

Minnesota

"Conservation is ethically sound. It is rooted in our love of the land, our respect for the rights of others, our devotion to the rule of law."

~Lyndon Baines Johnson



WILLIAM HUNT,
STATE CONSERVATIONIST

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As you read through this issue of Current Developments you will notice that Minnesota NRCS has had another busy quarter!

Christina Muedeking, Regional Assistant Chief for the Central Region NRCS participated in an Earth Day event at Whitewater State Park on April 23, 2007. Muedeking announced that an additional \$1.4 million dollars of Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding will be allocated to the Driftless Area. The Driftless Area encompasses a 4-state region of MN, IA, IL and WI.

The White Earth tribe became Minnesota's first tribal conservation district on May 8, 2007. The Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, Mark Rey signed the mutual agreement with the White Earth tribe on behalf of the USDA Ag Secretary Mike Johanns. These agreements formally recognize tribes within USDA's statutory authorities, regulations, and policies for purposes of delivering USDA conservation programs on tribal lands.

Your continued work efforts are appreciated.
WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Earth Day Event held at Whitewater State Park

By Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist

On April 23, 2007 several hundred people descended upon the Whitewater State Park to participate in an Earth Day celebration planned by MN NRCS. This year marked the 37th anniversary of Earth Day. Former WI U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson championed the idea of holding Earth Day celebrations throughout the United States. The earth day activity that was planned in Area 7 was designed to draw attention to and celebrate the collaborative four state efforts to unite organizations, communities and individuals within the Driftless Area of the Upper Mississippi River Basin for cooperation actions to enhance and restore this region's ecology, economy, and cultural resources in a balanced, integrated fashion.



L-R John Beckwith, Water Resources Leader, Christina Muedeking, RAC, Marty Adkins, IA NRCS and Rob Romacki, Area 7 Engineer visited the Earth Day exhibits in the tent.

Christina Muedeking, Regional Assistant Chief for the Central Region of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), announced that an additional \$1.4 million dollars of Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding will be allocated to the Driftless Area. EQIP is a voluntary Farm Bill conservation program administered by the USDA NRCS. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP land users may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

The funding announced by Muedeking will be in addition to \$9.2 million of original EQIP allocation

that went into the Driftless Area Region. The Driftless Area is a unique region that encompasses nearly 24,000 square miles of the Upper Mississippi River.

Muedeking made the announcement during an Earth Day celebration with Congressman Tim Walz, MN NRCS State Conservationist William Hunt, WI NRCS State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth, and IA NRCS State Conservationist representative Marty Adkins.

In addition to the program there were numerous opportunities for the Earth Day guests to view exhibits from over 18 conservation organizations and participate in environmental learning stations. Local food groups, organizations and individuals provided refreshments for the earth day participants and the MN Soil and Water Conservation Society



The Bald Eagle was a big hit at the Earth Day event. Young and old alike enjoyed the opportunity to see a Bald Eagle!

(SWCS) chapter sponsored a bus for the Silo School children from Lewiston, MN.

Silo School brought 23 of their students to participate in the Earth Day event. These 5th-8th grade students participated in the Environmental Learning Stations, the Earth Day program and the planting of native grasses and the mounting of wood

duck boxes. Mark Kunz, District Conservationist from the Lewiston Field office played a significant role in the organization of the event and the environmental learning stations. The Earth Day planning team consisted of *Cutrina Moreland, Event Chair; John Nicholson, Mark Kunz, Laurie Otte, Jewel McKenzie, Claron Krogness and Julie MacSwain.*



The Earth Day event at Whitewater State Park brought together several NRCS & RC&D employees from IA, IL and MN.



L-R Christina Muedeking, Regional Assistant Chief for the Central Region of NRCS and Congressman Tim Walz participated in the Earth Day Ceremony at Whitewater State Park

White Earth Becomes Minnesota's First Tribal Conservation District

By Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist

The White Earth tribe became Minnesota's first tribal conservation district on May 8, 2007 in White Earth, Minnesota. The Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, Mark Rey signed the mutual agreement with the White Earth tribe on behalf of the USDA Ag Secretary Mike Johanns. These agreements formally recognize tribes within USDA's statutory authorities, regulations, and policies for purposes of delivering USDA conservation programs on tribal lands.

The White Earth tribal conservation district marks the 27th tribal conservation district in US. The signing of this agreement affirms the commitment USDA has to tribal government assistance as well as USDA's goals for better serving farmers, ranchers, communities and consumers in Indian country.



L-R Dawn Kier, White Earth Agriculture/Wetland manager, Erma Vizenor, White Earth Chair, Mark Rey, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA

Dustin Jasken, Soil Conservationist/Tribal Liaison for MN NRCS is the point person for the White Earth tribe. For more information about NRCS's tribal outreach efforts at White Earth, please contact Dustin Jasken, Soil Conservationist/Tribal Liaison for MN NRCS. Dustin can be reached at (218)-573-3842 or via e-mail at: dustin.jasken@mn.usda.gov

2nd Minority Farmers and Stakeholders Conference

By Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist

The 2nd minority Farmers and Stakeholders conference was held in St. Paul, MN on April 5th and 6th and was attended by ninety-five people. The objective of this conference was to raise awareness within the Asian communities on issues such as: farming and financing.

The conference was sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota, along with a few other co-sponsors including: USDA, United Cambodian Association of Minnesota, and Lao Advancement Organization of American Organizations for the Southeast Asian communities.

Throughout the conference, a question kept coming up. "How do we get land?" Conference attendees at this 2nd Minority Farmers and Stakeholders have a strong desire to farm land, however, if one can't find the land it's difficult to do what they want to do, "farm." Numerous barriers unfortunately exist for the minority farmers who want to farm the land. The main challenges that are faced center around access to obtain the land, marketing, rules and regulations for farmer markets.

