

Projects . Successes . Partnerships

 **NRCS** Louisiana  
**Conservation Update**  
United States Department of Agriculture . Natural Resources Conservation Service

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March 2013

# Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Facility

**Richland/Morehouse Parish Farmers  
Protect Ground and Surface Waters**

## Sign-Ups Announced:

- **SPCC Pilot Program**
- **WRP**

A cooperative partnership with local  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and  
Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

## On the Cover



Lifelong farmers Francis Jordan and his son Vic Jordan have been putting conservation on the ground for years. In 2011, the Jordans implemented Louisiana NRCS' first Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facility on their farm in Richland Parish. To find out more about the Jordan family and their farm, see pages 4 and 5.



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Call us with your questions

The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

If you would like to receive monthly issues of the Conservation Update, please send your mailing address or e-mail address to:

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## USDA's Commitment to Equality

USDA believes every farmer and rancher should be treated equally and fairly, and we are committed to resolving all cases involving allegations of past discrimination by individuals.

### Referral Guide for USDA Settlements and Claims Adjudication Process

#### Women and Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers Claims Adjudication Process

If you believe that USDA improperly denied farm loan benefits to you for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are a female or because you are Hispanic, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. To request a claims package by telephone, call 1-888-508-4429. To request a claims package online, please visit [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

#### Native American Farmer and Rancher Class Action Settlement (Keepseagle v. Vilsack)

If you are a Native American who was denied a farm loan or loan servicing by the USDA between January 1, 1981, and November 24, 1999, you may be eligible for benefits from a Class Action Settlement. To request a claims package by telephone, call: 1-888-233-5506. To request a claims package online, or for more information, please visit: [www.indianfarmclass.com](http://www.indianfarmclass.com)

#### African American Farmer and Rancher Class Action Settlement (Pigford II)

If you are an African American farmer (a) who submitted a request to file a late claim on or between October 13, 1999, and June 18, 2008, under the 1999 USDA settlement in the earlier class action known as Pigford v. Glickman ("Pigford") and (b) who did not receive a merits determination on your discrimination claim, you may be eligible for benefits from a Class Action Settlement. To hear information by telephone, call 1-866-950-5547 or 1-866-472-7826. To find information online, please visit: [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)

## Notes from the Acting State Conservationist



This issue of the *Conservation Update* spotlights a farm family who has been farming since 1841. Seven generations of farmers in this family have worked the land, produced crops, and raised families to carry on the farming tradition. Each generation cared for the land and worked to ensure the farm was healthy and productive for the next generation. As you will see on pages 4 and 5, the current generation is minimizing the risk of on-farm oil products being accidentally released into ground and surface waters by installing a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facility on their farm.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is helping agricultural producers implement conservation practices to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule.

If you are interested in learning more about NRCS' Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Pilot program, contact your local NRCS office. A list of offices and contact information is included on the back page of this publication.

Britt Paul  
Acting State Conservationist  
Louisiana

State Conservationist Kevin Norton is on detail assignment to Washington, DC, to work on Senator Debbie Stabenow's staff to help draft the language of our nation's next Farm Bill.

## Conservation Partners Request for Proposals Spring 2013

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have forged a partnership to provide grants on a competitive basis to support field biologists and other habitat professionals (botanists, ecologists, foresters, etc.) working with NRCS field offices in providing technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and other private landowners to optimize conservation on private lands. Funds may also be used for outreach, monitoring, evaluation, and capacity building.

The program priority areas for this round of funding are:

- NRCS' Landscape Conservation Initiatives
- NFWF's Keystone Initiatives
- Working Lands for Wildlife

Organizations interested in competing for this competitive grant opportunity should look at the program support information and the Request for Proposals which can be found at: [www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners](http://www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners).

