

Oklahoma Civil Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Stillwater State Office Conference Room
February 7, 2008
10:00 A.M.

Roll Call

Present

David Hungerford – Chair
Shelly Oliphant – Zone 1 Rep.
Thomas James – Zone 4 Rep.
Kenneth Hitch – Zone 2 Rep.
Brandy Pietz-Jones – Zone 3 Rep.
Paul Parham – DEPM
Melanie Oliver – NAEPM
Carrie Manley – HEPM
Mark Habiger – Advisor
Ron Hilliard – State Conservationist

Not Present

Julie Adams - FWPM
Nicholas Jones - BEPM
Rattana Kittitornsup-Nantz – A/PIEPM
Jasper Parker - Outreach/Civil Rights

Opening Remarks: The February meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by David Hungerford – Chair. Julie Adams was unable to stay for the meeting due to illness. She delivered the previous meeting’s minutes with a recorder and requested Melanie Oliver turn the recorder off following the meeting and would follow-up and complete the minutes at a later time. David requested that each member get reports to the recorder via email prior to each meeting and each member bring a copy of their own report only to the meeting for review with the group. David will bring a full set of reports and the recorder will retain a full electronic set rather than each member bring 15 copies of the full report provided for each member at the meeting. David discussed the issue whether it be necessary for both he and Julie prefer to receive the reports via email. After discussion, he preferred to receive a copy along with the Julie Adams, recorder. This will reduce the amount of paper brought to each meeting.

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2007 meeting: The minutes were reviewed and Shelly Oliphant moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded. Voted and passed.

SEPM/Zone Rep. Reports: See Attached

Training

Discussion of Training since last meeting: David Hungerford asked who in the group attended training since last the meeting. Paul Parham – DEPM attended Special Emphasis Training in Washington D. C. Nicholas Jones – BEPM attended an Association Meeting. David Hungerford – Chair attended training for committee chairs in Las Vegas. He elaborated on the discussions of his training and mentioned some options we should consider as a group in Oklahoma. States around the country had ideas to spread the message of diversity and civil rights across their states. Some of the ideas were:

“Diversity Day”, “Civil Rights Newsletter”, “DVD for Recruitment”, “Healthy Lunch Day”, “English/Spanish Glossary of Terms”, “How YOU can be understanding”, “Disparity of Funds for EQIP/WHIP”, “Underwater Soil Mapping”, “Cultural Awareness Training”, and in the training category “Demographic Analysis”, and “Online Training Modules.”

Training Needs: David asked how and who was keeping track of those needing training. The group mentioned that Stacy had kept track in the past and it was based on budget availability of the current year. David mentioned the letter Stacy had sent to Ron Hilliard regarding training needs. Mark Habiger mentioned the budget would be limited for training this year.

National and Oklahoma Web Pages: Our link to the National webpage is not working well. Rattana is working on the Oklahoma Web Page. David requests that the Oklahoma web page be updated after each meeting. Should our minutes be added to the site? What else should be added to the site? Carrie has some HEPM ideas she would like added to the site. Should the new public affairs specialist become involved? David will contact DeeAnn Littlefield regarding some timely articles to add to our website. He will also discuss with Rattana.

Language for OK under the EO/CR performance element: Some on the committee will need changes made to their performance plan and all need a MOU. They should keep a supervisor signed copy themselves as well.

Mentorship Program Discussion: Julie is continuing research with other states on mentor programs. She has received information from Colorado and David has received information from Colorado as well. David asked for opinions from the committee regarding the program. Mark stated that in the past forced mentoring failed. Employees did better finding their own mentors for the most part. David stated he was hearing some employees wished they would have had the opportunity to participate in a mentor program. Some were too quiet to seek out their mentor and would like a chance to participate. Paul Parham stated both parties needed to commit to doing the work for a successful program. After plenty of group discussion, it was agreed an electronic memo or letter would be drafted by Julie, Melanie and David. It would most likely be sent out statewide and responses returned to the zone representatives and David Hungerford – Chair. Mentor/Mentee matching would continue in the planning stages based on results of the responses. The mentorship memo would go out before the next meeting.

