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President's Message

Hola NOPHNRCSE Members,

Spring is in the air and with that comes flowers, birds singing, blooming trees, and spring showers. It is exciting to see how mother nature spoils us with this beautiful rebirth of the land year after year. That being said, NOPHNRCSE also is on a rebirth path.

This summer (June 28-30, 2014) the NOPHNRCSE East region will partner with the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and attend the New York City Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute in Staten Island, New York. NOPHNRCSE members will participate in the Institute and mentor minority students, provide technical assistance for a field tour, and promote NRCS programs and careers. In addition, the East region will hold a regional business meeting and provide training. The East region submitted a proposal for a regional outreach and professional development activity to the NOPHNRCSE National Council and we approved it. This is an exciting opportunity to bring together NOPHNRCSE members, NRCS employees, and minority youth.

I am in the process of communicating with Dr. Eduardo Romero, co-founder and co-organizer of Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference. We are discussing how NOPHNRCSE can partner with them for our annual conference and to look for other partnership opportunities. Latinos in Agriculture was established to capitalize and discuss the transformation of the Hispanic Agricultural workforce as well as to share and implement recruitment and outreach strategies. The conference hopes to increase the Latino student population into the educational pipeline with the goal of attaining employment in industry, government, and higher education. For more information, please visit their website <http://latinosinagriculture.org/>. The 4th Annual Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference is October 17-19, 2014, at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center. I will share more information once I have visited with Dr. Romero.

We have reestablished the awards committee under Luis Hernandez's leadership. We will be reinstituting our membership awards and our Farmer of the Year award. Please stay tuned for nomination requests.

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NOPHNRCSE East Region Plans Outreach and Professional Development Workshop

by Kristina Wiley, East Region Representative, Amherst, Massachusetts

East region members are busy planning an exciting regional activity to be held this summer, June 28-30, 2014, in New Jersey and New York.

NOPHNRCSE East region will partner with the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and attend the New York City Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute on Staten Island, N.Y. NOPHNRCSE members will participate in the Institute and mentor minority students, provide technical assistance for a field tour, staff six hands-on conservation stations, and promote NRCS programs and careers.

The Institute is an intensive, science-based, environmental education and environment career program sponsored by NHEC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Forest Service.

Using classroom and outdoor settings, the Institute is designed to help build the environmental leaders and professionals of tomorrow by educating, engaging, and inspiring youth, especially Latinos and other minorities, on a range of environmental and natural resource issues. The Institute is also designed to give information on the many different college and career opportunities in the environment, and to assist students to pursue these careers in the future, especially at the U.S. Forest Service and NRCS.

In addition to partnering with the Institute, the East region will hold a regional business meeting and provide training, which will be made available to all NOPHNRCSE members and HEPs via VTC and conference call. The regional event starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, 2014, with the regional business meeting. On Sunday, June 29, the East region will join the Institute on Staten Island, N.Y. for a day of field tours. The training session, hosted by the NRCS New Jersey state office, begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 30, and ends at 1:00 p.m. Tentative training topics include: Budget 101/Appropriations, Leadership Development, and OPM Diversity and Inclusion—Strategic Plans.

Planning team members include: Gisela Carmenaty, Maria Collazo, Zenik Crespo, Tim Garrahan, Irma Hernandez, Edwin Muniz, Noel Soto, and Kristie Wiley.

For more information about the East region event, contact East region representative Kristie Wiley at 413-949-1168, or email kristie.wiley@charter.net.

President's Message continued...

As many of you are aware, the Department of Agriculture and NRCS are taking the results of the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey very seriously. Secretary Vilsack and Chief Weller are committed to making USDA and NRCS one of the best places to work within the federal government. To that end, they have tasked State Conservationists and employee organization presidents with implementing a 2-2-2 plan to help them understand what employees believe we do well, and to address challenges with communication and leadership. The plan will identify at least two, specific, quantifiable actions that we will accomplish within the next 30 days, the next 90 days, and the next 150 days. In support of this, the NOPHNRCSE National Council agreed to implement a 2-2-2 plan for the organization. Once the plan is finalized, we will share it with all of you.