Plans are already being made to hold the 3rd Minority Farmer and Stakeholder Conference. For more information about this conference, please contact *Cutrina Moreland* at (651)-602-7882 or via e-mail at: cutrina.moreland@mn.usda.gov



Top left (photo) The 2nd Minority Farmers & Stakeholders conference helped raise awareness on agriculture issues.

Top right (photo) Cutrina Moreland, Special Programs Coordinator for MN NRCS played a key roll in the planning of the conference.

Bottom left (photo) L-R Ly Vange, Executive Director of the Association for the advancement of Hmong women in Minnesota, shared remarks with the conference participants.

The Wetlands Reserve Program Providing Multiple Benefits to Wildlife, the Environment and Local Communities

By Tim Koehler, ASTC - Programs

Thanks to a unique partnership between the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) and with funding assistance from the State of Minnesota's Environmental Trust Fund (ETF), nearly 40,000 acres of wetland and upland habitat has been restored and permanently protected via the federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

WRP, a voluntary program which restores and permanently protects wetland and prairie habitat on private land, has become one of the cornerstone programs for restoring critical prairie and wetland habitats in Minnesota.

ETF support (administered by the Legislative and Citizen's Commission of Minnesota's Resources – LCCMR) has been absolutely vital in ensuring the success of WRP in Minnesota. DU uses ETF monies to hire habitat technicians who work in NRCS offices and assist in promoting and implementing WRP.

In addition to the impressive acreage accomplishments, WRP has been targeted and implemented within LCCMR designated habitat corridors – areas deemed extremely valuable for wildlife and native plant communities. Along with its wildlife benefits, WRP has also brought remarkable ecotourism opportunities to small communities throughout Minnesota.

For example, each year the Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds in Northwest Minnesota attracts hundreds of bird watchers to the area to view, observe and record resident and migratory birds. Numerous fieldtrips are offered within the Border Prairie Project Area of the LCCMR in Northwest Minnesota and feature WRP sites. In May of 2007, over 300 people from 23 states attended the event, with some traveling from as far away as Alaska and Texas. A record 190 species of birds were sighted on field trips during this festival.



"It's the high quality habitat that brings these people to our area," said Cleone Stewart, Tourism Director at the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce. "Festival attendees fill our hotels and restaurants and bring welcomed business to our community." David Allen Sibley, the author and illustrator of the Sibley Guide To Birds, was the keynote speaker at this year's 10th annual Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds. "I'm impressed with the great conservation work in this area," Sibley said.

Restored wetlands and the associated uplands on WRP sites have become important stop-over sites for migrating birds as evidenced by a rare Red Knot sighting during one Festival of Birds field trip near Rothsay in Wilkin County. This long range migrant to Alaska and the Canadian Arctic is typically found along the coast of Maine and the Canadian Maritime Provinces.



The Wetlands Reserve Program (continued)

“WRP sites have provided absolutely fantastic habitat for shore birds,” field trip leader Doug Buri said. “This Red Knot is on its way to the Arctic and stopped to refuel. Without programs like the WRP, the LCCMR Habitat Corridor Partnership, and support from DU, we may never have seen this unique bird. If we provide the habitat, they will come and we are proving it here in the Detroit Lakes area.”

For additional information contact John Corrigan, WRP Specialist at NRCS at 651-602-7876 or john.corrigan@mn.usda.gov or John Voz, DU WRP Contractor at 218-847-9392, ext 116 or john.voz@mn.usda.gov.

Civil Rights Committee Chair

By Cory Drummon District Conservationist

Hello NRCS Colleagues and Friends,

I am truly honored to serve as your Civil Rights Committee (CRC) Chair. I am a 1999 graduate from Langston University (Langston, OK) and have a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Science. I began my NRCS career in Kandiyohi County “Where the Lakes Begin” as a soil conservationist in the spring of 2000. There I was introduced to our conservation programs and acquired basic surveying skills by assisting on wetland restoration projects. Like all soil conservationists, I was transferred to another county after working for over a year in the Willmar FO. In the fall of 2001, I was transferred to Goodhue County where I received a crash course on waterway and terrace survey and design! In May 2003, I was selected as District Conservationist for Swift County (Benson FO), and I continue to work and live in Benson today. In 2005 the opportunity to serve on the CRC was presented, and I became the Area 5 CRC representative. In 2006, I was elected as Vice Chair of the CRC and became Acting Chair when former Chair, Amy Stratton, resigned. I became Chair of the CRC in May of this year.



I encourage all of you to email or call me or your Area CRC representative if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions that you would like the committee to answer or bring to the attention of Mr. Hunt.

On behalf of the CRC, I extend an invitation to everyone to attend at least one of the Cultural Events that will take place July 11-19 (re: Bulletin #230-7-2).

Cory Drummond is a native of Gary, IN. and is currently serving as the Civil Rights Committee Chair for MN NRCS

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebrated in St Paul

By Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist

During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we honor many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry who have made our great land. The millions of Americans who trace their origins to nations in the Asian/Pacific region have enriched America.

On May 17, 2007 an Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration took place in the Farm Credit Building from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. USDA agencies from FSA, RD and NRCS were in attendance.

William Hunt, State Conservationist reminded the audience of the importance of celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Events such as this one bring people together and break down barriers that may exist between us. For the last 12 years that Mr. Hunt has served as State Conservationist, Cultural Awareness program events have been regularly scheduled for MN NRCS employees.

The guest speaker was Ly Vang, Executive Director of "The Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota (AAHWM). Ly Vang shared her story of how she came to America. Her family was the 7th family to move to Minnesota. Currently, Minnesota is home to over 80,000 Hmong.

There continues to be a strong interest in agriculture in the Hmong culture. However, acquiring land to grow the vegetable crops has been a challenge. Fortunately, the recently held 2nd Annual Minority Shareholders conference held in April, 2007 has opened up more avenues to the Hmong for renting land. The Farm Service Agency placed an advertisement in the St. Paul Pioneer Press shortly after the conference regarding the need of land for the Hmong's gardens. The response to the ad has been overwhelming and now many of the Hmong that had wanted to garden can!