Required Civil Rights Posters: The committee discussed the variety of lists of Civil Rights Posters and confusion associated with each list. David received 3 pages of “optional” posters at his recent meeting attended in Las Vegas. Most offices don’t have wall spaces for extra posters but need to know the required posters. David will elevate the question by emailing the civil rights committee at the national level and request an updated list to be added to the national website to end the confusion.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ron Hilliard discussed the promotion of Oklahoma's newsletter to local, state and national leaders. The "Oklahoma News Trail" will be making an impact with upcoming news, not relaying past events per se. He has been receiving positive feedback from conservation partners and feels it will get information out about what we're doing here around this great state. DeAnn Littlefield is accepting any articles and success stories that would be appropriate for the newsletter. It will be automatically posted to our website and a linked nationally. David suggested we get upcoming news events to DeAnn Littlefield for her addition to the newsletter. Ron Hilliard wanted to know how to reach minority students early in their careers for STEP programs. The committee discussed OSU vs. other universities counseling students with regard to NRCS. Ron is committed keeping each and every student we hire if possible otherwise he works with human resources to assist in finding the student another position.

Meeting adjourned. Shelly Oliphant made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed meeting adjourned.

Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager Report
February 7, 2008
Carri Manley

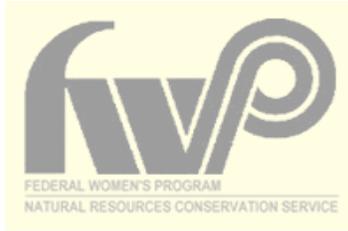
Shortly after my selection for this position I participated in the Nationwide Teleconference for all Hispanic Program Manager's. I believe this will be a quarterly event throughout the fiscal year. The National Program Manager reported that there are currently 208 Hispanic Program Managers. The main discussion was concerning the Civil Rights Performance Report. It was stated that this could be thought of as the Chief's "Report Card" for civil rights activities and accomplishments in our state. He stated that before Program Managers completed this annually but that he would like for Manager's to complete a Quarterly Report that is to be submitted to the Point of Contact for Oklahoma which is Jasper Parker.

During the teleconference it was announced that the Training has been moved to Madison, Wisconsin and is scheduled for the week of July 7th.

DEPM Report
Feb 7, 08

1. Julie Adams and I worked on re-doing a "Power Point" for disability briefings at various places, such as Team or Zone Meetings.
2. I attended an Okla Agribility Meeting Jan 8, in Stillwater. Their purpose is to assist disabled landowners with finding equipment (gadgets) to help them remain on the farm and be able to continue farming.

Paul Parham
Disability Emphasis Program Manager



Federal Women's Program Manager Report
Submitted by: Julie Adams
February 7, 2008

I sat in on a teleconference with women program managers around the country and the group from NHQ to discuss issues regarding training and our new quarterly report/template. It was decided that the FWP would try to join in with the HEPM group to help offset the high cost many incurred last year by attending in Washington D.C. A couple of us were only allowed the one day conference and not allowed to attend the following days of federal employed women's courses which was the intent of having both during the same time slot. Joining in with the HEPM group will allow both NRCS attendee's to go to both meetings therefore allowing more classroom time for both groups. It will be held in Madison, Wisconsin during the week of July 7th, 2008.

I attended the Zone 1 meeting December 13, 2007 in Woodward with Jamey, Becca, Gary O' Neill, to give a presentation on EEO Roles and Responsibilities. I also assisted Shelly Oliphant and Carri Manley with their fun skit on diversity which was very well received by everyone. I was also one of the lucky few to judge the desserts, followed by a chili luncheon!

I'm continuing research on the mentor program this project is proving to be quite a challenge and will take the committee and myself phone calls and discussion by the group to determine the real feasibility in Oklahoma.

Worked with Paul Parham, DEPM, to adapt a power-point presentation from a special emphasis group in Kansas for Oklahoma's use. The presentation can easily be adapted by anyone on the committee for their use around the state.

I'm already working on the statewide Women in Ag and Small Business Conference to be held September 18th and 19th, 2008 at the Moore Norman Technology Center in OKC. We're meeting monthly making plans for speakers around the theme of "Managing Risk Successfully".

2008 Oklahoma Civil Rights Advisory Committee Native American Program Report

February 7, 2008
Melanie Oliver

1. Tribal Network:

(1) National Instruction (NI) regarding tribes:

In the January 7th 2008 Chief and Staff meeting, Deputy Chief of Programs, Tom Christensen announced the posting of a new NI called: "Key Tribal Policies, Procedures and Partnerships, A Reference Guide for NRCS Employees."

