



AARC&D Newsletter

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Winter 2010

Energy Savings for Poultry Producers

Arkansas Association of Resource, Conservation & Development Councils

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Special points of interest:

- * RC&D to offer LED bulbs to qualified poultry growers
- * NRCS reorganizes structure to better serve landowners
- * Two RC&D's help build public facilities

In December 2009 the AARC&D in partnership with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture was granted 1,439,807.00 in ARRA funding through the Arkansas Energy Office to introduce "Advanced Lighting Technology for Poultry Houses" to broiler producers in the State of Arkansas. The goal of this project is to reduce electrical energy consumption of broiler houses by replacing incandescent bulbs with high-efficiency, low-energy lighting technology.

Phase 1 of this project was recently completed by Dr. Susan Watkins and her team at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Center of Excellence for Poultry Science. Phase 1 was a field demonstration of the LED technology in tunnel ventilated broiler barns. Tunnel ventilated poultry houses were chosen because of the need for artificial lighting throughout the life of the flock. Although tunnel ventilated houses have greatly enhanced rearing conditions with higher (R-value) insulation in walls

Lighting has a tremendous impact on flock performance and can greatly affect a poultry producer's income.

and ceilings making them more efficient to heat and cool, the increased need for artificial lighting has resulted in a significant increase of electrical usage. The goal was to determine if existing technology could be replaced by LED technology without impairing bird performance while providing growers with energy savings, as well as, a durable, long lasting light source which could reduce the labor associated with

replacing bulbs.

The first step in this project was to educate commercial broiler company personnel since they own the birds grown on contract farms and mandate what types of equipment poultry producer's use. The project was well received by the industry and a total of 20 farms participated in the demonstration. Lighting has a tremendous impact on flock performance and can greatly affect a poultry producer's income. No producer was asked to participate before all technology included in the demonstration had been evaluated at the University of Arkansas System's Division of Agriculture Poultry Science Department Applied Broiler Research Farm.



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Senior Center Outgrows Dilapidated Space, East AR RC&D Steps In

The senior citizens of Harrisburg AR have a big reason to celebrate, a 4,300 square foot reason to be exact. After more than two years the new Harris-



burg Senior Life Center opened its doors for the first time this summer thanks to the leadership provided by East AR RC&D Council and their Coordinator Bob Young. At a cost of \$430,000.00 the new center has a full sized kitchen, exercise machines and a pool table inside.

The land for the new building became available in May of 2008 when Poinsett County justices voted to exchange two acres of land owned by the county for land owned by the city. East AR RC&D submitted three grant proposals in support of the project. Funding was provided by Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Department of Rural Services, USDA

Rural Development and the City of Harrisburg. Other partners in this project include East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging and St. Bernard's Senior Services. The community celebrated its grand opening in June 2010 with a crowd of about a 142 local citizens, dignitaries and guests.

The building will be owned and maintained by the city. The mayor Donnie Faulkner said "the building will serve as a multipurpose facility for all residents, not just the seniors. With a population of just over 2,000 the new Harrisburg Senior Life Center will serve as an epicenter of community activity.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Reorganizing

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arkansas is reorganizing its field organizational structure to improve conservation assistance to agricultural producers. The changes are designed to provide efficient staffing, flexibility, employee empowerment and efficient use of resources.

The reorganization entails reducing the number of teams in the state from 15 to 11. Each team will have 10-16 members and each field office will continue to have a district conservationist.

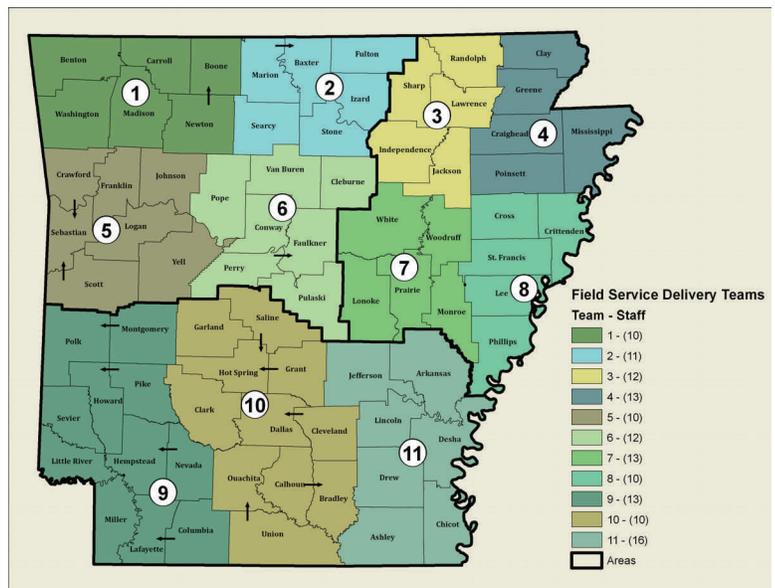
"The majority of FSCs will not realize any significant changes to their present working framework and conditions with the exception of team enlargement and team assistance. Each team should have adequate personnel resources to call upon, a balanced workload to employee ratio, a balanced discipline pool and workable boundaries," said Mike Sullivan, state conservationist. "The teams should

also realize an increase in quality, training, and assistance through the addition of a team civil engineering technician or team resource conservationist."