For more information about the Asian Pacific Islander Special Emphasis Program in Minnesota, please contact Cutrina Moreland. Cutrina can be reached at cutrina.moreland@mn.usda.gov

Origins of APA Heritage Month

A national celebration established in 1977 by Ricco Villanueva Siasoco

May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Much like Black History and Women's History celebrations, APA Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill.



Ly Vang, Executive Director of AAHWN, Jim Meisenheimer, Public Affairs Specialist for FSA and Charles Montgomery, State Administrative Officer participated in the Asian Pacific Islander event in St Paul

Congressional Bills Establish Celebration

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the President to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

APA Becomes Month-long Celebration

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Freedom for All—A Nation We Call Our Own."

Governor Pawlenty Appoints William Hunt to the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG)

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has recently appointed William Hunt, MN NRCS State Conservationist to the MCCAG. Hunt will be joining a diverse group of incredibly talented individuals from throughout the state of Minnesota. The purpose of MCCAG is to identify, evaluate and recommend to the Governor and Minnesota Legislature, a wide array of actions that will substantially reduce Minnesota's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Throughout this next year, MCCAG will meet about six times. A Climate Action Plan is expected to be completed by February 1, 2008. For more information about Climate Strategies, please check the webpage of: www.climatestrategies.us

Cutrina Moreland Named Minnesota NRCS's State Safety and Health Officer

Cutrina Moreland was named Minnesota NRCS's State Safety and Health Officer. Ms. Moreland will have several key roles in this new role. Some of her new responsibilities include: Ensuring new employees receive defensive driving training; defensive driver refresher course; first aid and CPR training; right to know training and ATV training/refresher training.

MN NRCS has taken on an active role in providing information and education to its employees on issues concerning safety and health. For more information about safety and health issues, please contact Cutrina at (651)-602-7882.

Bill Lorenzen Recognized for 35 years of Service

William Hunt, State Conservationist, recently recognized Bill Lorenzen, Biologist, MN NRCS Water Resources Staff, (WRS) with a 35 year length of federal service award. Lorenzen has served on the WRS here in MN for 16 years.



L-R William Hunt State Conservationist presented Bill Lorenzen with a plaque and service pin for Bill's 35 years of service.

Before transferring to MN, Lorenzen served as a SC and DC in 3 different field offices for the SCS in IL, and as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the FWS in OK and SC. His time in service also includes 4 years with the U. S. Navy.

The 30th Annual Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program



The 30th Annual Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program took place on Friday, May 4, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. This year, MN NRCS had 3 employees recognized at the Civil Servant of the Year Program; Judy Lambert, Area Administrative Coordinator, Rochester, MN; Sylvia Olson, Accounting Technician, St. Paul, MN; and Ken Luttner, Area Resource Conservationist, St. Peter, MN. Judy Lambert was named as an overall category winner in administration.

This recognition program offers an excellent opportunity for public recognition of Federal employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance on their job and/or within their community on a sustained basis.



Judy Lambert serves 13 NRCS offices in southeastern Minnesota. She holds the staff accountable for proper procurement procedures, timeliness of T&As (100% of employees paid timely), travel voucher claims, budgetary needs for all of our offices. She handles controversial issues well to include: leases, training for partners, security-fingerprinting, and landlord building issues. Judy is a cancer fundraiser for the Relay for Life organization, serves on various church committees and the annual Wagon Train fundraiser for the Austin Boys Ranch.



Sylvia Olson serves as the primary Accounting Technician for the NRCS in Minnesota. Sylvia puts forth extraordinary effort on a daily basis, placing an emphasis on customer satisfaction. Her diplomatic communication skill strengthens internal and external relationships with employees, partners, and other agencies while furthering the mission of NRCS. Sylvia routinely addresses critical vendor payment issues, contract participant questions, and employee reimbursement inquiries, all with a positive attitude and pleasant demeanor. Sylvia represents the ideal civil servant: selfless, dedicated and trustworthy.



Ken Luttner has been with the NRCS for about 31 years. It is not an easy job servicing 85 Farm Bill wetland issues. Ken always maintains a professional attitude as a Biologist or Area Resource Conservationist. Whenever needed, Ken has filled in as Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He has provided training for field office staff, conducting GIS, Wetland Vegetation, Toolkit and helping with Remote Sensing/Aerial Photography Interpretation. Ken makes himself available to help with any of the numerous programs, which NRCS offers.

Local Youths Engage In a Big Dig

About 50 Worthington High School students and St. Mary's sixth-graders dug, mulched and planted through a gentle shower Wednesday to create an environmental and horticultural masterpiece---a rain garden. Rain gardens are a trendy new landscaping form designed to take water running off hard surfaces and absorb it into the ground while filtering out any sediment and fertilizer before it gets to water bodies.



Sixth graders toss and spread mulch over the planting site

“Sixth-graders are helping,” said Barbara Daly, principal of St. Mary’s. “It kind of leaves their mark on the school as they leave for middle school. It’s something they can dig into before they leave.”

Unlike holding ponds, which simply hold water until it can be drained into another water body, rain gardens are designed to absorb water back into the ground, decreasing flooding and overflow problems downstream. Rain gardens can also be beautiful. The St. Mary’s rain garden contains day lillies, lobelia, irises, phlox, hostas and ferns. After some growing time, the small plot will bloom into a lush tangle of flowers and greenery.

“We want them to have good eye appeal,” said Dawn Madison, a soil conservation technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Madison helped direct students on where to plant which flowers—the dryer plants around the high points and the water-loving plants in the center. Madison and Steve Woltjer, also of NRCS, helped make the project possible.



Students arrange plants

Communities across the United States have discovered the benefits of rain gardens. The City of Maplewood encourages its residents to plant rain gardens to help cope with the intense amount of runoff from roofs and paved roads. A prototype project in Seattle, Washington reduced the amount of runoff on a single street by 98 percent—meaning that street requires much less water-removal infrastructure.