You can locate the Guide by going to: MY.NRCS home page; click on Management and go to e-directives; click on National Instructions; Title 410 RD; Part 300. Hopefully we will have this NI on the NRCS National Tribal web-site soon. Locate the site at www.NRCS.USDA.gov

(2) Tribal Issues:

This is also a reminder to submit any tribal issues or concerns to your Regional Tribal Representative before February 24, 2008.

The representatives are: Herb Webb, Western Region, Tanya Meyer, Central Region, and David Elliott, Eastern Region.

Eddie Morigeau

2. National website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/tribalgov/>

3. Ideas for Native American SEPM Month, November

Traditional Foods Cookbook

Job Fair at Oklahoma Tribal Colleges

Etc.

Asian American Pacific Islander Special Emphasis Program Manager Report

Rattana Kittitornsup-Nantz

February 7, 2008 OCRAC Meeting

- Worked with Public Affairs to update the OCRAC website
 - Updated OCRAC list for new committee members
 - Published additional pages for the Special Emphasis Programs
 - Requested information from SEPMs to publish their particular program on the website
- Provided vacancy announcements for multiple states to colleges and universities in Oklahoma for career intern program and student trainee program
- Worked on accessibility standards for some of the offices that were under review by National Civil Rights team; provided updates to Jasper Parker for information submitted to the National Civil Rights team
- Participated in the National AAPI SEPM teleconference

--ZONE NEWS--

ZONE 1 (Reported by Jamey Wood)

Some personnel announcements and changes in Zone 1 are:

Brandon Burns, SC, Newkirk, will begin serving as the District Conservationist in Kingfisher County.

Bruce Meyer, SCT, Guymon, has been selected as the Rangeland Management Specialist for Texas County.

Clint Fleharty, SCT, Beaver, will be leaving Zone 1, as he has accepted a Soil Conservationist position in the Altus office in Zone 3.

Best of luck to these employees with new opportunities and challenges.

Zone 2 (Reported by Mark Habiger)

The Zone 2 Quality Review was completed December 4-6, 2007, in Miami, Okmulgee, and Vinita Offices by the State Leadership Team. The exit conference involving all Zone 2 employees and the Claremore TSO, will take place on January 23 in Tulsa.

ZONE 4 (Reported by Phoukham Vongkhamdy)

The Shawnee FO has been busy completing EQIP applications and assisting in Watershed O&M reports. The Shawnee Conservation District recently recognized students who participated in the District's speech and essay contest with a trophy presentation at the schools.

Teresa Wright, SCT, McAlester Field Office presented an award to students at the Pittsburg County Conservation District's Annual Bankers' Award banquet. The NRCS assisted the District with the program and there were 269 in attendance. Bradley Hamilton, District Technician, made a PowerPoint presentation of the District's activities and informed those in attendance of programs available through NRCS.



Kiamichi Conservation District conducted an erosion presentation at North Lamar Elementary, located in Powderly, Texas. The presentation was given by Greg Robertson of the Kiamichi Conservation District, and assisted by MacKenzie Gaines of the NRCS. The purpose of the demonstration was to teach children about erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and methods to reduce soil loss that are commonly associated with rivers and flood plains.

All Field Offices have now completed ranking EQIP applications, and all conservation plans have been developed and are being loaded into ProTracts. Offices are in the process of obtaining signatures on contractual documents.

The total for the 2007 Federal fiscal year (October 2006 to September 2007) has an estimated \$18.8 million in Federal assistance for works of protection tied to the six presidential declarations being evaluated by the EWP program. The total number of sites has yet to be totaled for all events as local districts are still working with local sponsors, such as Boards of County Commissioners. Many of the local sponsors are still dealing with clean up and infrastructure repairs from the one or more flood events that affected their respective counties.

FY2008 Funded Works of Protection

Congress has partially funded the January 12, 2007, Ice and Flood (FEMA Codes 3272 and 1678) that predominantly affected the eastern section of Oklahoma. The total works of protection amount to \$6.7 million for the event with \$4.8 million Federal assistance and \$1.9 million in local assistance. The funding level was for 70% of the requested Federal assistance.

The NRCS and local districts are working with sponsors to perform erosion protection of infrastructure during the month of December. Additional work will follow in the early spring with debris removal as necessary to protect downstream infrastructure from additional damage.

