

# Oklahoma Conservation Partnership Report

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Lake Eufaula, OK

VISION: Productive Lands - Healthy Environment – MISSION: Helping People Help the Land

## NRCS Participates in Plasticulture Workshop

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Engineering	2
Water Resources	3
Zone News	4

A plasticulture farming workshop was held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, at the Moore Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City. The theme for the workshop was *Small Farmers: World Class Innovators*. The workshop was hosted by the state Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and one of the sponsors for the workshop was the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The workshop was designed to offer an overview of how plasticulture works and showcase farmers using innovative methods. In addition to having 13 programs on the agenda that covered everything from gardening techniques, soil health, plasticulture innovations and funding opportunities; there were informational booths that provided attendees with valuable information about program opportunities and supplies for implementing plasticulture. NRCS had an informational booth that provided producers information on the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program; which includes cost share opportunities for landowners to apply for a Seasonal High Tunnel. Dr. Carol Crouch, district conservationist in NRCS Norman and Purcell services center, had the opportunity to visit and share valuable NRCS program information with producers from all over the state of Oklahoma. Mike Leverett, CED, for the Farm Service Agency in Purcell and Norman service center and Cleveland County district secretary, Chris Ward, for Conservation District in Norman; also provided producers with information on their conservation and educational programs.



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**NRCS Participates in Plasticulture Workshop cont.....**

Dr. Crouch reported that there were 187 producers in attendees and 31 speakers and vendors in attendance. One of the highlights of the workshop was a presentation made by McClain producer, Larry Hocking, who recently received funding, through NRCS, for his Seasonal High Tunnel (SHT). Mr. Hocking shared his experiences as a modern day farmer and how he utilizes his SHT. Micah Anderson, Plasticulture Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry stated, Farmers who use the plasticulture method of raised-bed gardening may not farm many acres, but this year’s theme shows that they are “World Class Innovators.” Program coordinator Micah Anderson will give a brief overview of how the plasticulture program works and show slides of vegetable gardens across the state using this technology to produce bountiful crops.

Presenters will share their own innovations and demonstrate equipment and methods they use to maintain productive gardens. Innovations include a new strain of okra, a waterwheel transplanter and surrounding plants with organic clay to protect them from extreme temperatures. Practical help from soil and vegetable specialists will describe composting, soil enrichment with cover crops, irrigation strategies and pumpkins that can be grown successfully on plastic.

“This will be the single largest gathering of experts in the field of plasticulture and small farming operations we expect to see this year.” Crouch summarized, “The workshop was a huge success and beneficial to many producers.



**ENGINEERING - submitted by Chris Stoner**

**Oklahoma NRCS has 2 new Professional Engineers!**

On February 5, 2012, two of our NRCS Design Engineers, Brian Dillard and Heath Sand, received their Professional Engineer certificates in a ceremony held at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City after successfully completing the eight hour examination for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination. This examination is the key part of becoming a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) for the state of Oklahoma. Congratulations to Brian and Heath for exercising this opportunity to demonstrate their professional engineering abilities by becoming registered PEs.



**WATER RESOURCES - submitted by Bill Porter**

**Status of Oklahoma Watershed Rehabilitation Projects as of 2-15-12**

Watershed	Dam No.	County	Conservation District	Status
<b><i>In Planning</i></b>				
Sallisaw Creek	29	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Estimated completion 10-1-12
Rock Creek	15 & 16	Murray	Murray County CD	Estimated completion 10-1-12
Upper Black Bear	62	Noble	Noble County CD	Estimated completion 5-1-12
<b><i>Planning Completed - Awaiting Design</i></b>				
Sallisaw Creek	32	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights
<b><i>In Design</i></b>				
Quapaw Creek	15M	Lincoln	Lincoln County CD	Pending
Barntiz Creek	11	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 3-1-13
Barnitz Creek	5	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 4-15-13
Sallisaw Creek	28	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Estimated completion 4-15-12
Sallisaw Creek	30	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Estimated completion 6-15-12
Fourche Maline	7M	Latimer	Latimer County CD	Estimated completion 9-15-14
Cottonwood Creek	16	Canadian	East Canadian CD	Estimated completion 9-1-13
Cobb Creek	3	Washita	Deer Creek CD	
<b><i>Planning &amp; Design Completed - Awaiting Construction</i></b>				
Cottonwood Creek	54	Logan	Logan County CD	Pending Landrights
Sallisaw Creek	34	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights
Sallisaw Creek	26	Adair	Adair County CD	Estimated start 3-1-12
Upper Clear Boggy	34	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	Estimated start 6-1-12
Sallisaw Creek	33	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending
Ft Cobb Laterals	10	Caddo	South Caddo County CD	Estimated start 8-1-12
Barntiz Creek	1	Dewey	Dewey County CD	
<b><i>Under Construction</i></b>				
Cobb Creek	1	Washita	Deer Creek CD	Estimated completion 2-15-12
Turkey Creek	9	Washita	Washita County CD	Estimated completion 5-15-12
Sugar Creek	L-44	Caddo	South Caddo County CD	Estimated completion 9-1-12
Cottonwood Creek	15	Kingfisher	Kingfisher County CD	Estimated completion 6-15-12
Upper Clear Boggy	36	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	Estimated completion 5-15-12
Caney-Coon Creek	2M	Coal	Coal County CD	Estimated completion 12-1-12
Upper Clear Boggy	33	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	Estimated completion 12-15-12
<b><i>Rehabilitation Completed</i></b>				
Sandstone Creek	16A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Barnitz Creek	14	Dewey	Dewey County CD	
Mill Creek	18	Johnston	Johnston County CD	
Double Creek	1,2,3,4,5,6	Washington	Caney Valley CD	
Cavalry Creek	6	Washita	Washita County CD	
Sandstone Creek	12,17A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Sergeant Major Creek	1,2	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Cobb Creek	2	Washita	Deer Creek CD	
Sallisaw Creek	15,16,20	Adair	Adair County CD	
Big Wewoka Creek	29	Seminole	Seminole County CD	
Cottonwood Creek	17	Canadian	East Canadian CD	
Sallisaw Creek	18M	Adair	Adair County CD	*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-43	Caddo	West Caddo County CD	*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	35	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	*ARRA

