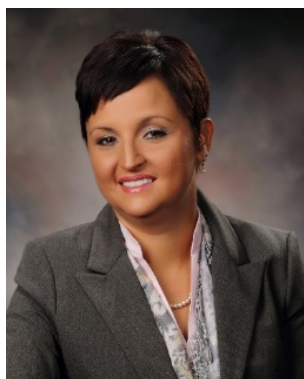




World Soil Day 2016 Event: Noche de Ciencias (Science Night)...Page 6



Happy New Year

I am pleased to announce the bulletin announcing the 2017 Joint Meeting of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNCSE), the National Organization of Professional Women in NRCS (WiN) and the Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO), in partnership with NEDC went out on January 10, 2017. The due date for all states to submit approval attendance is January 27, 2017. Please see link for bulletin: <https://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=40273>

NOPHNCSE, WiN, APIO and NEDC will provide five (5) trainings from March 13-16, 2017, in Grapevine, Texas. The courses we are offering with NEDC are:

- Managing for Excellence
- Supervising for Excellence
- Civil Rights for Program Delivery
- Improving Conservation Delivery for Women Landowners and Producers
- Working Effectively with Asian Producers



Hispanic Association of College and Universities...Page 3



NRCS Employees Go Above and Beyond to Feed Families...Page 5



World Soil Day 2016 Event: Noche de Ciencias (Science Night) 7...Page 6

Immediately following the NEDC training courses, NOPHNCSE, WiN and APIO are partnering to sponsor and host technical training sessions from March 17-18, 2017, in Grapevine, Texas

The offerings are:

- Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM)
- Soil Health Workshops
- Conservation Planning Tools
- Engineering Tools
- Leadership Training

The training will be held at the Courtyard-Town Place Sweets Grapevine, TX. For Hotel reservations please call the Courtyard Phone: 817-251-9095 or the TownePlace Suites Phone: 817-421-6121. Please identify yourself as part of the NOPHNCSE group to guarantee government rate of \$154. The deadline to reserve room and guarantee rates is February 24, 2017. Registration forms will be posted on the website and Facebook page in a week or so.

We are very excited to be partnering with WiN, APIO and NEDC to host this year's training. The three organizations and NEDC have been working together in the last 3 months to bring you all top notch trainings and at the same time give you an opportunity to network with National Leadership. Please visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information regarding the 2017 Joint training.

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National Council

President

Astrid Martínez, WY

astrid.martinez@wy.usda.gov

Executive Vice President

Michael Margo, CT

michael.margo@ct.usda.gov

Vice President

Bianca Díaz, NJ

bianca.diaz.deliz@nj.usda.gov

Treasurer

Edgar Cantu, RI

Edgar.Cantu@ri.usda.gov

Secretary

Janella Cruz, NY

janella.cruz@ny.usda.gov

West Region Representative

Mary Sánchez, NM

Mary.Sanchez@nm.usda.gov

Caribbean Area Representative

Ismael Matos, PR

Ismael.Matos@pr.usda.gov

East Region Representative

Gisela Carmenaty, PA

Gisela.Carmenaty@pa.usda.gov

Midwest Region Representative

Rocemi Morales, OH

Rocemi.Morales@oh.usda.gov

Northern Plains Region Representative

Roberto Luciano, ND

Roberto.Luciano@nd.usda.gov

South Central Region Representative

Flavio Garza, TX

Flavio.Garza@tx.usda.gov

Southeast Region Representative

Joxelle Velázquez-García, MS

Joxelle.Velazquez@ms.usda.gov

South Central Region

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

By Melissa Blair, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist



Eileen Vale, Texas HEPM, talks to students at the HACU conference

As part of our outreach to colleges and universities in Texas and throughout the nation, NRCS employees had an opportunity to answer questions for participants of the 30th National HACU Conference that was held in San Antonio, Texas. Approximately 1,750 college and university staff attended the conference and brought 600-800 students interested in careers with the federal government. HACU represents more than 470 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain. Although its member institutions in the U.S. represent only 10% of all higher education institutions nationwide, together they are home to more than two-thirds of all Hispanic college students. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

Texas NRCS Embraces Hispanic Heritage Month

By Eileen Vale, Texas Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager

“Honoring Our Heritage. Building our Future”

The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff took time to observe Hispanic Heritage Month on September 27 in Temple. Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated September 15 through October 15 and every year NRCS takes the time to celebrate and recognize contributions of the Hispanic heritage and culture.

