



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

South Central Soil Survey Region

South Central Regional Office, Temple, Texas

South Central Staff Coordinate Technical Soil Services Across States

Purpose

In July 2024, the South Central Soil Survey Regional Office assisted with the resolution of an issue involving the use of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) tool.

Background

Arkansas State Soil Scientist Rebecca Fox brought forth an issue using the FPPA tool during a technical team meeting. The tool faced technical challenges when dealing with combined counties. Arkansas Soil Scientist Greta Grishanova highlighted there were initial difficulties in running the necessary tool without encountering issues that required manual interventions.

This issue was resolved within hours of South Central Regional staff being made aware. The coordination efforts between Senior Regional Soil Scientist Wayne Gabriel and Soil Data Quality Specialist Roel Guerra were instrumental in providing timely and efficient technical soil services.

Key Outcomes

Wayne and Roel's proactive approach and technical expertise enabled them to resolve these challenges efficiently. They coordinated the efforts, ensuring that the tool was functioning correctly in multi-county soil surveys. This included coordination with Soil Scientist Ashley Anderson with NRCS Texas to address specific warnings and ensure that the generated documents were correctly populated and formatted.

Ashley tested the tool with an old request, confirmed that the needed documents were produced, and navigated the warnings given. This provided valuable information and



context for NRCS Arkansas users. The coordinating staff's meticulous attention to detail prevented potential errors and negated the need for needless database work for the operation of a tool. The tool now produces the needed documentation.