\*American Recovery Reinvestment Act

## ZONE NEWS

### Canadian Co – El Reno Field Service Center

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC), Oklahoma State University Extension and the East Canadian County Conservation District partnered to sponsor a conservation informational meeting to discuss current Ag policies that impact local producers. Topics included Soil Farming (land application of drilling effluent), agriculture employment laws, on farm spill prevention containment and countermeasures (SPCC), and drought recovery. The meeting was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 in El Reno, Oklahoma and over 84 people attended.



### Harmon Co – Hollis Field Service Center

Melissa Teague, DC, from the Hollis FO and Jennifer Smith, Harmon County Conservation District Secretary, participated in Farm to You at Sally Gillentine Elementary School in Hollis on January 12, 2012. 317 students in grades Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> listened to presentations and participated in hands-on demonstrations to learn more about where food comes from, how it gets from farms to their homes, and how nutritious foods keep our bodies healthy. The program is coordinated by OSU Extension, with sponsorship and cooperation from many other groups.



ZONE NEWS cont....

Haskell Co – Stigler Field Service Center

On the evening of February 16, 2012, NRCS District Conservationist Tom Neumeyer assisted the Haskell County OSU Cooperative Extension office conduct a 2-hour graduate-level **Poultry Waste Management Education** session for area poultry operators and commercial and private litter applicators at the Stigler Kiamichi Technology Center. There were a total of 22 in attendance to hear OSU Extension Poultry Specialist Dr. Josh Payne provide an overview of Senate Bill 92 which was signed into effect on April 13, 2011, and became effective January 1, 2012. Also, Dr. Keith Bramwell, Department of Poultry Science from the University of Arkansas, presented information pertaining to Management Techniques and Methods for Breeder Houses. Neumeyer also offered information about an upcoming USDA informational meeting set for February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Stigler and the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>.



Attendees, including Laotian producers, visiting during the event

Dr. Josh Payne discussing Senate Bill 92 with those in attendance



SB 92 becomes effective Jan. 1, 2012

- 9 hours of initial training within the first year of becoming registered or licensed
- 2 hours of continuing education each year until receiving total of 19 training hours
- Hours will be carried forward

**ZONE NEWS cont....**

**Muskogee Co – Muskogee Field Service Center**

The Muskogee NRCS Field Office and Muskogee County Conservation District attended the 2011 RC&D Mardi Gras Fundraising event, hosted here in Muskogee County. Rishell Bowler, DC set-up a booth and provided program informational packets to the public. Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist also attended this year’s event and was available to meet producers here in Muskogee County and discuss NRCS programs and technical services. This is the first year of the fundraising event. All proceeds and donations will be used to fund activities for rural development and resource conservation in the surrounding counties. This year’s event drew in approximately 120 participants/vendors. Other vendors included Clean Line Energy, The Muskogee Chamber of Commerce and The National Wild Turkey Federation.

**Pontotoc Co – Ada Field Service Center**

**Pontotoc County Completes First Watershed Rehabilitation Project**

The final inspection was conducted of rehabilitation work for Upper Clear Boggy Creek Watershed Site 35 in Pontotoc County. This was the first rehabilitation to be completed in Pontotoc County. The principle spillway was replaced and raised 3.7 feet to provide 100 year life for sediment storage. The principle spillway conduit was installed using the jack and bore method of installation. UCB 35, located south of Ada, is a low hazard dam but was rehabilitated to support the rehabilitation of UCB 34 in series downstream. The pre-bid conference for UCB 34 is scheduled for late March. UCB 33 and 36 are two other Upper Clear Boggy Creek Flood Control Lakes currently being rehabilitated at this time and to be completed this summer and fall. UCB 33, 34, and 35 are ARRA funded projects.



Jack and Bore method of installing new principle spillway conduit on UCB 35



New Principle Spillway UCB 35