Please don't forget to join our NOPHNRCSE Facebook page. May these Spring rain showers bring you a lot of new flowers, sunshine, life, love, and health.

Sincerely,

Astrid Martinez
NOPHNRCSE President



Bertha Venegas, Acting National HEPM

Bertha T. Venegas serves as State Outreach Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas. In her position, she serves as NRCS Liaison coordinating outreach efforts with organizations that work closely

with socially disadvantaged and limited resources farmers and ranchers with program information and planning and application of conservation work.

In her 25 years of service with the federal government, she has served as Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) coordinator, assisting rural communities in central and south Texas and providing leadership in resource management and sustainability to local, state and federal entities, community based organizations, nonprofits, and individuals. She served in various other positions in Texas including soil conservationist and district conservationist in Eagle Pass, San Antonio, Hondo, Boerne, and Johnson City, providing financial and technical assistance to landowners.

She served in a collateral position as Federal Women's Program Manager, as representative to the Civil Rights Committee, and helped develop and teach national training courses through the National Employee Development Center (NEDC).

Mrs. Venegas was honored by the Chief of NRCS with the National Civil Rights Award and has received numerous awards and recognitions with the agency. She was presented with the Outstanding Coordinator Award by the Southwestern States RC&D Association. She served as President of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees and was honored with both the Leadership and Visionary Awards.

Bertha, a native Texan, was born and raised in Eagle Pass. She attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where she received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

Mrs. Venegas is married and has two children. In her spare time, she likes to work on her family ranch managing native wildlife. She enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, and fishing.

NOPHNRCS Committees

Awards Committee

Chair: Luis Hernandez

Communications Committee

Chair: Lori Valadez

Constitution & Bylaws, Historical Perspective Committee

Chair: Vacant

Finance (Audit, Budget, Ways & Means) Committee

Chair: Vacant

Membership Committee

Chair: Tim Garrahan

Natural Resources Committee

Chair: Vacant

Nominations Committee

Chair: Michael Castillo

Partnerships (Legislative & International Affairs) Committee

Chair: Vacant

Recruitment & Career Development Committee

Chair: Vacant

Scholarship and Endowment Committee

Chair: Jessie Howard

Legislative Affairs Committee

Chair: Vacant

Historically Hispanic Colleges Committee

Chair: Vacant

Women's Issues Committee

Chair: Vacant

Ad Hoc Committee – Facebook

Chair: Lori Valadez

There are several vacant committee chair positions. Please consider volunteering on a committee. It's a great way to develop your leadership skills, enhance your time management skills, and showcase your talents.

If you are interested in chairing a committee or serving as a committee member, contact NOPHNRCS Vice President, Herman Garcia, at herman.garcia@az.usda.gov.

Rancho Gonzalez: A Long Legacy of Agricultural Production

by Jessica Benavides-Paredes, Federal Women's Program Manager and Soil Conservationist, Texas NRCS

It all began with the legacy of Dionico Elizondo, the first person who set claim to *El Senor de la Carrere Land Grant* with 10,078 acres of sandy loam soil. The first survey was completed by Don Antonio Canales Rosillo on September 15, 1835 and Dionico Elizondo was given possession of the land on November 29, 1835. This land grant is located in southern Duval County, due east of Rios, Texas. In the process of moving to *El Senor de la Carrera Ranch* in Duval County, Dionico Elizondo passed away, and he was not able to develop the ranch in Duval.

It was around 1835 that Dionicio's daughter, Viviana Elizondo, decided to develop a cattle and sheep operation in Duval County. Viviana Elizondo was the only sibling that kept the Dionicio inheritance of the land grant. A lifetime legacy of ancestors (*antepasados*) was the beginning of many hardships and many memorable events of the ranching era at *El Senor de la Carrera Land Grant*. After seven generations, the management of cattle continues to be the heart and soul of the property as it first began in 1835.



