

Oklahoma Civil Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Stillwater State Office Conference Room
August 7, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Present

David Hungerford – Chair
Rattana Kittitornsup-Nantz – A/PIEPM
Nicholas Jones - BEPM
Melanie Oliver – NAEPM
Carri Manley – HEPM
Guest – PJ Martin
Julie Adams - FWPM
Shelly Oliphant – Zone 1 Rep.
Kenneth Hitch – Zone 2 Rep.
Brandy Pietz-Jones – Zone 3 Rep.
Thomas James – Zone 4 Rep
Gilbert Guerrero – Advisor
Jasper Parker – Outreach/Civil Rights

Not Present

Ron Hilliard – State Conservationist
Paul Parham – DEPM

Opening Remarks: The August meeting was called to order by David Hungerford - Chair. David introduced Gilbert Guerrero as the committee's new advisor to replace Mark Habiger. The group introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes from May 1st, 2008 meeting: The minutes were reviewed and discussed. Approved minutes are now on the Oklahoma Civil Rights website. David reviewed highlights of the past meeting. Members should email reports to reporter (Melanie) and committee chair (David). Mentor information and past committee meeting minutes are on the website. The annual plan is signed and on the website. Shelly Oliphant made a motion to approve the minutes and Kenneth Hitch seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

SEPM / Zone Representative Reports: See Attached reports

Training: David has sent a training request to Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist, requesting suggested/required trainings for the committee members.

Roles and Responsibilities of the EEO Advisory Committee
Managing a Special Emphasis Program

Oklahoma Web Page: Minutes from previous meetings have been posted on the site. Continue reporting any information the committee would like to have posted on the site to Rattana. List of civil rights posters is posted on the website. Update will be addressed in the January 2009 meeting.

Mentorship Program Discussion: Babette Goodwin was asked to join the meeting to discuss the best method for assigning mentors to individual who requested mentors and those that are required to have mentors. Mrs. Goodwin discussed how the program had been managed before and the assignments worked in previous systems. David H. listed the individuals who have currently responded to being a mentor. CIP employees must be assigned mentors and a few others had applied to have a mentor. It

was decided that the committee would make recommendations to H.R. for pairing employees as mentors and mentees. HR provided a list of the CIP employees that needed to have a mentor. The committee discussed the pairings of each individual. Location, job series and workloads were taken into consideration. David will forward pairing to HR. Approval will be required by supervisors and final designation of pairing of the CIP's will be coordinated through HR. All other pairings will be handled by the Civil Rights Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Each committee member will attempt to recruit more mentors in team meetings, zone meetings, and personal contact with a short mention of the opportunity and bulletin OK 230-8-5.

Nominations for National NRCS Civil Rights Awards: Discussed national bulletin. David will work with Becka Redding to see that an Oklahoma bulletin is developed to nominate a state winner to be forwarded for the national award.

Documentation of Accomplishments of FY2008 Business Plan: Committee reviewed each item of the business plan. Progress was documented on the original copy of the plan kept by the committee chair. David H. will report the quarterly progress to the state conservationist.

Old Business: no additional topics discussed

New Business: Three of the current members of the CRAC will be finishing their term at the end of 2008- Nicholas Jones, Black Emphasis Program Manager - Rattana Kittitornsup-Nantz, Asian/Pacific Islander Program Manager – Shelly Oliphant, Zone 1 Representative. A vacancy announcement will be sent out to fill these positions.

Gilbert Guerrero made a few comments/suggestions to all of the committee members. He stressed the importance of quarterly reports to the National SEPMS. He mentioned the opportunity to invite the national association of Hispanic employees to Oklahoma City.

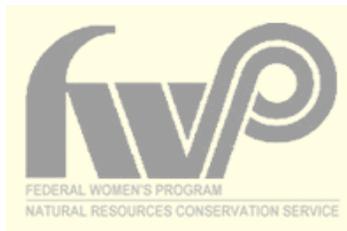
Meeting Adjourned: Nick J. made motion that the meeting be adjourned, Shelly O. seconded. Motion passes, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be November 6th at 10:00 am at NRCS State Office Conference Room.