--ZONE NEWS--

ZONE 1 (Reported by Jamey Wood)

Alfalfa, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods, and Woodward Counties

The Northwest land and range judging contest was held during the first part of October on the ARS Southern Plains Range Research Station in Woodward. This year, 76 individuals participated in annual the contest. The contest provides FFA and 4-H students a chance to compete against other northwestern schools in soils classification, land use and plant ID. Each year the contest is a successful outreach to high school and junior high school students with interests in agriculture and natural resources. Conservation district and NRCS staff from Alfalfa, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, East Woods, and Woodward counties and Woodward TSO work to provide this annual outdoor learning contest. The sponsors of this land and range contest would like to thank ARS, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Northwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., for their support of this year's contest, and also 4-H and FFA.



Tea

Texas County

The Guymon office held a series of outreach meetings the first week of November. FSA and NRCS staff discussed USDA programs. The meetings were held in five Texas County communities.

The Guymon NRCS Field Office staff assisted Oklahoma Panhandle State University with their annual FFA Scholastics Contests November 14-15. The field office staff and Troy Collier, Woodward RSS prepared the land and rangeland judging contests.

Team 2

Alfalfa County



Robert Dotson speaking to the crowd.

On November 8, 2007, the Alfalfa County Conservation District and the Cherokee office held their 2nd annual Conservation Appreciation Program. About 175 people were in attendance for the program and catered meal. The NRCS was involved with the awards and used this opportunity to educate people about government programs that can help in conserving our natural resources. The NRCS provided the crowd with an overview of programs and opportunities and then asked for a survey to be completed for use in determining the needs in Alfalfa County. The District provided awards to the top three contestants in the OACD Alfalfa County poster, essay, and speech contests. Contestants that placed at the Area I level were also recognized. All the essay participants were given the opportunity to read their essays to the crowd.

Mike Thralls, OCC Executive Director, along with Jamey Wood, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), were in attendance. Mr. Thralls presented a short presentation on the state of Oklahoma's watersheds and expressed the need to repair and maintain watershed structures.

A PowerPoint program was played showing the district's equipment that is available for rent. It also depicted some of the services provided to Alfalfa County district cooperators. Robert Dotson, DC, gave a PowerPoint presentation about each awardee's operation and explained how each is outstanding in their respected fields. Kim Johnson received the Alfalfa County Cropland Conservationist of the Year Award and Ed Grover received the Alfalfa County Grazinglands Conservationist of the Year Award. They each received a plaque for their efforts in protecting the environment.

Team 3



Scott Cormack, ACCD Board Chair, presents Mr. Grover with his award.



Contest Participants from Burlington Schools

Kay County



Land Judging and Plant ID Contest – Kay County

Kay County Conservation District and the Newkirk Office held their annual land judging and plant ID contest in late October.

Oklahoma County

Three individual Outdoor Classrooms have been held at Crystal Lake in Oklahoma City this fall school semester. There were 110 students from Sunset Schools, 75 from Harvest Hills, and 80 from Jones Elementary School. The students were divided into four groups with four sessions lasting 50 minutes. Rod Shaw, DC, presented a variety of information concerning forestry, Becky Inmon, District Secretary, informed the students on water quality by using examples of the water cycle. Soil Scientists taught the students about the importance of the soil and understanding the soil profile. The other session included fishing, which was taught by volunteers of the ODWC. Don Bartolina, District Manager, assists with setting up the classrooms and provides support to presenters. The outdoor classrooms generally reach fourth and fifth grades and are always a success and appreciated by the students, teachers, and parents.



On November 15, an outreach program was held at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma County. Mr. Dwight Guy of USDA assisted in the organizational aspects of setting up this Ag Career Day presentation. There were approximately 200 freshman – senior classes in attendance at the event. High School instructors brought their classrooms around to hear presentations from various USDA and state agencies. Oklahoma County District conservationist, Rod Shaw and the Conservation Technician, Robert Dukes made presentations and handed out informational materials at the NRCS booth

ZONE 2 (Reported by Mark Habiger)

Team 4 – Bristow Field Office

On November 8, District Conservationist Nick Jones and Tribal Resource Conservationist Melanie Oliver of the Bristow field office conducted yet another outreach meeting in Creek County. The meeting was held as a locally led conservation effort as well as an informational program to a traditionally underserved area of the county. Nick explained the process of identifying local resource concerns and how those concerns were prioritized into program ranking tools. Nick and Melanie were well received and had participants schedule appointments and sign up for program assistance.