The Gonzalezes are active with Farm Bureau, American Quarter Horse Association, Paint Horse Association, and the Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico Horse Racing Commission. In addition, the Gonzalez family has showed livestock at Jim Wells County Fair for more than 50 years.



George Gonzalez (left) and Roberto C. Gonzalez (right) are pictured above with their Texas Family Land Heritage award. George is a NRCS soil conservationist in the Benavides Field Office in Texas.

The family continues to pay tribute to the ranch family *antepasados*. Many acres of *El Senor de las Carrera* are still used for agricultural production. After 175 years, the ranching and management of the property are being conducted in a new era of ranching at Rancho Gonzalez. In fact, direct descendant, Mr. Ramiro Vera Gonzalez, inherited 101 acres and purchased an additional 88.8 acres. Ramiro and his wife, Elodia Canales Gonzalez, raised 12 children on this land. Mrs. Elodia C. Gonzalez, 91 years old, has lived on this ranch for 73 years. The Gonzalez family has been dedicated to actively implementing conservation on the land since 1954.

Currently, Rancho Gonzalez is operated by great-grandsons Roberto C. Gonzalez, a Vietnam veteran wounded during the war in 1970, and his brother George Gonzalez, NRCS soil conservationist technician and NOPHNRCSE member. They are both stewards of the land and manage the property as a cow-calf operation of 1,000 acres with a synergetic family vegetable garden. Rancho Gonzalez has been recognized by the Texas Family Land Heritage Program, a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more.

Helping People Help the Land

Arkansas Soil Scientists Participate in a Soil Survey Mapping Detail in Wyoming

by Jacqueline Vega and Angel Domenech, Soil Scientists, Arkansas



Arkansas soil scientist Jacqueline Vega stands in her mapping area in Sweetwater County, Wyo.

The NRCS Soil Science Division has a goal of completing initial soil surveys across the United States in the next four years. To accomplish the goal of mapping soils across the U.S., the state of Wyoming requested assistance from other soil survey offices across the nation. Two soil scientists from Arkansas, Jacqueline Vega and Angel Domenech, joined soil scientists from New York, Missouri, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Florida, New Mexico, and Idaho to map soils in Wyoming during the summers of 2012 and 2013.

Soil scientists map, describe, classify, and interpret the soils. This scientifically based soils information is used for a wide range of community planning and resource development issues related to non-farm and farm uses. Collected data is eventually published on the internet through the Web Soil Survey. Soil surveys help people make sound decisions about soil resources, and are often used by land owners to select the best practices for conservation.

The summer detailees conducted initial soil survey on unmapped areas in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The county is 6,592,253 acres in size with approximately 4.6 million acres unmapped. The detailees' efforts resulted in approximately 250,000 acres being mapped in Wyoming during the past two summers.



Opportunities to gain field experience on initial soil survey are becoming limited because there are few soil surveys left to complete nationally. As a result, the experience Vega and Domenech gained during their mapping detail has brought a wealth of knowledge to soil survey operations in Arkansas.

Pictured left: Angel Domenech, soil scientist from Arkansas, sits on the Green River formation in Sweetwater County, Wyo.

News from Around the Regions

In each issue of *La Voz* we would like to feature news from each region. Tell us about the exciting things happening in your area. Spotlight a new member. Share your volunteer experience. Tell us what is unique about your state. We want to hear from you! Work with your regional representative to ensure your region is featured in each issue of *La Voz*.

EAST REGION

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia

Meet Frances Vazquez—RI Earth Team Volunteer



At a recent East region teleconference, NOPHNRCS members welcomed a special guest—Frances Vazquez, a sophomore civil engineering and French major at the University of Rhode Island. Frances is very active in her community and loves networking and learning about different cultures. She participates in

multiple organizations such as The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP).

Frances shared her educational and professional goals. She said, “My educational goals are to obtain a Ph.D in civil/environmental engineering as well as finding a way to incorporate art into my degree. My career aspiration is to become a philanthropist and be the founder of my own nonprofit organization aimed to educate people in developing countries on sustainability as well as provide basic needs such as fresh water.”