Combined Reports for Civil Right Advisory Committee August, 2008

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER RATTANA KITTITORN SUP-NANTZ

- Provided procurement data in OK NRCS to Jasper Parker for information submitted in the Civil Rights Performance Quarterly Report
- Sent out information via email to the OK NRCS employees during the Asian Heritage Month in May
- Participated in the National AAPI SEPM teleconference
- Provided vacancy announcements for various states to colleges and universities in Oklahoma for career intern program and student trainee program
- Provided assistance to the APIO for the joint training conference with the AIANEA by acquisitioning plaques, pins, and gift items for guest speakers for the conference



FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT SUBMITTED BY: JULIE ADAMS

I completed my work on the Mentorship Guidebook and turned over the last of the duties to members of the committee and public affairs for release to all employees and posting to our website.

I attended the Federal Women's Program/Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was led by our own Gilbert Guererro and Sharyn Alvarez. We covered roles and responsibilities of the FWPM/HEPM along with DN-714 training. We spent the afternoon working on barrier determinations to success in the workplace. Gilbert Guerrero authored the "A.S.P.I.R.E." acronym. This is a suggested strategy for SEPM Program Development, which stands for Assess/Analyze, Strategize, Plan, Implementation, Review, and Evaluate. The conference ended with a STC panel question/answer session.

Upon return to Oklahoma, I compiled a list of all female employees in the state. With approval, I forwarded a "barrier determination ranking for success in the workplace" list to all female employees. Sharyn Alvarez, NWPM requested all states to assess barriers, with response to NHQ. I've received many responses on the questionnaire, completion expected in the coming days.

I've been working on an excel spreadsheet titled "Percentage Comparison of NRCS and Local College Demographics 2007 – 2008". I'm doing analysis of diversity on some college campuses, census data, PATCO, in comparison to diversity of NRCS – Oklahoma. I've also included demographic change for NRCS 2007 – 2008. I will meet with Gilbert Guererro to discuss results.

August is "Women's Equality Month". We have not yet received a Presidential proclamation for release.

HISPANIC EMPHASIS PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

CARRI MANLEY

Program Manager Activities

- Distributed Cinco De Mayo Email
 - Email contained a document describing the History behind Cinco De Mayo and also a unique Hispanic inspired recipe
- Created Oklahoma Bulletin for the Hispanic Heritage Poster Contest
- English-Spanish Dictionaries
 - Fernando Morales, Colorado HEPM, is currently working on converting this to an electronic version for us to use
 - Requested price and printing information for the Glossary from Colorado
- When time allows I am gathering interesting facts and articles to highlight during Hispanic Heritage Month
- Creating Emails to be sent out to all employees – Ex: Information Gathering Emails for Spanish Communicating Employees and Known Dialects Spoken in Communities across the state
- Civil Rights Reviews for Zone 1 to be conducted during August

Current Bulletins and Activities for Oklahoma

- OK-Bulletin 230-3-4 – Hispanic Heritage Poster Contest
 - Action Requested by July 30, 2008
 - No inquiries or entries received

HEPM Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • April 15, 2008 | Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Contest Opened |
| • July 7-11, 2008 | NOPHNRCSE Conference Madison, WI |
| • July 7-11, 2008 | LULAC Conference Washington, DC |
| • Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2008 | Hispanic Heritage Month |

Current Goals

1. Distribute English – Spanish Dictionary to Oklahoma employees and partners
2. Compile list of Spanish Communicating Employees who are willing to assist other employees (with Supervisor Approval) in communication areas such as Speaking, Writing and Reading
3. Update and Modernize Hispanic Program Website Information

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM REPORT
MELANIE OLIVER

Osage Landowners' Tallgrass Prairie Symposium

May 10th, Pawhuska, over 40 attended the Symposium. Bob Hamilton and Dr. Bidwell kept the interest of the participant from the start. They included information about the Tallgrass ecosystem, prescribed burning, plant identification and more. A traditional Osage meal was served at lunch. Members of the Tribal Council participated as well as individuals from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Osage Nation employees.

I will have a poster presentation about this event for the AIANEA meeting in Spokane. August 10th.

NRCS presence in American Indian scholarship readings from among our Nation's finest American Indian College students

The Bureau of Land Management (1), Bureau of Reclamation (4), University of Utah (1), and **NRCS (17)** all participated in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Scholarship (AISES) reading and ranking at the Utah State Office. The scholarship ranking and reading was made for the A.T. Anderson Scholarship which is one of five scholarships that AISES provides. It is estimated that 75 to 100 scholarships will be awarded this school year.

