



“PARTNERS RETOOLING FOR THE FUTURE TO ACCOMPLISH UNITY AND DIVERSITY.”

To: State Conservationists

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Professional Employee Organizations are planning a joint conference to be held in Kansas City, MO, the week of March 15th, 2010. The **“NRCS 2010 Joint Professional Employee Organizations and Special Emphasis Program Managers Training Conference”** is a joint effort among NRCS Civil Rights Division, the Asian Pacific/Islander Organization (APIO), the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE) and the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE).

APIO, NOPBNRCSE and NOPHNRCSE are proud to sponsor the 2010:

- Asian Pacific/Islander Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award
- Black Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award
- Hispanic Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award

The awards are presented to farmers or ranchers making exceptional efforts and exhibiting the highest commitment to conserving, enhancing, maintaining, or protecting our natural resources.

This letter is an invitation to submit nominations of farmers or ranchers in your state or area to compete for this honor in each of the above categories. The detailed criteria and nomination form are attached for your review. Nominations will be accepted until February 1, 2010. Please distribute this information to those interested for nomination recommendations. All nominations will be made through the State Conservationist.

The award recipients will be recognized during a luncheon on March 17, 2010. Their expenses for travel, lodging and meals will be covered by each individual employee organization. For questions contact Cresencio Perez, Conference Awards Committee Chair, at cresencio.perez@tx.usda.gov (512-392-3202).

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Bautista
PETER BAUTISTA
President
APIO

/s/ Kalven L. Trice
KALVEN L. TRICE
President
NOPBNRCSE

/s/ Luis Hernandez
LUIS HERNANDEZ
President
NOPHNRCSE



**“Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award”
2010 Nomination Form**

JUDGING CRITERIA: Complete this form for nominations in each category (The selection process will include the following criteria listed below. This award is open to all small farmers and ranchers.). To be eligible for this award, the nominee must meet the NRCS definition for Small Farmer /Rancher.

Name: _____ **State Represented:** _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Number of acres in farming operation: _____

Number of acres controlled: _____

Main Farming Enterprise: _____

Does the individual have a Natural Resources Conservation / Ag Water Quality / Forest Stewardship Plan?

Has the individual participated in USDA Programs / State Agency / Local Programs?

List the conservation practices, both structural and management systems, installed on the agricultural operations represented in /or by this group over the last five years:

In 300 words or less, explain why this individual should be recognized as the Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award. (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Please return completed form, supporting documentation and the video tape, CD or DVD presentation to Cresencio Perez at the address listed below.

Note: Nominations should be received no later than February 1, 2010

**Cresencio Perez
501 Broadway Street, Suite B
San Marcos, TX, 78666-7748
Telephone: (512) 392 - 3202**



**“Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award”
Judging Criteria**

MAXIMUM

POINTS

- **Quality of presentation (video, CD, DVD or high quality power point)..... 10 points**
 - a) Does the production provide good audio, transitions, color and clarity?
 - b) Are proper credits shown?
 - c) Is it useful for transferring ideas to other farmers?
 - d) Has the presentation been edited with interesting scenes, not just a "talking head"?
 - e) Maximum allowable time for presentation is 5 minutes.

- **Conservation on the farm..... 30 points**
 - a) Does the landowner have a whole plan? If not, what percentage is planned?
 - b) Are planned and / or conservation practices consistent with a complete resource management system?
 - c) Are operation management and maintenance carried out on a regular basis?

- **Impact on the community.....20 points**
 - a) Do planned and / or applied practices prevent soil and / or chemical runoff from leaving the farm?
 - b) Are streams and other water courses adequately buffered?
 - c) Is adequate consideration given to air quality?
 - d) Does the operation provide produce / products for local use?

- **Conservation Involving Agriculture Leadership..... 20 points**
 - a) Address any participation in: field days, demonstrations and other educational events -
 - b) Address service on boards, committees, and other leadership position -
 - c) Address efforts to stay current with technology -

- **Economic Viability..... 20 points**
 - a) Is the operation specialized or diversified?
 - b) Are any unique or special marketing techniques used?
 - c) Does the operation contribute to quality of life of its members?