Frances recently became an Earth Team volunteer for NRCS Rhode Island. “I hope to learn how I can use the skills that I am learning as a civil engineer and apply that to conservation of our natural resources,” Frances said.

Part of the NOPHNRCS mission is to strengthen NRCS efforts in the recruitment, retention, development, and advancement of Hispanics. East region members were delighted to meet Frances, a future natural resources professional who shares our passion for conservation.

MIDWEST REGION

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Rocemi Morales is Named Regional Representative for the Midwest Region



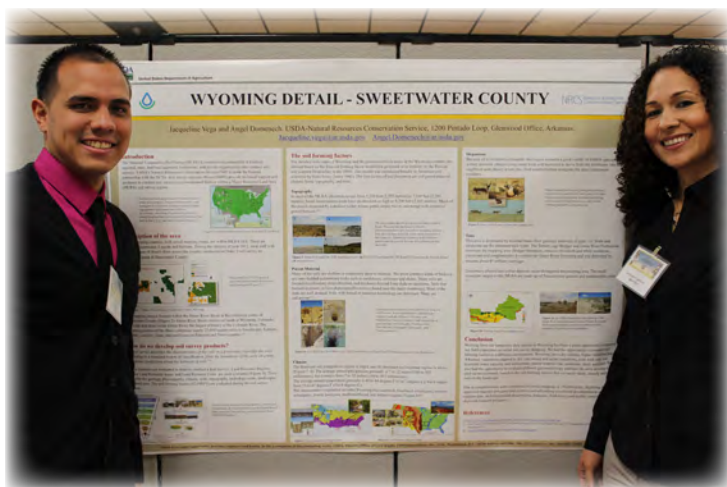
Rocemi started her NRCS career in 2003 as a soil conservationist summer trainee in Ohio with the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). She worked in Medina and Wayne counties during the summer, and completed a second summer position before accepting a full-time position as a soil conservationist in Ashland, Ohio.

In 2005, Rocemi became the grassland specialist for northwest Ohio, and in 2006 she became the watershed coordinator for Huron-Vermillion CSP watershed, while still working on her grassland specialist duties. Rocemi became a district conservationist for Erie County, Ohio in 2008. In addition, she was selected as HEPM and served in that position until 2012. In 2013, Rocemi became a resource conservationist when NRCS merged Erie and Huron counties. In January 2014, Rocemi took a lateral move to Lorain and Median counties as a resource conservationist.

Rocemi holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from the University of Puerto Rico, and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Phoenix.

NORTHERN PLAINS REGION

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska,
North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming



Soil Scientists Angel Domenech and Jacqueline Vega share their Wyoming detail experience at the "58th Annual Rural Life Conference." The attendees included farmers, ranchers, homemakers, and other professionals in agriculture.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas



Flavio Garza Jr., NOPHNRSC South Central Regional Representative, and Jessica Benavides-Paredes, Texas Federal Women's Program Manager, attended the 2014 National Farmworker Conference in McAllen, Texas.