To develop the new teams, the staff looked at the workload in each county, natural boundaries, land uses, similar workloads, travel corridors, location of technical service centers and field service centers, and balance among the teams and employees.

"With the decrease in staffing in recent years, it is imperative that we structure our delivery system to continue the one-on-one

assistance that has been the foundation of our success for the past 75-years and preserve the relationship with our partners and our clients," Sullivan said. "I am comfortable that we have a plan that will help us provide the best possible conservation planning and implementation assistance to agricultural producers."





NW AR RC&D makes long awaited dream a reality

Skateboarding is a popular and growing sport that attracts many young people who are uninterested in

team sports. In Harrison this group includes an intelligent creative medley of personalities. They are athletes, scholars, musicians, artists, computer geeks, film makers, student leaders and honor students. The one thing all these kids have in common is a love of skateboarding.

Thanks to the efforts of NW AR RC&D's volunteer skate park committee the long awaited dream of having a "real" skate park in Harrison AR is about to become a reality.

In late 2003 Richard Milner (HSP Committee Chair) a local business owner asked the city for permission to put a couple of ramps in the seldom used municipal parking lot across from his business. When the director of Harrison Main Street at that time saw how many kids were over there using the ramps she approached Richard about the possibility of a permanent skate park. A committee was formed to explore the possibility.

In 2004 the director of Main Street, approached the Harrison City Council (HCC) with plans to develop a skate park. The HCC agreed to allow her to develop one on the dilapidated park-

ing lots at the corner of Walnut and Central Ave.

The committee, skaters and members of the community joined forces did some fundraisers and with an additional \$8,000.00 donation from Julie Milner managed to purchase plans for a 544,000.00 concrete plaza style skate park for \$12,000.00. The committee had passion, determination and vision but lacked some of the skills necessary to raise the amount of money they needed.

In late 2006 the HSP Committee approached Jo McEntire, Executive Director of NW AR RC&D about the possibility of helping them. The NW AR RC&D Council agreed to take on the project and Jo joined the HSP Committee. The Council supplied the committee with some organizational direction, as well as, a professional grant writer.

In late 2009 Main Street Harrison closed their doors due to financial difficulty. The only money they had was the designated funds for the skate park. NW AR RC&D took over as the legal 501(c)(3) for the HSP project in early 2010.

As a direct result of NW AR RC&D's assistance. Phase 1 of Harrison Skate Park is under construction and will be completed by January 2011. NW AR RC&D's Executive Director has written a total of \$185,000.00 in

successful grant proposals to private funders and procured approximately \$3,000.00 of in-kind donations for the park thus far.

A plaza style park is an aesthetically pleasing multi-purpose park. It will greatly enhance the downtown area and help draw businesses to the fill the many empty storefronts. The park can be used for other events such art shows, farmers markets, concerts and festivals. HSP will be able to host professional competitions and events that will bring large crowds to the area. The park will serve a dual purpose of enhancing the economic development of the area while giving the youth a positive outlet for personal growth.



Energy Savings Continued...

LED lights were used for grow out only. The U of A recommends 40 watt fluorescent bulbs for brood. The LED lights do not provide enough foot-candles for brooding. The general findings of this project indicated that the LED technology demonstrated proved to be more energy efficient than technologies in current use, as well as, conducive to bird performance and durable under poultry house conditions.

In Phase 2 of this project AARC&D will be involved with the U of A in educating the industry on findings from this project and securing feedback to determine which LED technology or technologies the industry would like their producers to install on their farms. Once this is determined AARC&D will equitably distribute LED bulbs to qualified growers across the state until all funds are exhausted. Application packets should be available in early 2011. For more information call Jo McEntire, Executive Director of NW AR RC&D at 870-741-8600 ext. 118.

**Resource Conservation
& Development**

"Making Things Happen"

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We're on the Web!

www.aarcd.org

RC&D is a local grass roots organization whose leadership comes from its sponsors, Conservation Districts and Local units of Government. The decision making body, called a Council, determines the social, economic, and environmental problems and issues relevant to the area. The Council then develops and implements a plan with local citizens in leadership. The RC&D concept is that local communities, all levels of government, and grassroots organizations, working together, can develop and implement solutions to widespread and local problems and develop opportunities that will help sustain rural communities, local economies, and natural resources. There are seven RC&D areas in Arkansas involved in AARC&D.

Pumpkin Pie on a Wood Pellet Grill

INGREDIENTS

4 oz cream cheese, room temperature (optional substitute - fat free cream cheese)

1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin puree

1/3 cup heavy whipping cream (optional sub; fat free milk thickened with flour)

1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

3 large eggs

1 (9-inch) frozen pie crust shell, kept in foil pie tin

Whip cream (topping)

PREPARATION

Set grill to Medium setting (three speed controller)

Mix cream cheese, puree, milk, sugar, and spice

One at a time incorporate an egg to mixture

Pour mixture into pie shell

Bake for 50 minutes, edges should be golden and pie should be firm around edges with slight movement in middle

Let cool before whip cream is applied (optional)

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Jo McEntire at:

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Arkansas Association of RC&D's Annual Meeting

December 6th 2010

Wyndham Riverfront

North Little Rock, Arkansas