**The pre-proposal deadline is April 23, 2013.**

A webinar to review the grant process and program goals, and to answer questions, will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST and will be available on the Conservation Partners website throughout the RFP cycle. **For more information, contact: [conservationpartners@nfwf.org](mailto:conservationpartners@nfwf.org) or (612) 564-7296.**

## Quote of the Month

**"We're the seventh generation. I'm sitting here as the seventh generation because seven generations ago those people were looking out for me. Seven generations from now someone will be here, I know. So each generation makes sure that seven generations is coming, all the time."**

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, Onondaga Council of Chiefs of the Hau de no sau nee of the Onondaga Nation, interview with Bill Moyers, July 3, 1991

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 Follow us on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/NRCS\\_Louisiana](http://twitter.com/NRCS_Louisiana)

# 7 Generations of Farmers

## Building a Sustainable Farm

Lifelong farmers Francis Jordan and his son Vic Jordan have been putting conservation on the ground for years. Since 1841, seven generations of the Jordan family have been farming their land, and today Jordan Planting Company II is one of the largest farming operations in Richland and Morehouse Parishes.

Their love for the land is evident in this father-son operation. Both Francis and Vic started working on the farm at an early age, and Francis remembers growing his first cotton crop in 1955 after returning from the service. Today, the Jordans plant



Left to right:  
Vic Jordan,  
Francis Jordan,  
and NRCS District  
Conservationist  
Larry Phillips.

corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and peanuts, and they have 140 Angus cattle on 300 acres of pasture.

They have been working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for years and have implemented a suite of conservation

practices on their 3,500 acre farming operation, including irrigation land leveling, irrigation pipeline, grade stabilization structures, forage and biomass planting, livestock pipeline, fence, watering facility, heavy use area pads, and nutrient management.

**“We knew this (SPCC) was going to be mandated by the EPA  
... it was a good opportunity to get it done.”**

Vic Jordan



**Vic Jordan said he was glad NRCS was there to offer financial assistance for this project.**

**In 2011, the Jordans implemented Louisiana NRCS' first Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facility on their farm in Richland Parish.**

This facility, also known as an Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility, is designed to minimize the risk of on-farm oil products from accidentally being released into ground and surface waters. In order to help offset the cost, the Jordans were able to receive **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** funding through a pilot program to assist eligible producers in complying with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations.



“We knew this (SPCC) was going to be mandated by the EPA and with just coming out of a good corn crop year, we thought it was a good opportunity to get it done,” said Vic Jordan, referring to the costliness of building the facility.

The Jordans have an on-farm fuel containment facility that not only meets NRCS specifications but EPA regulations as well. They completed an SPCC Plan that was created by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) and trained their farm employees.

**The Jordans believe putting conservation on the land is the only way to be profitable and to ensure successful crops down the road.**

Article by Sarah Broadway, Soil Conservationist, Rayville Field Office

## Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Facility

For more information on NRCS' Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Facility Pilot Program, see Page 6.



## Francis and Vic Jordan Conservationists

For more information on the EPA's SPCC Rule, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc>

# Applications Being Accepted For NRCS Pilot Program to Help Farmers and Ranchers Comply with On-Farm Oil Spill Regulations

## Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Pilot Program

### First Application Evaluation Period for FY 2013 Funding Ends April 19, 2013

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Pilot program is being offered to help agricultural producers comply with revised regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SPCC program is intended to prevent and mitigate fuel and oil spills on agricultural operations. The pilot program is funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

In order to be considered in the first SPCC Pilot application evaluation period for fiscal year 2013, interested agricultural producers are encouraged to visit their local NRCS office as soon as possible. The first application evaluation period for fiscal year 2013 SPCC funding ends April 19, 2013.

NRCS has developed an SPCC Conservation Activity Plan to assist farming operations that exceed 10,000 gallons of above-ground storage capacity. Those facilities with less than 10,000 gallons but more than 1,320 gallons of above-ground storage capacity should take advantage of the self-certification template provided by EPA. NRCS has also developed a practice standard to assist producers who wish to implement elements of an approved SPCC plan and comply with the SPCC rule.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is authorized by the Farm Bill to assist eligible landowners plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, EQIP also helps producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

For more information about SPCC or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please contact your nearest USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office.



**Office locations and contact information can be found on the last page of this publication.**

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP funding throughout the year in a continuous sign-up process; however throughout the year NRCS schedules ranking periods for applications.