This year Texas NRCS celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by having a pot luck luncheon along with a power point presentation highlighting the agency’s Hispanic employees. The presentation included Hispanic producers who have served as outreach role models to other producers. It also highlighted some of the projects NRCS provided to Hispanic communities, such as community gardens and seasonal high tunnels.

The pot luck luncheon included Hispanic dishes such as homemade flour tortillas, salsa, tamales, enchiladas, rice, beans, Puerto Rican rice and beans, Puerto Rican roasted pork, carne picadillo (ground Beef), queso (cheese dip), Mexican candies and pan dulce (sweet bread). Needless to say, participants who attended the pot luck luncheon had plenty of Hispanic foods to sample from.

Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology (HESTEC) Week

By Eileen Vale, Texas Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager



Educators and students learned this first hand during the Hispanic Engineering, Science, Technology (HESTEC) week recently held at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in Edinburg, Texas, where they were provided with a wealth of information that can be incorporated into STEM.

Bertha Venegas, NRCS state outreach coordinator, kicked off the week with a presentation to educators on how NRCS can serve as their STEM gateway. The

presentation familiarized teachers with careers available with NRCS and the various degrees required to qualify for these agency positions.

Jessica Benavides-Paredes, NRCS soil conservationist and Albert Aguirre, NRCS engineer, presented during the Student Leadership Day. The use of survey equipment was demonstrated to 100 high school students. The demonstration also included how the information taught using the equipment can be used in math and how NRCS employees utilize this technology in their careers.

For Latina Day, Mari Hrebik, NRCS engineer, spoke to over seventy young Latinas about her role as an engineer and how through her speech - "Anything is possible if they strive for it." Latina Day is dedicated to celebrating and promoting women in the STEM fields. The attendees were comprised of mother-daughter duos from throughout South Texas and were brought together to hear the inspiring stories of prominent minority women who are succeeding in STEM careers.

NRCS' participation in HESTEC week concluded with a Fall Career Expo. Benavides-Paredes and Flavio Garza, NRCS resource team leader in Laredo, provided college students information about careers with NRCS and USDA. The Fall Career Expo included representatives from corporations and government agencies.

Recognized as a "Bright Spot in Hispanic Education" by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, HESTEC is a nationally acclaimed program for promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to students of all ages.

NRCS Employees Go Above and Beyond to Feed Families

By Melissa Blair, Public Affair Specialist



Last year, Texas NRCS employees helped feed needy families with a donation of **8,415.5** pounds of non-perishable goods to the Feds Feed Families Campaign.

In 2016, USDA's goal was to **"Beat the Best."** NRCS Texas has donated a staggering **51,853** pounds.

Raul "Ray" Hinojosa, DC in Edinburg, worked with Wallace Farms to donate 41,172 pounds of watermelons and 1,260 pounds of black-eyed peas to the food bank. Hinojosa also donated 358 pounds of dry goods to wrap up the campaign. Other NRCS employees who went above and beyond in their contributions for the Feds Feed Families and were recognized in the Hall of Fame, were Ty Williams, soil conservationist in the San Angelo Field office. He and his family farm, donate every year and this year 2,750 pounds of watermelons were donated to the Concho Valley Regional Food Bank for the Platinum Hall of Fame. Robbie Clemens, soil conservationist in Gilmer, was also recognized for her contributions of more than 250 pounds of food for the Silver Hall of Fame.

6th Annual Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference

Salvador Salinas, USDA-NRCS Texas State Conservationist, spoke during the 6th Annual Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference, October 27, 2016 in Grapevine, Texas.

The conference mission is to create a network of America's agricultural industries, government agencies and educators with student representatives of the country's growing Latino population to promote advanced study and careers for Hispanics in agriculture and related fields.



Southeast Region

World Soil Day 2016 Event: Noche de Ciencias (Science Night)

Submitted by Joxelle Velázquez-García, MLRA Soil Scientist, Meridian, MS.

On December 3th, I had the opportunity to participate in an event known as “Noche de Ciencias” held in the Canton Elementary School, Canton, Mississippi. I was invited by the Mississippi Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE-MS). SHPE-MS is a professional organization that aims to increase science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) awareness and promote social and cultural integration in the community. As the Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager for the state of Mississippi I have recognized that the SHPE-MS has been a great aid to the Hispanic professional network for the state of Mississippi. Since 2014, we have established and developed a great professional partnership in regards to outreach and education.