AISES is a national, nonprofit organization which nurtures community development by bridging science and technology with traditional values. **AISES' ultimate goal is to be a catalyst for the advancement of American Indians and Native Alaskans as they become self reliant and self determined members of society. Typical students are enrolled to become a biologist, natural resources specialist, environmental scientist, geologist, business manager, archaeologist or engineer.**

Some of the comments from participants were:

- Impressed by the quality / caliber of the students
- Encourage others to participate
- Students overall want to give back to the community
- **NRCS needs to find a way to hire these students**
- Glad to see people with job hiring authority involved in reading

Overall the reading was a success. The AISES organization provided the ranking sheets, copies of college transcripts, personal essays, and letters of recommendation. The students were ranked on the above documents as well as GPA, academic record, career plans, extracurricular activities, leadership, awards, recognition, work experience and overall impressions. "I was impressed with the turn out, attendees overall positive comments, quick turnaround of reading/ranking that only lasted for 1.5 hours, and I hope participants learned something new about current American Indian issues, Nathaniel Todea, Hydraulic Engineer and Civil Rights Advisory Committee Member, said.

NRCS CONCURRENT SESSION for NRCS Recruitment Conference- American Indian Science and Engineering Society in October 2008

NRCS recruiting cadre members have completed their concurrent session proposal for the 2008 Recruitment Event at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society for November 1, 2008. American Indian students from over 269 colleges will be attending. *NRCS recruiting cadre will be recruiting at this American Indian conference for all NRCS states.* Special thank you to NRCS cadre members Nathaniel Todea, Blythe S. Koyiyumptewa and Roylene Rides at the Door.

BLACK EMPHASIS PROGRAM MANAGER
NICHOLAS W. JONES

I have been keeping in close contact with Dwight Guy USDA liaison at Langston University. I forward all student trainee position openings to Dwight to pass on to LU students. I spoke back and forth with BEPM Ana Gomez of New Mexico about summer intern positions. Two students were selected from Langston. Also e-mail message forwards helped another student obtain a position in Wisconsin. Dwight reported to me that two students graduated and received positions, Daniel Wood S.S Kansas, Roderick Dukes in Le Center, Minnesota as a S.C.

Sent out Oklahoma Vacancy Announcements to National BEPM for distribution.

We had an outreach meeting here in Creek County on June 17th where we had handouts for different career possibilities with NRCS.

BEPM Teleconference was scheduled for July 24th, it was cancelled and rescheduled for August 21st.

Dwight Guy USDA liaison from LU is requesting to speak to the committee at our next meeting.

ZONE 1 REPORT
BY SHELLY OLIPHANT

Alva – 6/27 – Conservation Expo and Outreach Meeting

Arnett – 7/22 – No Till and Locally Led

El Reno – 6/20 – Concho Field Day and Outreach Meeting

Guymon – 6/26 – Outreach and Grazing Management Meeting

Kingfisher – 4/22 – Outreach and Wheat-growers Program

Medford – 7/9 – Outreach and No Till

Oklahoma City – 4/5 – NE Oklahoma County Goat Workshop and Outreach Meeting
Cimarron County Conservation District and NRCS staff gave presentations to students 8th grade to Junior in May at the Boise City High School Career Fair.

NRCS and the Cimarron County Conservation District Board contacted federal and state agencies, legislators, and Governor Henry regarding the drought conditions and the plight of the ranchers and producers. Requests for assistance were made as high winds and temperatures had devastated grassland and crops. Little to no production was seen. Little did we know what a fire storm we were creating.

The District office has been extremely swamped the last two months with reporters from newspapers, agriculture periodicals, television stations, and a Japanese documentary film crew. Tours have been done for the Oklahoma Climatology Center, Governor Brad Henry, OK Agriculture Commissioner Terry Peach (twice), and NTV International Corp.'s Japanese documentary crew based out of New York. These events are due to our county being declared a D4- exceptional drought. We

are drier than in the 1930's and little to no "dust bowl". A true testament to our conservation efforts and practices!!

The NRCS and district employees have been busy with CRP modifications. The drought declaration brought assistance to our ranchers' by the releasing of CRP for critical use haying and grazing. Many of our ranchers had already reduced or liquidated their herds but some with remaining cattle moved on to the CRP. Just started and then halted because of National Wildlife Federation filing suit against the program. Finally those who had been approved prior to the lawsuit were allowed to graze. This has made the difference in ranchers' decisions.