Nick Jones, DC, Bristow, provides program information at an outreach meeting held in Oilton.

Team 6 – Tahlequah Field Office

On October 26th, Dennis Ware, DC, and Cherokee County Conservation District Chair, Garland Phillips, attended the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) signing ceremony, inking the first contract in the 9,000 acre Illinois River Watershed. Several dignitaries attended the session, which was held at the Riverside Park on the bank of the Illinois River, owned by Cherokee Nation. Approximately 50 were in attendance to mark the occasion.



Illinois River CREP Signing Ceremony – Cherokee County

local sponsors are still dealing with clean-up and infrastructure repairs from the one or more flood events that affected their respective counties.

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--ZONE NEWS--

ZONE 1 (Reported by Jamey Wood)

Michael Sheik is the new District Conservationist for Garfield County. He served as the DC in Kingfisher County for the previous five years.

Latrechia Cunningham, Soil Conservationist in Oklahoma City, will serve as the Acting DC in Kingfisher County.

Devin Lolles, Soil Conservationist at Guthrie, has recently transferred and is the new Soil Conservationist in Watonga.

Team 2

Woods County

The Alva FO and Woods County Conservation District sponsored a Prescribed Burning Outreach and Association meeting at Freedom School Cafeteria on October 2. Brian Ringels (pictured) was the guest speaker for the evening, and shared the new burn video by OSU extension and NRCS. Brian encouraged participants to start now and allow plenty of time to get ready for next spring's burn.



Team 3

Grant County - The Grant County Conservation District recently held their annual speech, poster, and essay contests. Robert Cambron, NRCS technician, and Heath Herje, NRCS soil conservationist, assisted with judging the speech contest. Retired SCS District Conservationist, Bob Smith, judged the essay contest.

Speech winners:

Division I – 1st place – Emily Hawkins, Medford
2nd place – Elliot Muegge, Deer Creek-Lamont

Division II – 1st place –Crystal Reynolds, Deer Creek-Lamont
2nd place – Abbey Kilian, Medford

Essay winners:

Division I –1st place -Rachel Hopkins, Pond Creek-Hunter
2nd place – Clint Tolle, Deer Creek-Lamont
3rd place – Katherine Muegge, Deer Creek-Lamont

Division II – 1st place – Austin Cole, Pond Creek-Hunter

Rachel and Austin both won second place in the Area I essay contest

In addition, 141 posters were entered in the local poster contest. Sara Taylor from Pond Creek-Hunter was second place in the Area I contest. All participants will be honored in March at the Grant County Conservation District's annual Conservation Fair.



Crystal Reynolds, Deer Creek-Lamont



Elliot Muegge, Deer Creek-Lamont

ZONE 2 (Reported by Mark Habiger)

Team 6 – Sequoyah County - The Sequoyah County Conservation District and the Sallisaw FO, assisted by Robert Toole and Larry Caldwell, hosted a Watershed Tour and Luncheon on September 20. The purpose of the event was to inform and educate state and Federal legislators on the importance of flood retarding structures in Oklahoma.

Civil Rights Advisory Committee

Zone II Report

For the period 11/2007 to 2/2008

Submitted by: Kenneth L Hitch

Events Held

- The Muskogee County Field Office assisted the International Heifer Association as they held their first meeting in Boynton Oklahoma on Friday the 18th of January. There were producers from Muskogee, Okmulgee, and Wagoner counties. This group is for beginning farmers and landowners to learn how to care for their animals and protect their natural resources. Transfer of information, technology, and animal health are the focus of the group. Several meetings are going to be set up in the area to assist new landowners. Pictured below, Andy Qualls of the Muskogee County Conservation District discussed state funding programs and manure applications. Danielle Whaley, District Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Muskogee County discussed Farm Bill programs available to Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers, as well as Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, and technical advice that the office can assist in. Rodney King with OSU extension was also on hand to discuss soil testing concerns. The meeting was well attended by over 20 local producers.
- The Osage County Field Office held a meeting on November 6th in conjunction with the Osage County Cattlemans Association, Oklahoma State Extension and the Farm Service Agency, at the Osage Co. Fairgrounds building. There were presentations on the availability of conservation programs through the NRCS and how and where to apply for programs.
- The Stillwell Field Office had an outreach meeting on November 5th on Poultry operations and Water Quality. On December 4th they also offered initial 9 hours of Poultry Waste Management training. They have had numerous articles in the local papers. We have also distributed several handouts throughout the community



