



United States Department of Agriculture

Caribbean Area Civil Rights
Advisory Committee

 **New Employees:
Welcome to the
NRCS Family!**



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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Omar Báez Torres

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Arecibo Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since October 31, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science
TEMAC, University of Puerto Rico,
Mayagüez; Bachelors Degree in
Environmental Engineering, PR
Polytechnic University

Other positions (brief career history):

- Beckbton Environmental Laboratory, Ponce

Hobbies/Interests: Married to Nicole M. Muñoz; likes reading and technical themes.



Jovane Román

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Mayagüez Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since October 17, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agronomy, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Other positions (brief career history):

- PR Dept. of Agriculture as Special Project Coordinator - Rice Program, Guánica, PR
- Bayer Crop Science, Sabana Grande, PR

Hobbies/Interests: He is married to Noelia Torres, both love to spend time at the beach and play with their puppy Lara.



Lilliam Torres

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Caguas Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since October 17, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agronomy, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez; Masters Degree in Environmental Science, UPR Medical Sciences Campus

Other positions (brief career history):

- PR Department of Agriculture, Caguas Regional Office
- Agricultural Science Teacher, Esc. José Gautier Benítez, Caguas, PR
- USDA APHIS Fruit Fly Emergency 2015

Hobbies/Interests: Music, Singing, Background Vocals Recording, Dogs, Nature, Yoga, Vegetarian Food, Travel, Coffee, Home Gardening.



Carlos Nazario-Cotte

Title: Program Support Specialist

Duty Station: Caguas Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since October 3, 2016

**Education/Training: Associates Degree in Medical Coding and Billing,
Bachelors Degree in Physical Education.**

Other positions (brief career history):

- PR Police Department, Maritime Division, Cabo Rojo, PR
- US Army (Active Service for 5 Years)
- William Beaumont Medical Center, El Paso, Texas

Hobbies/Interests: His family had cattle when he was younger. He likes to play basketball and watch movies with his children.



Jennifer Cardona

Title: Soil Conservationist

Duty Station: Arecibo Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since September 26, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Science, UMET; Associates Degree in Agricultural Production, University of Puerto Rico - Utuado

Other positions (brief career history):

- NRCS Pathways Student Internship at: North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Juana Díaz and Caguas Field Offices

Hobbies/Interests: She likes to go Hiking, tourism and spend time with family and friends.



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Silmarie Padron

Title: Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy

Duty Station: State Office

Date of Current Position: Since September 19, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Natural Sciences, Universidad del Turabo - Caguas; recently completed Regional Leadership Development Program (1 year course)

Other positions (brief career history):

- 16 years with USFWS – field experience in both National and Regional Offices; Chief of Staff of the Ecological Services Division in the Atlanta Regional Office.

Hobbies/Interests: She likes outdoor activities, snorkeling, paddle boarding, camping and hiking with her husband, nieces/nephews and with her two doggy babies (Soni Marie and Francisco Lee aka “El Pancho”).



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Yara Ortíz-Feliciano

Title: Engineering Student Trainee – Pathway Internship Program

Duty Station: Mayagüez Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since June 13, 2016

Education/Training: Studying for a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Other positions (brief career history):

- NRCS Earth Team volunteer Program – 2013, at Mayagüez and San Germán Regional Offices

Hobbies/Interests: She likes to read, watch TV series, and also works on the RUM Student Team in the Reinforced Concrete Canoe project.



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Abiud Mulero-Pantoja

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Corozal Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since May 15, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez; Masters Degree in Engineering Management, Universidad Politécnica de Puerto Rico.

Other positions (brief career history):

- Ericsson (Telecommunication Company)

Hobbies/Interests: He likes to visit the beach and play golf.



Lionel Cruz

Title: Soil Conservationist

Duty Station: Mayagüez Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since May 2, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science – TMAG;
Masters Degree in Soil Fertility, University of Puer Rico, Mayagüez

Other positions (brief career history):

- Agente Agrícola at Agricultural Extension Service at Mayagüez and San Germán Regional Offices

Hobbies/Interests: He likes to build furniture, play guitar, and plant different crops on his farm.



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Gabriel Román

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Mayagüez Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since April 5, 2016

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering; |
Masters Degree in Water Resources Engin
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
Engineer in Training (EIT) certification

Other positions (brief career history):

- Graduate researcher on various projects with Dr. Perez Alegria at the UPR Agricultural Engineering Department
- NOAA-NGI Diversity Intern at Mississippi State University Civil Engineering Dept.

Hobbies/Interests: Playing guitar, hiking, family, nature; spending time at the beach with family, friends and his dog.



Josué Román

Title: Civil Engineering Technician

Duty Station: Juana Díaz Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since November 2, 2015

Education/Training: Studies in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems, Universidad del Turabo - Caguas

Other positions (brief career history):

- NRCS Soil Conservation Technician at Corozal, FO
- Manager in Rent-A-Center Store
- US ARMY Staff Sergeant, Engineering Heavy Equipment Project Manager

Hobbies/Interests: Josué has a farm, and with the help of his wife and children he cultivates different types of vegetables and grains. They also have animals for production and/or recreation purposes, such as: sheep, horses, goats, pigs, chickens and many others.



Mabel Vega-Almodóvar

Title: Soil Conservation Technician

Duty Station: Juana Díaz Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since September 21, 2015

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agronomy, Masters Degree Horticulture, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüe

Other positions (brief career history):

- PPQ Technician (Screening) - USDA-APHIS
- Assistant Coordinator- PR Department of Agriculture
- Biological Science Aid- USDA-TARS
- Agricultural Insurance Inspector- PR Agricultural Insurance Corporation
- Agricultural Research Assistant- UPR Agricultural Research Station
- Agronomist- Bananera Fabre
- Horticulture Laboratory Instructor- University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
- Horticulture Student Trainee- Martex Farms

Hobbies/Interests: She likes to do outdoor activities, kayaking, photography and drawing.



Esteban Padilla-Brinn

Title: Soil Conservationist

Duty Station: Arecibo Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since June 15, 2015

Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science
(Agronomía & Suelos), University of Puerto Rico,
Mayagüez

Other positions (brief career history):

- He completed the summer practice at Bayer Crop Science, Sabana Grande, PR
- Pioneer Hi-Breed, Salinas, PR

Hobbies/Interests: He likes to play basketball, exercise and spend time with his family.



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Christian Vargas

Title: Soil Conservationist

Duty Station: Corozal Field Office

Date of Current Position: Since June 15, 2015

**Education/Training: Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science
(Agronomía & Suelos), University of Puerto
Rico, Mayagüez**

Other positions (brief career history):

- Internship with IWA State University
- Monsanto, Third Millennium Genetics, Pioneer
- Seguros Agrícolas de Puerto Rico
- Conducting Comprehensive Studies of the Dairy Industry
- Agricultural Department of Puerto Rico - Market Inspection Division

Hobbies/Interests: Surfing, skate boarding, and he also produces lettuce and cilantro that he distributes to hotels and restaurants.





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