EQIP and cost share programs have been busy with planning, design and check outs. Jim Belford, Equipment Manager, has been busy with the Panasonic flowmeter checking sprinkler irrigation operations.

Outreach through mailers and newspaper articles for WHIP and EQIP have been ongoing. Several inquires have been made for cost share practices.

The District, NRCS, FSA, and Farm Loan Agency will be hosting an Agricultural Producers' meeting on Aug. 6 in Kenton, Keyes, and Boise City. Information will be given on drought management, programs and assistance available, invasive plant problems related to drought, and other topics. Over 200 postcards have been sent to county producers.

Noble County had a pond management workshop July 30 and there were 18 participants, they received information from newspaper and flyers around the county.

ZONE II REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 4/25/2008 TO 8/1/2008

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH L HITCH

Events Held

- All Civil Rights Compliance Reviews were completed in Zone II Field Offices.
- The *Stillwater FO* hosted the Conservation Banker' Awards on May 1st. This event also included presentation of poster and essay contest winners.. A Chicken Litter Utilization Meeting for Payne County producers was held on May 12th. Field Office personnel attended the Cedar Conference in Moore, OK on June 8 and 9th along with several county producers. On August 6th a round table discussion was held with emergency management personnel to discuss emergency action plans on high hazard dams in Payne County.
- Every Saturday, May 3 through September 27, Wagoner Rose Garden Club hosts a Farmer's Market at the intersection of Highways 51/69, also known as Blake Park. There are usually 25 to 35 vendors with produce and other goods. Several hundred people visit the market to purchase items. Melissa Thompson, District Conservationist, NRCS and Paula Templeton, Programs Coordinator, *Wagoner County* Conservation District, are available and are asked many questions on several agriculture topics.
- The *Chandler Field Office* worked with the Cross Timbers Prescribed Burn Association and Lincoln County Conservation District by providing technical assistance to the Association and its members by providing prescribed burn plans, training sessions, and "on site" assistance when burns are actually being completed. On May 12, 2008, Ed Stinchcomb (District Conservationist) met with the City of Sparks and Rural Water District #1 and the water district's monthly board meeting. Both of these entities are primary sponsors of Quapaw Creek PL-566 Watershed Site #1M (Sparks Lake) and would like to enlarge the flood capacity of the lake for both additional water and recreation. The Lincoln County Conservation District has a quarterly newsletter (The Lincoln Landscape) that goes to 2,000 households in the county. The District includes programs and issues that are current with the Chandler NRCS Field Office.



The Conservation Banker' Awards were well attended by producers from throughout Payne County.



- On May 1, 2008 the *Delaware County* Conservation District, NRCS, OCC, OSU, and State Forestry Department held an indoor/outdoor classroom at the Jay Elementary School. There were approximately 125 students that participated in the educational event. A monthly newsletter was developed and sent to ~750 county producers.
- The *Stillwell FO* assisted with an Upland Game Management seminar on Tuesday May 20 at the Nickel's Preserve. There was also a special NRCS Web Base Soil Survey meeting on May 22 at the Indian Capital Technology Center in Stilwell. FO personnel also presented a program about NRCS Adair County operations at the Stilwell Library for 45 individuals who attended.
- The *Pryor FO* worked with the Mayes County Commissioners to secure EWP funding for 3 sites in Mayes County. One of the sites protected the only access available to 20 families. District Conservationist, Kenneth Hitch assisted with the planning, development, and implementation of the Forestry on the Grow Conference in Wagoner. The regional conference for forest landowners and wood industry was well attended. The Conference included informational sessions as well as an equipment exposition. The District Conservationist participated in the Agroterrorism conference held June 9 at the Northeast Technology Center. The conference was conducted by OSU Extension and provided a setting for ag leaders, emergency responders, county and state officials to discuss possible threats and appropriate responses to attacks on the agricultural industry in Mayes and Rogers Counties.
- The *Creek County FO* conducted the, 65th Annual Creek County Ag Tour on May 15th. 50 or more local producers were in attendance. District Conservationist, Nick Jones spoke about NRCS programs. Lunch was provided by Farm Credit Services. On June 17th, FO staff assisted with a Fish Fry and Farm Pond Management workshop. 25 people attended this cooperative effort between NRCS, Langston University and Creek County CD
- The *Vinita FO* set up an informational booth at the Craig County Free Fair on July 28th through August 2nd. The pamphlets, brochures, temporary tattoos and note pads were going fast. Many citizen stopped by for information or to make an appointment for further assistance.