Danielle D. Whaley- DC for the NRCS offers assistance on Farm Bill programs and services offered by the

- Matt Ward conducted annual Civil Rights Training for all Zone II employees at the Zone II all Employee meeting on Dec 19th in Pryor. The training was well received. Matt Ward and I participated in an outreach meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Technology Center Adult Agribusiness Class. Matt discussed USDA program availability with those in attendance. There were lots of questions and informal discussions after the meeting adjourned. Matt Ward, Jasper Parker, and Deeann Littlefield attended a career and information fair at the cave springs school on 1/28/2008. There were approximately 50 individuals in attendance to find out about services and careers with USDA.

Events Planned

- The Jay Field Office is planning an outreach event for API Outreach in the area for this spring. The meeting is in the planning stage and they are still working with presenters and community representatives to set the meeting date and location.



Civil Rights Activity Report
for
Zone 3 by Brandy Pietz-Jones
February 7, 2008

The third annual Southern Plains No-Till Conference was held on January 17 in Hollis. Approximately 125 individuals attended to learn more about no-till farming operations in southwest Oklahoma. In the morning, presentations were given by experienced no-till farmer Alan Mindemann and OSU Extension Educator Gary Strickland regarding their experiences with no-till. NRCS Soil Scientist Clay Salisbury covered soil improvements resulting from no-till farming, and Zone 3 Program Liaison Brandy Pietz-Jones talked about how no-till fits into NRCS cost-share programs. Following the free lunch, a panel discussion was held, featuring 4 no-till farmers from southwest Oklahoma, Alan Mindemann (Apache, OK), David Eyster (Thomas, OK), Kerald Searcey (Gould, OK), and Richard Waters (Hydro, OK), as well as NRCS's Clay Salisbury and OSU Extension's Gary Strickland. Producers were able to get good experience-based answers to their no-till questions. Several vendors had booths and no-till equipment on display throughout the day. Many NRCS employee's attended and received CEU's.



Clay Salisbury, RSS- Zone3 giving his talk.



Jim Bob Wilson, SCT Hollis FO and Ryan Jones, DC Mangum help register people for their CEU's

Respectively Submitted
Brandy Pietz-Jones

Zone 4 Report

Thomas E James
DC Wewoka OK

Zone 4 Wewoka Field Office was invited to attend the 9th Annual Small Farmers Conference held at the Wewoka Civic Center Nov. 16, 17 2007. This Conference was sponsored by the Oklahoma Black Historical Society. The theme for this years conference was "Decline of the Black Farmer & How Will the New Farm Bill Benefit Small and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers."

Jasper Parker, ASC Outreach/Civil Rights, Brent Pannell, Programs Liaison Zone 4, Dwight Guy, Outreach liaison with Langston University and Thomas James District Conservationist were on hand to discuss topics relating to the 2002 Farm Bill, and work the NRCS Booth.

Guest speakers included, (not limited to), Senator Harry Coats, Tammy Steele, Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc, Quinton Robinson, Rural Coalition Washington DC, Francis Gibson, Director United Farmers, USA South Carolina,

On Nov. 16 about 25 High School students and their parents attended the conference. Dwight Guy discussed the 1890USDA Scholars Program, Mayer Hargrove of Wewoka discussed the rich Cultural Heritage of Seminole County and the Wewoka area. Afterwards Brent Pannell and Thomas James discussed the EQIP Program in general and ended up discussing the Manure Transfer Program in a little more detail.

Nov. 17 was a much larger turn out. Approximately 150 producers from all over Oklahoma turned out. Guest speakers discussed both the 2002 and 2007 Farm Bill. Thomas James District Conservationist for Seminole county was on hand to answer questions about the EQIP program. About 100 EQIP applications were handed out. This resulted in around 15 applications taken. Unfortunately for Seminole County none of the applications were for here. All the applications were for Okfuskee County. These applications were mailed to the Okfuskee Field Office for consideration and ranking.

Attached are a few pictures to this conference.