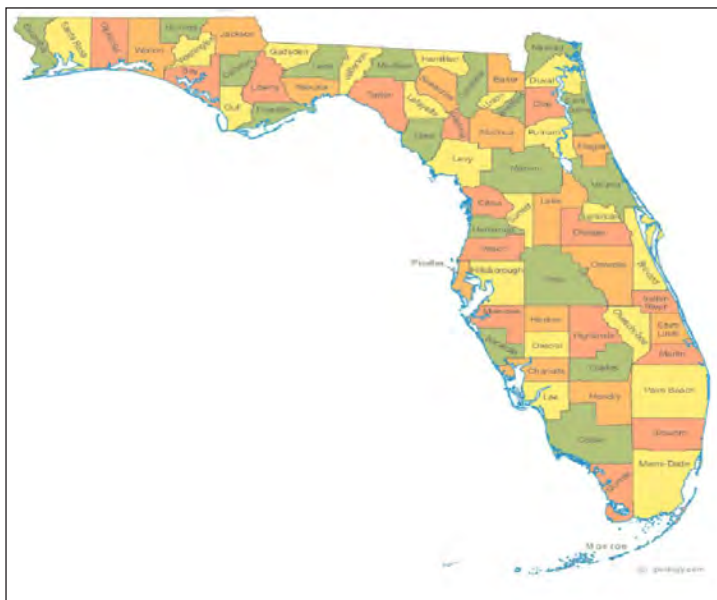
SOUTHEAST REGION

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

State Profile: Florida

by Luis A. Cruz-Arroyo, Resource Conservationist, Alabama

Sources: US Census Bureau, Pew Hispanic Center,
Hispanic Leadership Network



- ▶ The Florida Hispanic population is **4,536,264**, accounting for approximately **23.2 percent** of the population.
- ▶ The national origins of Hispanics in Florida are mainly of Cuban and Puerto Rican descent, with 32 and 28 percent respectively.
- ▶ 1,660,000 of the Hispanic population are eligible voters in Florida, which constitute 13.9 percent of all eligible voters.
- ▶ \$20,900 is the median annual earning of Hispanics in Florida, compared to \$30,000 for non-Hispanic whites.
- ▶ 33 percent of Hispanics in Florida do not have health insurance.
- ▶ 31 percent of Hispanics in Florida 17 years old and younger live in poverty.

CARIBBEAN AREA

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands



Soil scientist, Samuel Ríos helps Boy Scouts dig soil cores in Maricao, Puerto Rico.

WEST REGION

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

Tribute to the Past

by Mary Sanchez, West Region Representative

As west region representative trying to update our membership and going through the west region state directories, I see many new names in NOPHNCSE, and less of the older NOPHNCSE members, mostly due to retirement. I would like to take this time to pay tribute to the retired NOPHNCSE members of the west region and say **THANK YOU** for your service and commitment. I wish you all the best. Come back and visit—and send us pictures of what retirement is like!

El Puerto Ranch—Owned by a Woman of Character, Courage, and Commitment

by Jessica Benavides-Paredes, Federal Women's Program Manager and Soil Conservationist, Texas NRCS

Traveling towards Garceno, Texas in Starr County, down County Road 649 and turning on Sanchez Road, you will find El Puerto Ranch, owned by Maria G. Salinas. The ranch has been in her family for over 300 years. *Es mi vida el Rancho*, translated to, 'My life is the ranch,' is how Mrs. Salinas describes her passion for the ranch.



Maria G. Salinas on her ranch in Starr County, Texas.



Mrs. Salinas receives the Resident Conservation Rancher of the Year award.

Mrs. Salinas has participated in programs that provide technical and financial assistance through her local NRCS office. Her top priorities for improving the ranch are rotational grazing, brush management, range seeding, and adding water troughs and pipelines. She has been working with the Starr County office for over eight years and has seen the benefits of the programs as her land has improved.

She learned at an early age what hard work and dedication took. *En el rancho tienes que hacer de todo*, translated to, 'in the ranch you have to do everything'—build fences, tend to the animals, assist with planting and harvesting, dig trenches, and tend to things that need to be done.

Mrs. Maria G. Salinas is an admirable and remarkable woman, and is a true testament to her family's hard work, commitment, and dedication on the land. Her passion for the ranch is evident. Mrs. Salinas' conservation and proper management efforts were recognized by the Starr County Soil and Water Conservation District #332 in 2012 when she was awarded the Resident Conservation Rancher of the Year.

2014 NOPHNCRCSE AWARDS

by Luis Hernandez, Awards Committee Chair

The Awards Committee will soon solicit nominations for the 2014 award recipients. There are members in our organization who contribute far beyond the call of duty. This is an excellent opportunity to voice your appreciation and nominate them for an award.

