

Juan Hernandez – Interviewing for Success Breaking away from the pack:



Juan Hernandez was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. Growing up on a small coffee plantation in the mountains of Puerto Rico, he learned the “ins and outs” of working on a farm, developed a strong work ethic, and was provided the principles of humbleness and integrity that only a farmer can teach. With his parents’ support, he went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.

After graduation he started his career with the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Pennsylvania as a student trainee, later becoming a soil conservationist at the Gettysburg Field Office. After five years in Pennsylvania, he was selected for his first leadership position as a District Conservationist in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Hernandez subsequently served in positions of increasing responsibility with NRCS in Washington, D.C., Arkansas, Utah, and Nebraska. In April 2009 he accepted the position of State Conservationist for Maine, where he currently oversees 14 NRCS field offices and more than 60 soil conservationists, engineers and program administrators throughout the state.

Hernandez and his wife Carmen live in Bangor, Maine, and have three children: Alejandra, Miguel, and Diego.