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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 230-4-4

SUBJECT: EOP – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Purpose: To inform employees about the importance of Black History Month.

Expiration Date: March 31, 2004.

February is National Black History Month, and the 2004 theme is *Brown vs. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary (May 17, 1954). This is a time for all of the Natural Resources Conservation Service employees to reflect on the accomplishments and contributions that African-Americans have made to our Nation, our workforce in the United States, and throughout the world. Black History Month is more than just a celebration honoring the achievements of African-Americans. It is the understanding of African-American culture, customs, heritage, and how we use those traits to enhance the conservation of natural resources.

Carter G. Woodson, an African-American scholar, created and promoted Negro History Week in February 1926. He selected a week in February to correspond to the respective birthdays of Frederick Douglass, an ex-slave and abolitionist, and Abraham Lincoln, the signer of the Emancipation Proclamation. The week-long celebration expanded to one month in 1976, the year of our Nation’s Bicentennial.

During February, take some time to learn more about African-American culture and history. Talk to African-Americans, attend celebrations and other events in your communities, read books and articles, etc. For example, visit www.blackhistory.com.

A USDA committee is planning an activity to help USDA employees celebrate Black History Month. The event will be held at 10 a.m. – noon, February 25th in the Minnesota Room. Field employees are welcome to attend this event.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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