“We hope to get something going, so we can do one every year,” said Worthington High School (WHS) agriculture teacher Deb Martin. “The important part is to keep everything from going into the sewer or into the lake.”



Finished Rain Garden

Agriculture 10 and Agriculture 12 Worthington High School students visited the little area marked off for the rain garden Wednesday morning, armed with shovels and hoes. They dug out an area of about 10 by 15 feet between the sidewalk and the street, near St. Mary's playground.

They dumped the soil onto the sidewalk so that it could be mixed with gravel, making it more absorbent than the clay-heavy soil alone.

Digging had to be done carefully. To be effective rain gardens must have a particular shape—a hollowed-out dip in the ground with a deeper divot in the middle to hold more water, and a berm around the outside to keep water from simply running out of the rain garden.

After the digging and shaping was done, students mulched the garden, preparing it for planting. Their portion of the job completed, they went back to class, and the Floriculture class took their place, assisted by St. Mary's sixth-graders.

** Article printed with permission from Kari Lucin, Worthington Daily Globe. Published May 24, 2007*

Hotline for Reporting Lost/Stolen Government-Provided Information Technology Equipment or Media

Effective Monday, May, 7, 2007, a toll-free hotline number for reporting lost or stolen government-issued information technology equipment such as laptop computers, personal data assistants, cell phones and removable storage media is available to all employees, contractors, and business partners.

Please remember when calling, be prepared to answer questions regarding the loss or theft, including:

- * who, what, when, and where.
- * what type of information was stored on the equipment, and
- * specifically, if sensitive information was stored.

Remember that timely reporting is a responsibility that we all share.

Toll Free lost and stolen equipment hotline: 1-888-926-2373. All offices should add this number to their posted continuity of operations or physical protection plan.

Conservation Districts Complete Tillage Transect Survey

By Robin Martinek, NRCS State Agronomist

This spring, more than 70 conservation districts in Minnesota completed a tillage transect survey to assess the number of acres that were planted using some form of reduced tillage. Using routes and field locations from previous years, and money provided from the state through the Clean Water Legacy funding, these districts gathered tillage data and GPS locations for the data points so that a GIS data layer can be produced for this project.



Mankato State University is collecting and compiling the data, and results will be available later this summer. Information about residue levels is valuable for all of the partners who are working to encourage the use of this practice for increased resource protection.

Pollinators

By Robin Martinek, NRCS State Agronomist

Did you know that:

- Every 3rd bite of food you eat is the result of a living pollinator?
- Insect pollinated crops directly contribute \$20 billion to the U.S. economy each year?
- 90% of all plant species need the help of insect and animal pollinators?
- Pollinator populations are in decline due to loss of habitat, disease and other unknown reasons.
- There are many conservation practices that can provide food and habitat for these important insects and animals.
- June 24 – 27th, 2007 has been designated as National Pollinator Week by the U. S. Senate and the USDA.



In Minnesota, a living “Pollinator Exhibit” will be unveiled on the grounds of the Sherburne County Historical Society. The event is being sponsored by the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District.

Cover Crops – A new look at an old practice

By Robin Martinek, NRCS State Agronomist

In May, Minnesota hosted two agronomists from our Central Regional Office in Fort Worth, TX. Mike Sporcec, Wind Erosion Specialist and Bill Kuenstler, Agronomist, visited the Red River Valley looking at the use of spring and fall seeded cover crops in a sugar beet production system. The goal was to see if this practice is beneficial and to determine the best seeding rate and methods. This practice is one that is being cost-shared in EQIP. Robin Martinek, Bob Honeman and Al Gustafson from Minnesota were the tour organizers. We were joined by several Minnesota DCs, area office staff, two agronomists from North Dakota, and agronomists from American Crystal Sugar and MinnDak Farmers Cooperative, the two large beet companies in the Valley.

Most of the sugar beets were planted following wheat or corn; beets are seldom planted following soybeans. Most common rotations are three years of soybeans or edible beans, wheat, sugar beets; or four years of corn, soybeans or edible beans, wheat, sugar beets. Generally the cover crops had been planted in the spring at different rates and with different methods. The most common cover crop used was barley, seeded at a rate of either 0.5 or 0.75 bushels per acre. The barley was either put on with a fertilizer spreader and then incorporated with a shallow tillage pass (harrow, coil packer, etc.), drilled (grain drill or air seeder), or spread with an airplane and then incorporated with a shallow tillage pass. In most cases the cover crop was applied to the entire field. A few growers planted the cover crop in strips, leaving 80 feet between the strips of barley. In most cases, the cover crop was planted one day and the beets were planted the following day.



Beets protected by barley cover crops

The cover crop is controlled by multiple spraying, after the beets are big enough to withstand the wind and blowing soil. The cover crop is in the field providing protection for 30 to 45 days.



No till beets

We looked at one field where sugar beets were planted no-till into wheat residue. The beets had been planted for about two weeks and emergence in this field was excellent. The wheat residue was providing protection for the plants from the wind and blowing soil, and we measured a significant reduction in wind speed in the rows with the residue versus end rows without cover. The grower did not expect any concerns with harvest from this residue. The site is located near Rothsay, MN in till soils with B slope. This practice is not well accepted by growers at this time but certainly merits watching as an example of a practice that could work.

Our conclusions from this trip were that the use of a spring planted cover crop at the 0.75 bu / acre rate is addressing several of the resource concerns listed in our quality criteria including Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor, Soil Erosion – Wind, and Soil Condition - Organic Matter Depletion. We have enough information from the growers and agronomists to justify a cost-share payment in EQIP for this practice. The cover crop (or the residue from the no-till planting) produced significant reduction in wind speed and provided protection to the soil and the crop. The use of a cover crop provides multiple resource benefits and we hope to encourage more growers to adopt this practice.

Minnesota State Fair

By Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist

August 23, 2007 – September 3, 2007 are the dates for the upcoming Minnesota great get-together. Minnesota NRCS will again have an exhibit at the Empire Commons Building. This year's theme will center around Backyard Conservation. Plans are being made to include handouts that tie back into the theme. The Rochester Field Office is donating the use of their land use display for our booth. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the MN NRCS fair booth, please contact Julie MacSwain, State Public Affairs Specialist.