**The first application evaluation period for the FY 2013 SPCC Pilot Program ends April 19, 2013.**



### The SPCC Rule and How NRCS Helps Farmers

The Environmental Protection Agency Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule requires farms and other facilities to develop, maintain, and implement an oil spill prevention plan, called an SPCC Plan. These plans help farms prevent oil spill, as well as control a spill, should one occur. NRCS has developed an SPCC Conservation Activity Plan to assist farming operations that exceed 10,000 gallons of above-ground storage capacity. NRCS has also developed a practice standard to assist producers who wish to implement elements of an approved SPCC plan and comply with the SPCC rule. NRCS is providing SPCC technical assistance to farmers through Technical Service Providers who are licensed, registered engineers. For more information on Technical Service Providers, visit: <http://techreg.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx>.

Farms have until May 10, 2013, to prepare, amend, and implement their Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans. For more information on the EPA SPCC Plan, go to: [http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/spcc\\_ag.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/spcc_ag.htm).



## Wetlands Reserve Program Call for Applications

**First Application Evaluation Period for FY 2014 Funding Ends July 19, 2013**

## Around the State

### Mar 11

**Rural America Rally** - The 2013 Save Rural America Rally was hosted in the Florida Parishes Arena in Amite, Louisiana on March 11. NRCS District Conservationist Tony Beaubeouf presented information on NRCS programs and opportunities to rally attendees. This event was sponsored by St. Helena Parish Cattlemen Company, Imaginers and Dreamers, Winston County Self Help Cooperative, Community Cattle Enterprise, and Louisiana Association of Cooperatives.

### Mar 13

**"I Remember..." Exhibit Opening** - The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force hosted a grand opening at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Thibodaux for a special art exhibit featuring communities of coastal Louisiana and the effect of land loss on these communities and their culture. The exhibit features environmental portraits and landscape photographs by Lane Lefort and oil paintings by Marian Brister Martinez. The exhibit also features 11 oral histories from local residents. The exhibit will be open to the public from March 13 through May 8. For more information, contact Cole Ruckstuhl, CWPPRA public outreach media specialist, at (337) 266-8542 or ruckstuhlc@usgs.gov.

### Mar 15

**Volunteers at Plant Materials Center** - Volunteers from the University of Texas-Pan American, University of North Texas, and Purdue University helped out at Louisiana's Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center as part of Operation Nehemiah. Volunteers propagated Brazoria Seashore Paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) for 2013 distribution to eligible commercial growers. Operation Nehemiah is a nonprofit organization in New Orleans dedicated to crisis recovery.



### Mar 19

**Coushatta Agri-Business Marketing Conference** - The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Department of Commerce, and Imperial Calcasieu RC&D hosted an Agri-Business Marketing Conference on March 19, 2013, at the Coushatta Multipurpose Complex in Elton, Louisiana. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural Development staffed exhibits and presented agency information at the conference. The keynote speaker was Louisiana Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain, DVM.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is soliciting applications from landowners interested in restoring or enhancing wetlands on private agricultural land in Louisiana through the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). In order to be considered in the first WRP application evaluation period for fiscal year 2014, interested agricultural producers are encouraged to visit their local NRCS office as soon as possible. The first application evaluation period for Fiscal Year 2014 WRP funding ends July 19, 2013.

The Wetlands Reserve Program provides financial incentives to landowners to restore their land to its natural wetland condition with an emphasis on enhancing wildlife habitats and environmental benefits.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a national program authorized by the Farm Bill to assist eligible landowners restore, create, protect, and enhance wetlands on their property. Participation in this program is voluntary, and restoration is accomplished in an environmentally safe, cost-effective manner.

For more information about WRP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please contact your nearest USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Office locations and contact information can be found on the last page of this publication.**



- **Soil Health Fact Sheets**
- **Healthy, Productive Soils Checklist**
- **Profiles in Soil Health**

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>

**Check it out!**

# Contact Our Offices

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	211 Washington Avenue, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Ouachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	Boutte	Plaquemines SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Charles	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	604 East Water Street, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3



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