registration should take about 30 minutes, depending upon the size and complexity of your organization. It may take 7-10 business days before your SAM registration becomes active.

Before you start, please gather the following information:

❑ Your Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun and Bradstreet and the name and address associated with that DUNS number.

❑ Your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and the name and address associated with that TIN (from your W-2).

❑ Your Contractor and Government Entity (CAGE) Code, if you already have one. If you don't, one will be assigned to you during registration.

❑ Your Electronic Funds Transfer information, including ABA Routing Number, account number, and the Automated Clearing House (ACH) number of your bank. Contact your bank for this info ahead of time, if needed.

❑ Contact information for the point(s) of contact of the business.

❑ Additional information about your business, including start date, fiscal year end close date, business type, profit structure, and socio-economic categories that apply to its members.

NOTE: Be prepared to create a password (Marketing Partner Identification Number).

Annual Renewal

Your organization must renew their SAM registration every year as long as you have an active contract with NRCS. An expired registration may affect payment eligibility.

For more information, contact your local USDA Field Service Center, located in the phone book under "United States Government".

Technical Service Providers help NRCS clients develop Conservation Activity Plans, including Pollinator Habitat Plans.

TSPs help producers plan, apply NRCS conservation practices

Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or businesses certified to help agricultural producers plan and apply conservation practices on their land. TSPs work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure conservation services are delivered quickly and efficiently.

TSPs are hired by farmers, ranchers, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or public agencies to provide these services on behalf of NRCS to assist on an approved contract. Each certified TSP is listed on the NRCS TSP online registry, TechReg (http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx). The TSP registration and approval process involves required training and verification of essential education, knowledge, skills and abilities.

TSPs provide technical services to NRCS clients to develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAP).

In Arkansas, there are 16 separate CAPs and several different practice categories, each with individual TSP eligibility requirements.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) supports payment for practices involving the development of CAPs. Only certified TSPs can be hired to complete these plans.

Primary CAPs Include:

❑ 102 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
❑ 104 - Nutrient Management Plan
❑ 106 - Forest Management Plan
❑ 108 - Feed Management Plan
❑ 110 - Grazing Management Plan
❑ 112 - Prescribed Burning
❑ 114 - Integrated Pest Management Plan
❑ 118 - Irrigation Water Management Plan
❑ 122 and 124 - Agricultural Energy Management Plans - Headquarters and Landscape
❑ 130 - Drainage Water Management Plan
❑ 134 - Transition from Irrigated to Dryland Farming and Ranching
❑ 138 - Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
❑ 142 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
❑ 146 - Pollinator Habitat Plan
❑ 154 - Herbicide Resistant Weed Conservation Plan

For more information, visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ar/technical/cp/tsp/.

Did You Know ...

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Articles and photos focus on the NRCS and AGFC partnership and how it benefits the state's landowners and wildlife.

McClellan named new Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Northeast

Doug McClellan was recently named Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the northeast area. He will take over the position in Jonesboro October 5.

He started his career as a soil conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in June 1988 at the Jonesboro Field Service Center.

Since 2012, he has been resource conservationist at the Lonoke Technical Service Center working with the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative.

McClellan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from Louisiana Tech University and a Master's degree in General Agriculture from Arkansas State University. He's been married to his wife Melinda for 27 years and they have two children, daughter Endsley and son Conner.

ALFDC hosts annual conference

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) will host their 34th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting Oct. 23-24, at the ALFDC Business Center in Fargo.

The theme for this year's conference is "Partnerships for Positive Change: Achieving Productive Steps toward Rural Economic Sustainability."

For more information, contact Dr. Calvin King at (870) 734-1140 or email calvinrkingsr@yahoo.com; or contact Mary Harris, LaShica Miller or Melissa Bailey at (870) 734-1140.

Soil Survey Office moves to Hot Springs

The NRCS Glenwood Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office recently moved from the U.S. Forest Service Ouachita National Forest, Caddo Work Center in Glenwood to the USDA Field Service Center in Hot Springs.

For more information, contact the staff at (501) 624-2574.

To reach Richard Vaught, MLRA soil survey leader, dial extension 103; for Rebecca Fox, soil scientist, dial extension 105.

SWCS Razorback Chapter wins Outstanding Chapter Award

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is a nonprofit, scientific and educational organization that serves as an advocate for conservation professionals and for science-based conservation practice, programs, and policy. During their recent annual international conference in Lombard, Illinois, the organization recognized Arkansas's Razorback Chapter with the "Outstanding Chapter Award." They received the award for being outstanding in promoting education for their members and the agricultural community. John Kluthe, district conservationist at the Clarksville Field Service Center and Razorback Chapter president, accepted the award on the chapter's behalf.

The Razorback Chapter co-sponsored the Arkansas Cover Crops Conference, as well as actively supported their local Envirothon, SWCS award nominations, and a $1,000 student scholarship. Chapter members also toured two irrigation projects, the Plum Bayou Project and Bayou Meto Pump Station, during their December 2013 meeting.

Chapter members promoted conservation knowledge through an article in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation entitled, "A statewide network for monitoring agricultural water quality and water quantity in Arkansas." Members wrote articles on cover crops for the Cover Crop Conference; produced a report on the Bayou Meto Basin Project; and a put together a chapter newsletter.

Left to right: Jim Gulliford, executive director, SWCS; Dr. Michele L. Reba, research hydrologist, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Jonesboro; John Kluthe, district conservationist, Clarksville; Dan Towery, 2013-2014 SWCS president; Andrew Wargo III, Baxter Land Company; and Doug McClellan, NRCS resource conservationist, Lonoke.