A special thank you to *Winnie Chen, Wetland Biologist, Brooklyn Center; Diane Grover, Accounting Technician, Duluth, MN; and Debra Hermel, District Conservationist, North Branch, MN.* These individuals worked behind the scenes to assist in theme development and the identification of handout materials for the MN NRCS fair booth display.

For more information about the great Minnesota get-together, please visit the MN State Fair website: www.mnstatefair.org/

E-mail Julie at: Julie.macsSwain@mn.usda.gov if you are interested in helping with the fair display!

Grandma's Marathon & Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon

By Bill Lorenzen, Biologist

On Saturday, June 16, four MN NRCS Employees - Bill Lorenzen, Biologist, St. Paul SO; Jim Jirik, DC, Waseca FO; Jason Sickmann, ARC, Duluth AO; and Matthew Schaar, SCT, Farmington FO were among the 6980 runners who completed the 26.2 mile Grandma's Marathon, and Keith Kloubec, DC, Wheaton FO was among the 5263 runners who ran the 13.1 mile Bjorklund ½ Marathon! This year is the 31 st Anniversary of the annual events in Duluth which started with just a few runners in 1976 and has now evolved into an international event profiling both the professional and amateur athletic talents and achievements of long distance running.

In addition, Grandma's Marathon weekend has become a significant value added event which contributes millions of dollars each year to the tourism industry in NE Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. <http://www.grandmasmarathon.com/>

4th Annual Earth Day Event at Glacial Ridge

The Glacial Ridge Project hosted its fourth annual Earth Day event. 156 sixth grade students from Crookston and Red Lake Falls participated. There were six learning stations with hands on activities. New for this year's event was the Minnesota Zoo's Zoomobile that used live animals and audience participation to create an educational and entertaining environmental experience.

NRCS along with over 30 public and private partners are cooperating in the 28,000 acre Glacial Ridge Restoration Project – one of the Nation's largest wetland/tall grass prairie restoration projects – located in Minnesota's Northern Tall Grass Prairie Eco-region.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program is the catalyst for the restoration efforts at Glacial Ridge.



Kevin Weir from the Minnesota Zoo with a Red Tail Hawk.

Several of the partners assisted with making the 4th annual Earth Day event a success including Ducks Unlimited, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and NRCS.

A special thank you to the West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District for providing lunch for the presenters and The Nature Conservancy for sponsoring the Minnesota Zoomobile.

Earth Day is an ideal time to pause and reflect on the good work NRCS does to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.



The Opossum makes it way through the crowd.

**AREA 1
GLEN KAJEWSKI, ASTC(FO)
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN**

Personnel:

Michael Steinhauer, Soil Conservation Technician (SCT)– Roseau, and his wife Sara welcomed a new baby girl to their family. Kira was born on Tuesday, May 8th, and weighed in at 8 lbs 8.5 oz. Congratulations Michael.

Congratulations to **Nico Bennett**, SCT – Thief River Falls Field Office (FO), on a recent promotion.

Congratulations to **Wes Drake**, Glacial Ridge Engineer – Thief River Falls Area Office (AO) on a recent promotion.

Congratulations to **Kelly Voigt** on being selected for the District Conservationist (DC) position in the Baudette FO. Kelly began her new duties on 4/29/2007.

Luke Klawitter, Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) student, has returned to duty in the Crookston FO for a summer of work and training

Please welcome the newest members to the Area 1 NRCS Team:

Jonathan Beyer, SCT – Warren FO, EOD 4-1-07

Lisa Zluticky, SCT – Mahnomen FO, EOD 4-1-07

Thomas Simpson, SCT – Red Lake Falls FO, EOD 4-1-07

Leanne Langeberg, SCT – Red Lake, resigned to accept a position with the USFWS in California.

Amanda Peterson, SCT – Ada, resigned to stay at home with her new baby.

Awards:

Larry Voltz, DC– Bemidji FO, received a NRCS watch for Acting District Conservationist duties in the Baudette FO.

Thane Espe, SCT– Warren FO, received a winter jacket for assistance provided during the Red River Valley Soils Salinity Project.

Matt Baltes, GIS Specialist – Thief River Falls AO, received a CD clock radio for being a crucial part of the Red River Valley soils project.

Willkommen zu RC&D (Welcome to RC&D)

Thirty-three Minnesota Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) staff, Council Members and Earth Team Volunteers attended the North Central RC&D Annual Conference in Frankenmuth Michigan April 23-24. The conference consisted of tours, business meeting and breakout sessions. Some breakout sessions attended by Minnesota folks were: Financial Management for Council Members, Director Training, Clean Air, Renewable Fuels, and Value Added. Mike Doyle, Michigan State University gave an exceptionally energetic presentation on Alternative Energy. Giziibii RC&D received the Outstanding Youth Involvement Award at the annual banquet and as always the entertainment was sehr gut (very good).

Most Minnesota folks arrived by NRCS sponsored chartered bus. For some Northwest Minnesota folks, this meant a two-day 1,100 mile ride, lots of volunteer time, plenty of networking and a never-ending supply of food being consumed. As they say in Frankenmuth RC&D, sachen geschehen lassen (Make things happen).



Bavarian Inn- a German style inn and community



Group Photo: North Central Region RC&D Conference

Personnel:

Sara Rensink retired from the Miscellaneous Assistant position in the WesMin RC&D Office.

Amanda Smith reported to the Elbow Lake Field Office as a Student Trainee (Engineering).

Jeff Hellerich reported to the Fergus Falls Area Office as the Area Resource Soil Scientist.

Kevin Gietzen is to report to the Detroit Lakes Field Office as a Soil Conservationist (SC).

Russell Kleinschmidt will be reporting to the Wadena Field Office as the District Conservationist.

Shannon Rasinski is to report to the Long Prairie Field Office as a SC.