Delaware County Conservation District Personell explain the role of water in our ecosystem at the Jay Elementary School Environmental Day.

Upcoming Events

- On August 15th the Pryor FO will host a wetland management workshop for wetland managers. Personnel from USFWS, ODWC, and NRCS will be on hand to discuss management of moist soils along with assistance available.
- Upcoming on August 28th, 29th, and 30th, the Lincoln County Fair will be held. The Chandler NRCS Field Office and Lincoln County Conservation District booth will be there providing outreach to residents of Lincoln County.
- The Stillwell FO is planning to have a booth at the Adair County Fair on September 3rd. They will be doing several 7 minute talks on conservation through out the day.
- On September 6th the Jay FO will have a booth set up at the Jay Farm Fest.
- On September 24th the Jay FO will participate in the Oaks Mission Career and Information Fair. This annual event disseminates information about the services USDA provides, as well as employment opportunities, to a largely Native American community. Many USDA agencies participate in "breakout sessions" to conduct educational workshops, demonstrations, or in-depth discussions with interested students and/or local producers. In addition, several local universities, colleges, and Native American organizations participate to disseminate information about their respective programs.

ZONE 3

BRANDY PIETZ-JONES

Civil Rights reviews have been conducted in the Purcell, Sayre, and Norman FO's for 2008. Teresa Stewart, ASTC for FO Operations, Shelley Hungerford, Office Assistant, and Brandy Pietz-Jones, Zone 3 Civil Rights Representative conducted the reviews. Interviews were given to NRCS employees, Conservation District Board Members, and local producers covering Civil Rights Issues.

The Purcell FO hosted an open house with FSA at the Purcell USDA Service Center on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. Literature on various programs was made available. The open house was advertised in the area newspapers, radio, and the county newsletter. In addition, personal invitational letters and NRCS Conservation...Our Purpose...Our Passion post cards were sent to the persons, groups, and organizations on file that represent the socially disadvantaged, minority, and women's groups. One of the key goals that NRCS wanted to accomplish with this open house was to stress the involvement of all producers in conservation programs. McClain/Cleveland Counties have a minority population of less than 15% and NRCS and FSA are continuously striving to involve and inform all diverse populations about the programs that USDA has to offer producers.

ZONE 4

BY THOMAS JAMES

Poteau FO Kenneth Risenhoover

Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton and Sallisaw field offices participated in the Eastern Oklahoma Trade Show. The meeting was held on April 30, 2008 at the LeFlore County Fairgrounds. About 600 people attended, groups attending included: Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanic, Native American, African Americans and Women.

The Poteau, Stigler, and Sallisaw field offices participated in an Asian and Beginning Poultry Producer meeting. The meeting was held on July 15, 2008 at the Choctaw Community Center in Spiro. About 60 people attended this meeting. Groups in attendance were, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native American, African American and Women.

Youth Summit Draws Huge Crowd (Ann Colyer Durant,OK)

The Choctaw Nation Event Center was the site for the "Xtreme Ability is Power" Youth Summit 2008. This event, sponsored by the Choctaw Nation, Big Five Community Services, Southern Workforce Board, KEDDO, Southeastern Workforce Board, Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Citizen Pottawatomie Nation, OK Department of Career Tech, Kiamichi Technology Center, Governor's State Youth Council, Department of Rehabilitation Services and the OK Department of Commerce, is continuing to grow as youth and young adults from all over the state of Oklahoma flock to this annual event that began in 2007.

Jasper Parker, Assistant State Conservationist for Outreach and Civil Rights, Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist to the Choctaw Nation, Paul May, District Conservationist, Durant FO attended the Youth Summit in Durant. The Youth Summit was held on Thursday, July 10. The event was designed to motivate and inspire youth and young adults ages 14 to 21 about their future.

The featured speakers and entertainment were: Jim Riley, former Miami Dolphin football player, D. J. Vanus, author, Richard Hight, artist, Choctaw Youth Council, Team AcroDunk-Acrobatic Slam Dunking and the Chickasaw Martial Arts Group.

There were approximately 1,500 people that attended this event, 1,400 of them being youth. Each youth received a sack lunch, an "Xtreme Ability" t-shirt and gym bag filled with occupational and educational material along with other goodies.



Students attending the Youth Summit.



