



Oklahoma

Natural Resources Conservation Service



A Message from the Acting State Conservationist

- [A Message from the Acting State Conservationist](#)
 - [NRCS Program Updates](#)
 - [Conservation Practice of the Month Cover Crops \(340\)](#)
 - [Management and Strategy | Job Postings](#)
 - [Photo of the Month](#)
 - [Dates to Remember](#)
 - [USDA Reminds Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Managers of Approaching Deadline for Prospective Customer Survey](#)
-
- 

With the retirement of Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist, last year, I am honored to have been designated as the current Acting State Conservationist for Oklahoma until the permanent State Conservationist arrives in Stillwater.

I am grateful to have this chance to serve Oklahoma. You've been in good hands under the leadership of Amanda Mathis and Stacy Riley since Mr. O'Neill's retirement.



I'll share a few things about my background. Although I was born in England, I grew up in California and moved to the south in 1992. I received my BS from Clemson University in Wildlife Biology in 1996. GO TIGERS!! I joined NRCS out of college in 1997 starting as a soil conservationist in Newberry, South Carolina then moving to Loudon, Tennessee. I had a break in service in 2001 to stay home with my oldest daughter, Alexandra Grace, until I returned to Sumter, South Carolina and NRCS, as a soil con in October of 2005 with my three daughters: Alex and twins Jennifer Hope and Jessica Faith. I served as the District Conservationist in Calhoun County, South Carolina and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in Accomack and Northampton Counties assisting producers and conservation partners.

In 2014, I was selected as the State Resource Conservationist for Georgia where I managed the ecological sciences team and the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center providing support to field planners across the state of Georgia.

In November of 2020, I was selected as the Director for the East National Technology Support Center (ENTSC) in Greensboro, North Carolina. This is one of three national technical centers across the nation. The ENTSC provides "Technical Service Office (TSO)-type" support to the 22 states and Caribbean Area in the Eastern Region. As Director of the ENTSC, I supervise a staff of 20 which includes biologists, foresters, engineers, agronomists, and soil scientists. The diverse landscapes of South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Tennessee have allowed me to work on animal operations including, poultry, cattle and hogs, irrigated row crop operations, production forestry sites, wetlands and more. Through that time, I've seen a lot of different ways of doing things, and met a lot of good people. I've said often, and I still maintain: NRCS and our partners, are the salt of the earth!

Personally, I'll share that I met my husband, Robert Hare, while in Athens, GA. At the time, he was a law enforcement officer and former Marine. We married in 2018 and our families combined to include my three girls, his three boys and a girl: Kody, Wendy, Kyle and Ryan Hare, as well as his dogs, my cats, snakes and lizard!

I am very excited about this opportunity to be in Oklahoma to support all those who help farmers and ranchers with their conservation needs. I bring with me a deep love of agriculture and belief in the power of locally led conservation and great partnerships. I look forward to serving Oklahoma's producers, landowners, and conservation partnership staff during my time here. However, I am admittedly a little nervous about the spring tornado season.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the conservation of our natural resources. I look forward to meeting you all in person over the coming weeks.

Kristina "Tina" Jerome, Acting State Conservationist

NRCS Program Updates

There are several program deadlines to remember this month:

- March 17: Application deadline for Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (IRA)
- March 24: Joins Chief Project; learn more by reading the [press release](#).
- March 31: Conservation Stewardship Program (Classic and IRA); learn more about our [climate smart mitigation practices](#).

Interested producers should submit applications to their [local NRCS office](#) by the deadline to ensure their operations are considered for fiscal year 2023 funding.

Conservation Practice of the Month Cover Crops (340)



When thinking of Climate-Smart Agriculture, [Cover Crops \(340\)](#), come to mind. Cover Crop is the planting of a non-commodity crop of grass, small grains, or legumes to protect the soil, build organic matter and improve water infiltration.

To learn more about Conservation Practice Standards: [read here](#).

Management and Strategy | Job Postings

Upcoming Vacancy Announcements:

- GS-0802-8/9 Engineering Technician (Civil)
 - Link: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)
 - Locations: Clinton TSO, Woodward TSO
- GS-0457-9/11 Soil Conservationist (Resource Conservationist)
 - Link: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)
 - Locations: Guymon, Lawton, Mangum, Poteau, Wagoner, Walters

We have several “**Recent Graduate**” positions that have just been announced on [usajobs.gov](#). Recent Graduate positions are open to applicants who are going to graduate in May or that have graduated in the last 2 years (or 6 years for veterans).

- Soil Conservationist – GS-0457-5/7/9
 - Alva, OK
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/711270100>
- Hydrologist – GS- 1315-7/9/11
 - State Office – Water Resources
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/711584300>
- Archaeologist – GS-0193-5/7/9
 - State Office – Water Resources
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/711536400>
- Civil/Ag Engineer – GS-0810/0890-5/7/9/11
 - Perry TSO
 - Pauls Valley TSO
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/711377200>

The best way to stay updated on job postings is to check [USA Jobs](#) often and sign up for notifications for job announcements.

All jobs with NRCS are listed and posted on USAJobs.

Photo of the Month



Photo by Greg Ganzkow, G7 Keystone Ranch, Pawhuska, OK. To enter a photo in this month's contest, email the full resolution photo to NRCInfo-OK@usda.gov

Dates to Remember



APRIL

Workshop: "Conserving Pollinators in Oklahoma's Gardens, Farms and Ranches"

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Miami, OK

RSVP: [registration form](#)

Workshop: "Conserving Pollinators in Oklahoma's Gardens, Farms and Ranches"

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Shawnee, OK

RSVP: [registration form](#)

Workshop: "Women in Ag & Young Women in Ag Small Business Conference"

Date: Monday, April 6, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Fort Cobb, OK

RSVP: [registration form](#)

Conservation Day at the Capitol 2023

Date: Tuesday April 18, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Commission

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd, Suite 200, OKC, OK 73105

RSVP: sarahblaney@okconservation.org

Oklahoma Local Ag Collaborative (OLAC) - Beginning Farmer and Rancher (BFR) Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Location: McAlester, OK
More information to follow.

USDA Reminds Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Managers of Approaching Deadline for Prospective Customer Survey

Submissions and feedback for USDA's prospective customer survey needed by March 31 deadline

Are you a farmer, rancher or forest manager? Please share your vital feedback with USDA by taking a nationwide survey at farmers.gov/survey! The survey is completely anonymous, will take about 10 minutes to complete, is available in multiple languages, and will be open until March 31, 2023. The survey focuses on gathering feedback about the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

All farmers, ranchers and forest managers are encouraged to take the survey. USDA would especially like to hear from prospective customers: those who don't know about USDA or have yet to work with USDA, and those who were unable to participate in the past. The survey will help USDA enhance support, improve programs and services, increase access, and advance equity for new and existing customers.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

 SHARE

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov | [contact us](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)