Noche de Ciencias was an ideal event to celebrate the World Soil Day 2016, on which elementary students, teachers, and parents were able to explore and understand the significance of soils in our daily living. The World Soil Day is a multinational campaign to increase awareness on society about the importance and impact that soils have on food production, textile fibers, climate regulation (carbon sequestration), water and air quality, agro-ecology, wildlife, and urban planning. During the educational event, several information booths were present, displaying a variety of science experiments and demonstrations, from the areas of engineering, technology, and earth sciences. As a representative agent for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), I provided a variety of soil samples, visual aids, and a soil painting kits that the students used to heighten their awareness of soil science. The students were fascinated by the array of soil colors and soil textures. They were hands-on, actively involved by touching and mixing different soil samples. Their curiosity and imagination lead them to make fantastic comparisons and generation of thought. For example, some of the students said that the color and texture of the sample resembled ground beef and other samples looked like refried beans. Other questions included curiosities as to the origin of the colors and their mineralogical composition. Having this interactive soil demonstrations exposed the students to the field of soil science and made them to generate question based on physical soil properties. I also received very interesting questions from teachers and parents who were interested to learn more about the dynamic of soils and the relationship with our environment. Consequently, I brought attention to the agency’s mission “Helping People Help the Land”. I explained how soil sciences are tied to our agency and their conservation practices and programs.





The Canton community youth included a significant number of Hispanics. As a Hispanic and the HEPM for the state of Mississippi it was important for Hispanic youth to be exposed to soil science, natural resources, and the NRCS agency. I believe this event will continue to foster the minds Hispanic students and direct them into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.



Informative pamphlets, brochures, posters, and Same E. Soil Coloring Book were distributed to the public.

If you want to see more photos, please click the following web link below to access a digital photo album covering activities of the [World Soil Day 2016 Event: Noche de Ciencias \(Science Night\)](#).

Region	Representative	Phone	Email
Caribbean area	Ismael Matos	787-766-5206, ext.128	Ismael.Matos@pr.usda.gov
East	Gisela Carmenaty	724-853-5555, ext. 118	Gisela.Carmenaty@pa.usda.gov
Midwest	Rocemi Morales	440-326-5806	Rocemi.Morales@oh.usda.gov
Northern plains	Roberto Luciano	701-463-2851, ext. 244	Roberto.Luciano@nd.usda.gov
South Central	Flavio Garza	956-723-6643, ext. 3	Flavio.Garza@tx.usda.gov
South East	Joxelle Velázquez-García	601-483-4100, 113	Joxelle.Velazquez@ms.usda.gov
West	Mary Sanchez	575-522-8775	Mary.Sanchez@nm.usda.gov





Lifetime Membership Drive

Lifetime Membership benefits:

- Your paid life membership dues are not subject to increase.
- Life memberships can decrease administrative expenditures.
- Life memberships increase revenues.
- A life membership provides peace-of-mind in that dues are current and saves money for the member.
- A life membership provides opportunity to promote the organization, increase stature, and for grassroots educational and outreach programs.
- A life membership provides a springboard for a separate entity within the organization to manage and administer these financial gains.
- A life membership offers a great degree of prestige and identifies you as an individual apart from the regular membership.
- A Life membership could generate income if it “raffle-off” occasionally as part of our regular membership drive or during “scholarship night”.

Currently the fee for a lifetime membership is \$500.00

Payment Options:

- 1 payment of \$500.00
- 2 payments of \$250.00
- 4 payments of \$125.00
- 5 payments of \$100.00
- 10 payments of \$50.00

Rules:

- The first payment has to be sent with the application form and choose what type of payment option.
- You have until March 1, 2017 to complete your payments.
- If for some reason you cannot finish by March 1 we will give you until April 30 to finish your commitment. A written statement requesting extension should be provided to the membership chair by March 1st.
- No money will be forfeit.
- If you change your mind or cannot finish the payment plan even with the extension, the money will be credited for future years. No money will be return.
- Payment options: by check address to NOPHNRCSE and PayPal. For PayPal payments please contact Edgar Cantu edgar.cantu@ri.usda.gov