Awards:

Jeff Lepp received a non-monetary award for preparing for and presenting at the Conservation Days on Walker Lake.

Jon Frie received a non-monetary award for helping with the completion of 150 CRP contracts for the 32nd re-enrollment and assisting in developing 30 EQIP and 9 WHIP conservation plans.

Brent Gulbrandson received a non-monetary award for preparing and giving training to local TSP's in Grant County on the process for doing Nutrient and Pest Management Plans.

Area 3 Hosts June Leadership Meeting

Duluth, MN was the site of this year’s summer leadership meeting held June 11-14, 2007. In addition to the business meetings, a conservation tour was conducted on Wednesday, June 13th. The tour was a highlight of conservation and rural economic issues facing landowners in Northeastern Minnesota. Sites featured included prescribed grazing, waste management systems, wildlife habitat management, forestry practices, wetland restoration, mine land erosion control and wood fiber/energy production.



L-R Mike Oja, DC; Glen Kajewski, ASTC, Tim Koehler, ASTC-Programs and John Brach, State Engineer Ceased the moment during the conservation leadership tour and checked out the mining truck at the Hull Rust Mine site near Hibbing, Minnesota.



Jim Dusek explains one of the area 3 tour stops to the MN Leadership team!



MN Leadership team participants listened eagerly as they learned more about the Fends Research Facility near Zim, Minnesota.



Plant Materials Special Service:

Presented to a non-plant materials person (either within NRCS or outside the agency) whose efforts

have or are substantially advancing the plant materials program. **David Wise**, Soil Conservationist at the Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, Cloquet, Minnesota is one of three winners for 2006. He is recognized for consistent promotion of the Plant Materials Program throughout his career and annually providing assistance to the Bismarck Plant Materials Center, the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College staff and students, tribal members and others. Dave serves on the State Plant Materials Center Committee and provides the American Indian perspective on native plants.



L-R Dave Wise was presented with the Plant Materials Service Award by William Hunt, State Conservationist

NRCS – Fond du Lac Tribe Sign Cultural Resources Agreement

Minnesota NRCS signed a cultural resource tribal agreement with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on Monday, June 11, 2007 at the Black Bear Casino located in Carlton, Minnesota. Minnesota NRCS State Conservationist William Hunt along with Fond du Lac Tribal Chairwoman Karen Diver signed the protocol which outlines a process for consulting with the tribe prior to implementing any practices (i.e. undertakings) that will affect tribal lands and resources, especially within reservation boundaries. Consultation ensures that tribal interests, relating to natural resources and traditional cultural and spiritual places, are represented and considered in all phases of conservation planning.

This agreement continues to strengthen our government-to-government relationship with the tribe and builds on an already established conservation partnership. NRCS, out of the Duluth Field Office, and the Fond du Lac Band have partnered together on several conservation projects over the past decade. The main emphasis has been restoration of the reservation's wild rice lakes. The once productive lakes were connected with a judicial ditch system in the early 1900's in an effort to create dry land farming. EQIP funds helped the tribe construct structures for water control on the ditches to manage and maintain lake levels for rice production. NRCS has also used EQIP to help the band fund mechanical control of invasive aquatic vegetation impacting wild rice beds. In addition to the rice lakes work, NRCS has helped the band with projects ranging from controlling erosion on abandoned logging roads, improving wildlife habitat to protecting ground water resources by helping to fund the sealing of abandoned wells.

Personnel:

Dana Raines, was selected as the new Coordinator for the Onanegozie RC&D. Dana is currently the District Conservationist in Redwood Falls. He will join the Area 3 staff on July 9. Welcome aboard, Dana!

Janine Milbradt, Soil Scientist (SC), was reassigned from the MLRA Soil Survey Office (SSO), Marshall, MN, to the Duluth Soil Survey Office effective May 14. Area 3 welcomes you, Janine!

Gail Bong, Student Trainee, is working again this summer at the Center of Excellence, Cloquet, MN. Welcome back, Gail!

Jennifer Mold, is the new WAE assigned to the North Branch Field Office. Lisa Curtis, Matthew Goseyun, Deborah Richards, and Donald Robnik are new WAEs working at the Center of Excellence, Cloquet, MN. We're glad to have all of you!

Perry Sullivan, MLRA SS, Bismarck, ND, is on a 3-month detail to Area 3, International Falls SSO. Nice to have you back, Perry!

Patty Burns, SS, International Falls SSO, resigned April 27, 2007. Best wishes to Patty in her future endeavors!

Awards:

Peter Mead, WAE, on detail to the State Office, received a non-monetary award for outstanding work performance in regards to the Rapid Watershed Assessment Project.

Shannon Rasinski, Soil Conservationist, Hinckley Field Office, received a non-monetary award for serving as the Acting District Conservationist for the Cambridge Field Office during the period of 1/22/07 - 3/02/07.

Scott Kittleson, DC, and Candi Fuller, Soil Conservation Technician, Aitkin Field Office, each received a non-monetary award for their extra efforts resulting in obligation of all applications in protracts by March 15, 2007.

Length of Service Awards:

Fred Kollmann and **Robert Korth** (30 years)

Paul Sandstrom (25 years)

Roger Risley (20 years)

Your dedicated service is appreciated!

Senior and Junior Envirothon:

By: Felicia Brockhoff, Administrative Asst, Carver SWCD and Joni' Franklin, SC, Waite Park

On May 3, 2007, the Area IV Senior Envirothon (grades 9-12) was held at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota. Thirty high school teams from Area IV participated in the annual Senior Envirothon competition.

The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resources competition for students. Students are tested on their knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources—aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue that changes from year to year. The current events issue for 2007 "Alternative/Renewable Energy" was something everyone could relate to.



Students from the Hmong Academy evaluated an upland soil profile at the soils station.

Students visited five "in-the-field" test stations, where written and hands-on problem solving was required. At the sixth station, students were given a "scenario" on a current events topic, where they had to give a 10-minute oral presentation on that scenario.