NOPHNCRCSE AWARD CATEGORIES

Leadership

The NOPHNCRCSE Leadership Award recognizes the accomplishments of proactive and motivated men and women who are active members in the Hispanic community. The award especially recognizes their participation in and support of NOPHNCRCSE, in addition to their contributions in their profession and Hispanic communities. This award is given in tribute to the forerunners and pacesetters of the organization whose dedication and leadership resulted in the creation of the organization. Only one award will be presented each year.

Visionary

The NOPHNCRCSE Visionary Award recognizes the accomplishments of forward-looking and innovative men and women who are active members in the Hispanic community. The award especially recognizes their participation in and support of NOPHNCRCSE, in addition to their contributions to their profession and Hispanic community. This award is given in tribute to pioneers of the organization whose hard work and

vision resulted in the creation of the organization. Only one award will be presented each year.

Award of Excellence in Natural Resources Conservation

The NOPHNCRCSE Award of Excellence in Natural Resources Conservation is designed to recognize individuals who, over a period of time, have contributed substantially and creatively to our natural resources conservation profession. The recipient should exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, in multi-discipline efforts that promote excellence and creativity. The recipient also should demonstrate leadership and involvement in NOPHNCRCSE. Members who are currently serving on the National Council or serving as a current committee chair are not eligible for Awards of Excellence. The Awards Committee will decide the number of award(s) presented each year.

Award of Excellence in Hispanic Community Outreach

The NOPHNCRCSE Award of Excellence in Hispanic Outreach is designed to recognize individuals who, over a period of time, have contributed substantially and creatively to Hispanic communities. The recipient should exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, in multi-discipline efforts that promote excellence and creativity. The recipient also should demonstrate leadership

and involvement in NOPHNCRCSE. Members who are currently serving on the National Council or serving as a current committee chair are not eligible for Awards of Excellence. The Awards Committee will decide the number of award(s) presented each year.

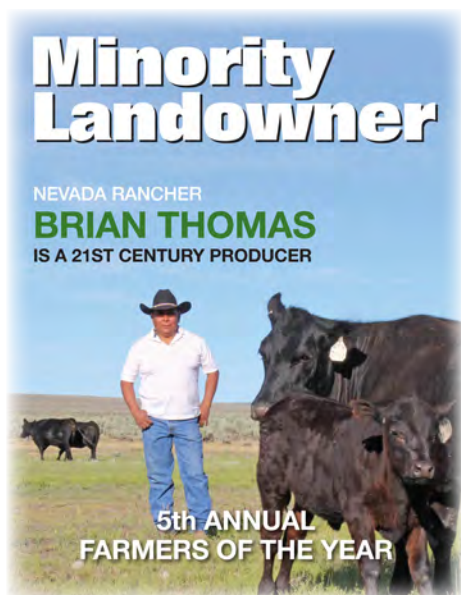
Outstanding NOPHNCRCSE Member Award

The NOPHNCRCSE Outstanding Member Award is the highest recognition given by the members, themselves, to one of its members. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in professionalism and leadership as a NOPHNCRCSE member. It is based on achievements in NOPHNCRCSE over an extended period of years and on participation and support of the NOPHNCRCSE mission. Only one award will be presented each year.

Amiga/Amigo Award

The NOPHNCRCSE Amiga/Amigo Award recognizes the activities of an individual(s) or organization, which have substantially contributed towards the improvement of NOPHNCRCSE and/or the Hispanic community at large, in regards to visibility, information dissemination, and program accessibility. The recipient should demonstrate an involvement with the Hispanic community, and by actions, show support of NOPHNCRCSE's vision and mission. Only one award will be presented each year.

The nomination form and guidelines will be posted to the NOPHNCRCSE website and distributed to the membership via email in the coming days.



Last year's magazine cover.

Minority Landowner Magazine Will Recognize Minority Farmers

Minority Landowner magazine will publish its **6th Annual Farmers of the Year** issue this summer. In this issue, the magazine will feature minority *Farmers of the Year* as formally or informally selected by universities, community-based

organizations, USDA agencies, and state agriculture and forestry agencies.