Joint National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE), National Organization of Professional Women in NRCS (WIN), Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO), and National Employee Development Center (NEDC) training series
March 13-18, 2017

Courtyard and Towne Place Suites by Marriott
Grapevine, TX

“Leaders in Conservation”

DRAFT PROGRAM

Monday, March 13, 2017		
NEDC Trainings		
Time	Function	Room
12:30pm- 5:00pm	Supervising for Excellence	Cowboys B

Tuesday, March 14, 2017		
NEDC Trainings		
Time	Function	Room
8:00am- 5:00pm	Working Effectively with Asian-American Pacific Islander Producers	Silverlake D
8:00am- 5:00pm	Supervising for Excellence	Cowboys B
8:00am- 5:00pm	Managing for Excellence	Cowboys C
8:00am- 5:00pm	Improving Conservation Delivery for Women Landowners and Producers	Silverlake C
8:00am- 5:00pm	Civil Rights Compliance in Program Delivery	Silverlake B

Wednesday, March 15, 2017		
NEDC Trainings		
Time	Function	Room
8:00am- 5:00pm	Working Effectively with Asian-American Pacific Islander Producers	Silverlake D
8:00am- 5:00pm	Supervising for Excellence	Cowboys B
8:00am- 5:00pm	Managing for Excellence	Cowboys C
8:00am- 5:00pm	Improving Conservation Delivery for Women Landowners and Producers	Silverlake C
8:00am- 5:00pm	NCRACC MEETING	Boardroom
8:00am- 5:00pm	Civil Rights Compliance in Program Delivery	Silverlake B

Thursday, March 16, 2017 NEDC Trainings		
Time	Function	Room
8:00am- 12:00pm	Working Effectively with Asian-American Pacific Islander Producers	Silverlake D
8:00am- 12:00pm	Supervising for Excellence	Cowboys B
8:00am- 5:00pm	Managing for Excellence	Cowboys C
8:00am- 12:00pm	Improving Conservation Delivery for Women Landowners and Producers	Silverlake C
8:00am- 5:00pm	Civil Rights Compliance in Program Delivery	Silverlake B
8:00am- 5:00pm	NCRACC MEETING	Boardroom
8:00am- 5:00pm	On-Site Recruitment Event	Silverlake Prefunction & Silverlake A

Friday, March 17 NOPHNRSE, WiN and APIO Training Workshops		
Time	Function	Room
7:00am- 4:00pm	Registration	
	<p>Opening Ceremony Moderator:</p> <p>Presentation of Colors: <i>Grapevine Police and Fire Department</i> National Anthem: <i>Grapevine High School Choir</i> Invocation: <i>Mary Sanchez, Soil Conservationist, NRCS</i> Welcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCS Acting Chief – Leonard Jordan • TX State Conservationist – Salvador Salinas- • NOPHNRSE President – Astrid Martinez • WiN President – Karri Honaker • APIO President – Nick Vera <p>Agency updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Transformation and Conservation Planning Policy updates- TBD • Update on Mission Support Services- Associate Chief for Operations-Thomas Christensen • Overview of the Employee Development Programs-NEDC Director – Jeffrey Dziedzic 	
8:00am- 9:30am		Silverlake B
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	

	Concurrent Sessions	
10:00am- 11:30am	Session 1: <i>Special Emphasis Program Manager's (SEPM)</i> Session 2: Engineering Tools Session 3: Soil Health Workshop Session 4: Conservation Planning Tools Session 5: Leadership Training	Cowboys B Silverlake D Cowboys A Silverlake C Silverlake A
11:30am- 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon Moderator: NOPHNRCSE, WiN APIO membership awards and Farmer of the Year Award Luncheon Speaker	Silverlake B
1:30pm- 3:00pm	Session 1: <i>Special Emphasis Program Manager's (SEPM)</i> Session 2: Engineering Tools Session 3: Soil Health Workshop Session 4: Conservation Planning Tools Session 5: Leadership Training	Cowboys B Silverlake D Cowboys A Silverlake C Silverlake A
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 5:00pm	Session 1: <i>Special Emphasis Program Manager's (SEPM)</i> Session 2: Engineering Tools Session 3: Soil Health Workshop Session 4: Conservation Planning Tools Session 5: Leadership Training	Cowboys B Silverlake D Cowboys A Silverlake C Silverlake A
6:00pm	Scholarship Banquet	Silverlake B