Joni' Franklin, NRCS Soil conservationist, directed students at the soils substation for the 2007 Senior Envirothon Competition.



The top 3 teams advanced to the State Envirothon which was held on May 16, near Marshall. Area IV was represented by two teams from Benilde-St. Margaret's in Hennepin County and the School of Environmental Studies from Dakota County. One of the Benilde-St. Margaret's team will be representing Minnesota in the Canon Envirothon in New York in late July. Congratulations to the team and their advisors!

AREA 4
TIMOTHY A. WILSON, ASTC(FO)
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN

Last year the first Junior Envirothon for grades 6-8 was hosted by Carver, Hennepin, and Scott Counties. Eight teams participated in the 2006 event. The Junior Envirothon is organized the same as the Senior Envirothon, but without the Oral Presentation Station. The second Junior Envirothon was held on May 10, 2007, at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota. Seventeen teams from six counties in Area IV participated in the second annual Junior Envirothon. Jordan Middle School from Scott County took first place; while Albany Middle School from Stearns County received second, and the Lighthouse at Spring Lake Park, Anoka County, received third place, respectively.

Personnel:

Keith Trudell, Soil Conservation Technician, Glencoe/Waconia FO started March 18, 2007. Keith is a shared employee between Glencoe and Waconia. He comes to us from Wisconsin and he is a Packer fan.

Carrie Anderson, Urban Conservationist started working for the Stearns County SWCD on April 16, 2007. She will be assisting cities with developing and implementing their source water protection plans, along with other natural resource projects. Carrie comes to Stearns with previous planning and SWCD experience in Davenport, Iowa. She is originally from Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Manila Khouchaluen, Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) Trainee, Soil Conservationist entered on duty May 13, 2007. She is assigned to the Brooklyn Center Area Office this summer. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business and History Political Sciences from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Manila is attending the University of Minnesota to earn a Masters in Anthropology.

Nathan Blankers, Soil Conservationist (SC), Waite Park returned to duty on May 27, 2007. He graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University this spring with a major in Agricultural Industries and Marketing.

Justin Lindner, SCEP, Trainee SC returned to duty on May 27, 2007, and is assigned to the Foley Field Office. He is a senior majoring in Biology at Bemidji State University.

Amy Rozeski, Soil Conservation Aid WAE, Foley was hired on May 27, 2007.

Lakelle Pritchett, Agricultural Engineer transferred to the Brooklyn Center Area Office effective June 10, 2007, from St. Peters, MN.

Kendall Hiedeman, Soil Conservation Aid WAE, Farmington was hired on June 10, 2007.

Derrick Harmon, SC, Jordan returned to duty on June 10, 2007. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from Alcorn State University in December 2006. Derrick has completed a semester in the Master of Science-Agronomy Program at Alcorn State University.

Lynette Horton-Harmon, SC, Farmington returned to duty on June 10, 2007. She graduated from Alcorn State University this spring with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics.

Sangeetha Gummadi, SCEP Trainee SC, returned to duty on June 10, 2007. She is assigned to the Farmington Field Office this summer. She is a junior majoring in Agricultural Education at the University of Minnesota.

Environmental Education 101

The setting is a picturesque park nestled in a sloping river valley. It could be in your part of the state). The trees have just finished leafing out and the quietude has been broken by the raucous noise imparted by students as they disgorge from an orange school bus. Students are being shepherded by a doting teacher who is trying to bring some order to the chaos. A typical scene from a fifth grade environmental day sponsored by the local field office. I've had the privilege to partake in a few of these over the years and this year was no different. In the spring, we have several county offices that have environmental days for younger students.

The activities range from environmental learning stations, soils studies, water activities, and hazardous material awareness just to name a few. I've been out in all weather conditions; hot, humid, gale force winds, snow drifting down with kids in shirt-sleeves, wood tick invasions and this year I was nearly carried off by buffalo gnats. I had blood running down both arms from gnat bites and some students even pleaded with their teacher to return to school.

What are we accomplishing with these field days you may ask. Other than a day away from the classroom, the students are being taught and shown some very fundamental things about the environment they live in. Are we making any progress? I can only base my answer on the results that I have seen in the past thirty years. I have definitely seen an improvement in student awareness in the environment and its relationship between the cause and their effects. Maybe we have more teachers in this part of the state that take an interest in the environment and the farming that goes on around them. Maybe we have done a better job in reaching those students with our talks, displays and field trips. I'd like to think we all had a part in it. If you're going through withdrawal from those recent student encounters, don't despair; there is always next year class and maybe, just maybe they will be quiet, po-

lite, shy and ask a lot of challenging questions... Right? Good luck and don't give up on our next generation.

Personnel:

Russ Kleinschmidt, Soil Conservationist (SC) in Marshall, was selected as DC in Wadena. We wish Russ good luck.

Dana Raines, SC in Redwood Falls, accepted the RC&D Coordinator position for the Onanegozie RC&D Office in Mora, MN. Good luck to you Dana.

SCT's promotions:

Deb Hansen, Soil Conservation Technician in Ortonville; **Brian Pfarr**, SCT in Redwood Falls; **Mike Timmerman**, SCT in Marshall.

Transfers: Janine Milbradt, Soil Scientist in Marshall AO, transferred to the soil survey office in Duluth.

Kevin Geitzen, SC in Madison, transferred to the Detroit Lakes FO.

Nathan Blanker, Student Career Experience Program, graduated from SMSU college and has come on as a permanent employee and transferred to the Waite Park FO.

Collateral Duties:

Cory Drummond, DC in Benson, has been selected as Chair of the State Civil Rights Committee.

Mike Nienaber, Area Resource Conservationist in the Marshall AO, accepted the position of Area 5 Earth Team Volunteer Representative.

Beth Collins, Geographic Information Specialist, Marshall AO, accepted the position of Federal Women's Program Committee Representative for Area 5.

AREA 5
MIKE APPEL, ASTC(FO)
MARSHALL, MN

New Hire: *Ellen Cameron*, a high school student hired under the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP), is assisting the Ortonville FO in scanning wetland slides. Welcome aboard.