Company and organizations are invited to select a minority *Farmer of the Year* and share their story with others across the country through this special issue of *Minority Landowner*. Whether your process is formal, or informal, you are still eligible to participate.

To recognize a minority farmer or rancher, download the *Farmer of the Year* submittal form from the *Minority Landowner* website at <http://www.minoritylandowner.com/page4.php>. Complete the form and submit the following information no later than June 27, 2014:

1. Name of your 2014 Farmer of the Year recipient
2. Recipient's mailing address, phone number, and email address
3. Name of selecting organization
4. Selecting organization's contact person, mailing address, phone number, and email address
5. A quality, high resolution jpeg digital photograph of the Farmer of the Year
6. A 200-word narrative summarizing the outstanding accomplishments of the Farmer of the Year

Send all information by email to minoritylandowner@earthlink.net, or mail it to Minority Landowner Magazine, Farmer of the Year, PO Box 97033, Raleigh, NC 27624.

2014 NOPHNRCSE Scholarship

The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2014 Scholarship. This year, the committee will be offering four scholarships to deserving Hispanic students whom have an interest in a career related to natural resources. The deadline for consideration is **Friday June 13, 2014**. Please find the application posted to the NOPHNRCSE website at www.nophnrcse.org. For additional information, please contact Lindsay Martinez, at (812)689-6410 ext. 133, or email scholarships@nophnrcse.org.

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NOPHNRCSE 2014 Election News

The NOPHNRCSE Election Committee, led by Mike Castillo, would like to officially announce the 2014 NOPHNRCSE Election will be starting soon.

According to our NOPHNRCSE Constitution and Bylaws, the positions that will be open in 2014 are:

- ▶ President
- ▶ Executive Vice President
- ▶ Secretary
- ▶ Caribbean–Regional Representative
- ▶ East–Regional Representative
- ▶ Midwest–Regional Representative
- ▶ Northern Plains–Regional Representative

As per Constitution and Bylaws, in order to participate in the election, one must be a current paid member. The elections committee has established the deadline of April 30, 2014 in order to be considered a current or paid member. So if you are interested and plan to run for office, or most importantly, wish to nominate and vote in upcoming election, it is very important that your dues for 2014 are paid by the noted date.

Also, to login to the NOPHNRCSE website and participate in the election process, you will need to be a paid member. The website will not allow non-members to login and participate.

The following timeline has been established for the 2014 election:

- Membership dues must be paid by April 30, 2014.
- Nomination period will be from May 9 to May 25, 2014.
- Election period will be from June 1 to June 30, 2014.
- Runoff election period, if needed, will be from July 8 to July 20, 2014.
- The results will be sent to Astrid Martinez, NOPHNRCSE President, by July 31, 2014.

The 2014 NOPHNRCSE Election Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the 2013 election process.

Any organization is only as strong as its members who care enough to participate. Please participate in this important process.

2013 - 2014 National Council

President

Astrid Martinez, Wyoming

Executive Vice President

Irma Hernández, NHQ

Vice President

Herman Garcia, Arizona

Treasurer

Brunilda Velez, Rhode Island

Secretary

Tania Nanna, North Dakota

Caribbean Area Representative

Ismael Matos, Puerto Rico

East Region Representative

Kristina Wiley, Massachusetts

Midwest Region Representative

Rocemi Morales, Ohio

Northern Plains Region Representative

Rocemi Morales, Ohio

South Central Region Representative

Flavio Garza, Texas

Southeast Region Representative

Luis Cruz-Arroyo, Alabama

West Region Representative

Mary Sanchez, New Mexico

La Voz is the official newsletter for the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees. Your ideas, suggestions, comments, and articles are welcome.

Articles may be sent via email as either an MS Word attachment saved as text only, or pasted directly into your email message.

Photographs should be emailed as a separate jpg attachment. Please include a caption for each photo submitted.

Send items to: kristie.wiley@charter.net

The deadline for submitting articles for the July issue of **La Voz** is July 1, 2014.