Saturday, March 18, 2017 NOPHNRCSE, WiN and APIO Training Workshops		
Time	Function	Room
7:30am- 9:30am	Leadership Breakfast	Silverlake B
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	
10:00 am- 11:30am	Session 1: <i>Special Emphasis Program Manager's (SEPM)</i> Session 2: Engineering Tools Session 3: Soil Health Workshop Session 4: Conservation Planning Tools Session 5: Leadership Training	Cowboys B Silverlake D Cowboys A Silverlake C Silverlake A
11:30am- 12:00pm	Training Wrap up Gayle Barry- Regional Conservationist Northeast New president for NOPHNRCSE	Silverlake B
12:00pm- 1:30pm	Lunch on your own	
1:30pm- 3:00pm	Organizations business meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APIO Business Meeting • WiN Business Meeting • NOPHNRCSE Business Meeting 	Cowboys B Cowboys C Silverlake B

Special Emphasis Program Manager's (SEPM) Training Agenda

Friday, March 17, 2017 <i>Session Leaders: Rick Tafoya, Sandi Kreke</i> <i>Room: Cowboys B</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
10:00am- 10:15am	Welcome and Introductions	Rick Tafoya, National HEPM Manager, NRCS WDC
10:15am- 11:30am	<i>SEPM Roles and Responsibilities</i>	Rick Tafoya, National HEPM Manager, NRCS WDC + TBD
11:30am- 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon	
1:30pm- 2:15pm	<i>National SEPM(s) Update</i>	ALL
2:15pm- 3:00pm	<i>NRCS Workforce- Understanding the CLF</i>	TBD
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 4:30pm	<i>Understanding the MD715 & Preparing for Civil Rights Compliance Reviews</i>	Civil Rights Division Rep. Group Working Session
4:30pm- 5:00pm	<i>Feedback Session-Breakout by SEPM Groups</i>	ALL

Saturday, March 18, 2017 <i>Session Leaders: Rick Tafoya, Sandi Kreke</i> <i>Room: Cowboys B</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
7:30am- 9:30am	Leadership Breakfast	
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	
10:00am- 11:45am	<i>Pathways and Other Student Programs Initiating Cooperative/Contribution Agreements</i>	Rick Tafoya, National HEPM Manager, NRCS WDC; Tanya Robles, HR Accountability Specialist, NRCS. + TBD
11:45am- 12:00pm	Closing Remarks and Evaluations	Rick Tafoya, National HEPM Manager, NRCS WDC

Engineering Field Tools Training Agenda

Friday, March 17, 2017 <i>Room: Silverlake D</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
10:00am- 10:15am	Welcome and Introductions	
10:15am- 11:30am	<i>Engineering Documentation</i>	Phuc Vu, Design Engineer, NRCS-NDCSMC
11:30am- 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon	
1:30pm- 3:00pm	<i>Basic Soil Mechanics</i>	Lee Ann Moore, Design Engineer, NRCS-NDCSMC
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 4:15pm	<i>Hydraulic Formulas</i>	Catherine Stanley, Water Quality Specialist, NRCS
4:15pm- 5:00pm	<i>CO-01 Construction Safety</i>	Phuc Vu, Design Engineer, NRCS-NDCSMC

Saturday, March 18, 2017 <i>Room: Silverlake D</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
7:30am- 9:30am	Leadership Breakfast	
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	
10:00am- 10:40am	<i>CO-01 Construction Inspection</i>	Phuc Vu, Design Engineer, NRCS-NDCSMC
10:40am- 11:15am	<i>Biosecurity</i>	Cherie LaFleur, Environmental Engineer, NRCS-CNTSC
11:15am- 11:30am	Wrap up session	All
11:30am	Training Wrap up	

Conservation Planning Training Agenda

Friday, March 17, 2017 <i>Room: Silverlake C</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
10:00am- 10:15 am	Welcome and Introductions	
10:15am- 11:30am	<i>(RSET) Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool</i>	Aaron Lauster, National Sustainable Agriculture Lead, NRCS
11:30am- 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon	
1:30pm- 2:30pm	<i>IET- Integrated Erosion Tool</i>	Joel Poore, Conservation Agronomist, NRCS_CNTSC
2:30pm- 3:00pm	<i>How to write good Conservation Assistance Notes</i>	Kevin Stein, NRCS- O&E
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 5:00pm	<i>(CAET) Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool</i>	Kenny Hitch, Resource Conservationist (Programs), NRCS (pending confirmation)