Summer Trainee: Area 5 will have one returning student this summer. *Roderick Dukes* is assigned to the Benson FO beginning June 10th. Welcome to Area 5.

Resignation: *Bart Roepke*, SCT in Benson.

On May 15th, *Brian and Sarah Pfarr* became the proud parents of a baby girl, Brenna Jolynn. Brian is the SCT in Redwood Falls.

Awards: 30 year plaques and pins were given to *Mark Rose*, Wetland Biologist, and *Cal Dunblazier*, Civil Engineering Technician.

Non-monetary awards: *Kevin Geitzen, Jerry Purdin, Jeremy Larson, Brian Christiansen, Al-lisa Wendland, Mike Appel, Beth Collins, Joe Kristoff, Cal Dunblazier, Paul Bridgland, Nathan Stewart, Ray Genrich, Sandy Jerzak, Vonnie Nilges and Janine Milbradt.*

AREA 6
KASEY TAYLOR, ASTC(FO)
ST. PETER, MN

Christina Muedeking Visits Field Offices in Area 6

On April 24, 2007 Christina Muedeking, NRCS Regional Assistant Chief, Central Region, visited several Area 6 Field Offices. Muedeking was accompanied by Kasey Taylor, ASTC-FO, St. Peter, MN; Ann English, ASTC-Operations, St Paul, MN and William Hunt, State Conservationist, MN NRCS.



The visits made included the following Field Office locations: Mankato Field Office and the LeCenter Field Office.

These were the first field office visits that Christina had conducted since her new appointment to NRCS in Washington, D.C. Christina, who is formerly from Minnesota, enjoyed the opportunity to meet the local field office staff and learn about the many programs and activities the field staff are involved in.

A special thank you to the staff from Area 6 that played an integral role in the planning of the field office tours!

Grazing Management Pasture Walk – by Jamilah McCoy, Acting Three Rivers RC&D Coordinator

Three Rivers RC&D held the first of two summer pasture walks on June 7, 2007 at Circle B Cattle Co, Truman, MN. This is a family farm which is operated by Dan and Leah Owen. This family farm was cropped up until two years ago and has been converted to pasture. This 125 acre pasture is seeded to mostly cool season grasses. The farm features grass feed cattle and calves. They have an EQIP contract. The afternoon agenda for the event included the producer providing an overview of their operation, NRCS programs and cost share information, grazing management systems, fencing and watering system examples, discussion of livestock types, and a tour of the operation. Approximately 35 people attended the pasture walk.



Pasture Walk Attendees

Dry Hydrant Project

Prairie Country staff continues to work with the local fire departments on dry hydrant projects. This past month contacts have been made with Boyd, Hanley Falls, Porter and Wood Lake (Yellow Medicine), Stewart (McLeod County) and Madison (Lac qui Parle County) Fire Departments regarding potential dry hydrant projects. There is, currently, a potential to install at least 20 hydrants this year.

In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of a fire department's operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill up and return to the fire. Last fall, the Lake Henry Fire and Rescue Department installed a dry hydrant. Prairie Country assisted with the site selection, design, DNR permit and installation of the dry hydrant. Funds for the project were obtained through a DNR Firewise Program Grant.

Personnel:

Rafael Sierra, Soil Conservation Student Trainee, began duty on May 29, in the Willmar Field Office (FO).

Tyler Gasow, Soil Conservation Aid (SCA), begins duty on June 18, in Glencoe.

Catherine Thiesse, SCA, began her tour of duty in April for the Fairmont FO.

Rachel Schindler, Soil Conservation Aid, begins duty on June 18, in Olivia.

Madeline Dalton, Shakopee Creek Watershed Specialist, began on June 5. She is located in the Willmar Service Center and is responsible for coordinating projects and programs in the Shakopee Creek and Greater Shakopee Creek Watersheds.

The importance of marketing by Noel Frank

I think that it is important to differentiate between good marketing and “doing more and more business.” Many field office people are, to say the least, stressed out with more day to day work than we have ever had before; and we constantly get more to do.

When I have discussed marketing with staff, they seem to immediately think we are just trying to get more work and production out of them and that is not what I see as good marketing. Like many other aspects of running a field office, there are styles of the way people do things and I think there are styles of marketing. What is important of course is that we have a positive image and a friendly, helpful style. We need to also put ourselves out there whenever possible with our success stories. We need to make sure that we do not fall into a rut that we are just working for rural and agricultural producers and landowners.

We work for all the public and even though they are not directly involved, they are getting the benefits of good resource management. How will they know what we are doing if we do not make the appropriate connections. I believe that there is still a very large part of the population that does not know what NRCS is. We have been around for a long time and many people especially in the urban setting do not know us.

So I think we need to keep stressing the importance of letting the population everywhere know what those four letters mean and where we are. In our office we think it is very important to pay attention to what the “customer” is thinking as they go out our door. We want them leaving with a positive opinion of us and a grassroots, common sense attitude toward us, and we want them to tell other people about us.

So marketing may or may not mean doing more contracts and more goals. It is not being afraid to “blow our horn” and let the entire population know of all the good work that we help with. We need to let everyone know that everyone benefits from the work we do. The target may not be our usual clientele but they need to know.

Personnel:

Nathan Anderson, Design Engineer from Utah has been reassigned to the Area Engineer for the Area 7 effective June 10, 2007.

Daniel Pazdernik, Soil Conservationist (SC) has been reassigned to the Albert Lea Field Office effective May 27, 2007.

Desmond Glenn from Branson, MO was selected as a Soil Conservationist for the Lewiston Field Office effective May 27, 2007.

Deanna Anderson, MLRA Soil Survey Coordinator was selected as the State Soil Scientist in Gainesville, FL effective June 10, 2007.

**The next issue of Current Developments
Is due: September 14, 2007**

Send your articles to:

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*Your contribution and continued readership of
Current Developments is appreciated!*