3 youth from Chickasaw Nation performing the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Tishomingo FO William Hall

April- Land Judging, Range and Wildlife Contest Murray State College- 248 Students participated

Outdoor Conservation Day Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge-165 Students, Teachers and Exhibitors

May- Wildlife Habitat Upland Game Seminar Outdoor Field Day Event held at Ponotoc Ridge Reserve-Johnson Co and Pontotoc Co. 35 people in attendance.

Kenneth Swift –Idabel FO

During the past quarter the Idabel field office staff attended 3 agri-business meetings with the Idabel Chamber of Commerce promoting NRCS programs, 2 news articles were printed concerning the availability of USDA programs, one local work group meeting was held concerning the development of an EQIP LEA which was open to the public and the quarterly services provided by the NRCS ad was printed.

Reported by Tom Neumeier - Stigler Field Office

The Stigler NRCS District Conservationist participated in the Annual Customer Appreciation Day event conducted by Dixon Farm Supply in Stigler on April 2nd. One day annually Dixon Farm Supply, a local ag business, offers discounts on ag products, allows display booths by various ag vendors to be set up at their store, and provides an excellent meal to express appreciation to their customers for doing business with them. Over 400 attended the event. It offers an excellent opportunity for conservation contacts.

The Stigler NRCS District Conservationist also assisted with the Southeast District Land Judging Contests held at Hugo, Oklahoma, the Southeast District Forestry Contest help north of Fort Towson at Pine Creek Cove and with the District Speech Contest at McAlester for FFA students.

The Haskell County Conservation District with assistance from the Stigler NRCS staff conducted their 17th Annual Fishing Clinic at Stigler on April 24th for all 5th grade students in the county. There were about 225 students and teachers from five schools that attended the event. This event offered students the opportunity to rotate through 15 minute learning stations teaching about water quality, fish tackle identification. The rural schools attend the morning session and the Stigler

school students attended the afternoon session. During the last 45 minutes of both the morning and afternoon sessions the students actually got to fish around a pond that was stocked recently with fish. Each student went home with a “goodie bag” filled with various information and other items and a new rod and reel provided by tremendous support from area businesses.

The Poteau, Wilburton, and Sallisaw NRCS Field Offices working with the Haskell, Latimer, Leflore, Sequoyah, and Talihina Conservation Districts conducted their 2nd Annual Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show at the Leflore County Fairgrounds south of Poteau, Oklahoma on April 30th. The event attracted over 40 vendors and about 600 participants. During the event presentations were made pertaining to the following: Energy Alternatives; Drinking Water Quality; Environmental Stewardship; Latest Farm and Ranch News; Commercial Fertilizer Alternatives; Fire Ants; and Foot & Mouth Disease. Other partners sponsoring the event included: OK Farms, OSU Cooperative Extension, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, Farm Service Agency,

Kerr Center, and the Oklahoma Grazing Lands Conservation Association.

Stigler NRCS District Conservationist, Tom Neumeyer, assisted the Haskell and Leflore County OSU Cooperative Extension offices conduct an Initial 9 Hour Poultry Waste Management Education Session to poultry producers and commercial and private litter applicators. The training session was held at the Stigler Fair Barn on Saturday, June 14 with a total of 30 in attendance. Topic covered included: Oklahoma Poultry Laws and Regulations, Environmental Background, Understanding AWMPs, Nutrient Management, Soil and Litter Sampling, Phosphorous, Conservation, Fine Tuning AWMPs, and Litter Marketing.

Also, 7 news releases and one ad were developed and provided to the Stigler News Sentinel Newspaper providing information about conservation programs and service available through the NRCS and Haskell County Conservation District offices.

Russell Wright Coalgate Field Office

The Coalgate Field Office has published one news article encouraging producers to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and one news article announcing the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

The NRCS ad has been published quarterly in our local paper.

EQIP and WHIP were also advertised in the Choctaw Bishnik and Chickasaw Times.

The Coal County Conservation District has provided their no-till drill to Amish producers for planting summer crops.

Thomas James Wewoka FO

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), advertised in all newspapers in Seminole County. We have discussed these programs with individual producers in the field, encouraging them to apply for these programs.

Discussed all NRCS programs with the Seminole Nation (Rachel Dinwiddie), in an effort to get Native Americans involved with the programs. To date this has resulted in 2 new applications, one for 2008 and the other for 2009 program year. Both are for the EQIP program.