Saturday, March 18, 2017 <i>Room: Silverlake C</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
7:30am- 9:30am	Leadership Breakfast	
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	
10:00am- 10:30am	<i>Client Gateway for Individuals and Entities</i>	EBI Representative, (Name to be Confirmed)
10:30am- 11:30am	<i>Selling NRCS – How to Talk with the General Public and the Media</i>	Brenda Ling, Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS
11:15am- 11:30am	Wrap up session	All
11:30am	Training Wrap up	

Soil Health Training Agenda

Friday, March 17, 2017 <i>Session Leaders: Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham</i> <i>Room: Cowboys A</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
10:00am- 10:15am	Welcome and Introductions	
10:15am- 11:30am	<i>What is soil health?</i>	Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham, Regional Soil Health Specialists (pending confirmation)
11:30am -1:30pm	Awards Luncheon	
1:30pm- 2:30pm	<i>What is soil health? (Continuation)</i>	Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham, Regional Soil Health Specialists (pending confirmation)
2:30pm- 3:30pm	<i>How to complete soil health evaluations in the field</i>	Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham, Regional Soil Health Specialists (pending confirmation)
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 5:00pm	<i>How to complete soil health evaluations in the field (Continuation)</i>	Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham, Regional Soil Health Specialists (pending confirmation)

Saturday, March 18, 2017 <i>Session Leaders: Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham</i> <i>Room: Cowboys A</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
7:30am- 9:30am	Leadership Breakfast	
9:30am- 10:00am	Break	
10:00am- 11:30am	<i>How to develop conservation plans that includes the soil health management system</i>	Rudy Garcia and Willie Durham, Regional Soil Health Specialists (pending confirmation)
11:15am- 11:30am	Wrap up session	All
11:30am	Training Wrap up	

Leadership Training Agenda

Friday, March 17, 2017 <i>Session Leaders: Christine Taliga and Karri Honaker</i> <i>Room: Silverlake A</i>		
Time	Title	Speaker
10:00am- 10:15am	Welcome & Introductions	Chris Taliga and Karri Honaker
10:15am- 11:15am	<i>Effective leadership strategies panel</i>	Tom Christensen, Roylene Rides at the Door, Craig Derickson, Jimmy Bramblett, Keisha Tatem, Juan Hernandez, Terrell Erickson
11:15am- 11:30am	<i>Assignment and groups- communication challenge</i>	Chris Taliga and Karri Honaker
11:30am- 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon	
1:30pm- 2:15pm	<i>Communication strategies- group exercise example of communication challenge</i>	Kevin Norton, Astrid Martinez, Sal Salinas, Ray Dotson
2:15pm– 2:45pm	<i>Development strategies for employees and supervisors</i>	Terry Cosby, JR Flores, and Gayle Barry
2:45pm- 3:00pm	<i>Special assignment</i>	Example situation- how to motivate (challenging) employees or during challenging times
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm- 4:00pm	<i>Motivation, modesty and self-empowering</i>	Chris Taliga, Karri Honaker, Kasey Taylor and Karen Woodrich
4:00pm- 5:00pm	<i>Relationships and Partnerships</i>	Mary Podoll, Mike Sullivan, Jane Hardisty, Gary O’Neil, Greg Kist, Astor Boozer

Saturday, March 18, 2017*Session Leaders: Christine Taliga and Karri Honaker**Room: Silverlake A*

Time	Title	Speaker
7:30am- 9:30am	<i>Leadership/Mentoring Breakfast</i>	All Associate Chiefs, Deputy Directors, STCs, RCs and other National Leadership in attendance
9:30am- 9:45am	Break	
9:45am- 10:15am	<i>NRCS Tools for Leaders: Employee Development Programs, IDPs, AgLearn, Mentoring Program, Details</i>	Jeff Dziedzic – Sudah Sriparameswaran
10:15am- 11:15am	<i>Leadership Opportunities working with Civil Rights and Special Emphasis Programs</i>	Dr. Sharon Nance
11:15am- 11:30am	Wrap up session	All
11:30am	Training Wrap up	