

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

2019 Annual Meeting

**Locally Led:
Partnerships in Action**



February 13, 2019
Wyndham Hotel
North Little Rock, Ark.

**Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
2019 Annual Meeting**

“Locally Led: Partnerships in Action”

Agenda

8:00am	Registration	Opens	DeCantillon
9:00am	Opening Session		Silver City 5, 6 & 7
	Call to Order – Martha Manley, President		
	Posting of the Colors - James Mitchell, West Central Area President James Widner, Northwest Area President		
	Pledge of Allegiance - Bill Bailey, 1 st Vice President		
	Invocation – James Widner, NW Area President		

Locally Led Conservation: A Natural Partnership

Rocky Harrell, AACD Past President, Moderator
Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Mike Daniels, Water Quality Specialist, U of A Division of Agriculture
Martha Manley, President, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Bill Northey, USDA Undersecretary (invited)
Matthew “Matt” Lohr, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (invited)



NRCS Chief Matt Lohr was raised on a century farm in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley, now owns and operates Valley Pike Farms, Inc., with his wife, Beth and their six children. Secretary Perdue noted that Chief Lohr *“has committed his entire life to the betterment of agriculture. The knowledge and experience he brings to the table will help ensure our locally-led, science-based approach continues to offer farmers the conservation solutions needed to enhance their environment and commercial viability”*.

10:00am **District Director Training—Plenary Session** Silver City 5, 6 & 7
Arkansas State Resource Assessment
Edgar Meriovsky, NRCS State Soil Scientist

10:45am **Water Quality Concerns & Programs**
Addressing Water Quality Resource Concerns in the NWQI Buffalo Slough-Cache River Watershed
Teri Nehls, NRCS Water Quality Specialist
The Nonpoint Source Grant Program—Tony Ramick, ANRC 319 Coordinator

10:00am **District Employee Training** Silver City 4
Farm Bill Programs & TSP – EQIP Application 101
Dusty Kennemore, Greene County Conservation District
Kevin Cochran, Lonoke County District Conservationist

11:00am **Funding Opportunities**
ANRC ***Tax Credits*** - Kathryn Stewart, ANRC Water Conservation Specialist
Ag Water Quality Loan Program – Debra Dickson, ANRC Program Fiscal Manager
NACD Technical Assistance Grants—Keith Owens, South Central Region NACD Representative

11:45am **Arkansas Conservation Partnership Luncheon** Silver City 1, 2 & 3
Featured Speaker: Harrison Pittman, Director, National Agricultural Law Center

NRCS Partnership Award
AACDE Dana Cherry Award
AACD Photo Contest Winners
AACD District Director Service Awards
AACD Outstanding Conservationist Award
 Professional
 Community Leader
AACD Hall of Fame



1:30 pm	<p>District Director Training Sessions (con't)</p> <p><i>Meeting Forestry and Wildlife Resource Concerns on Working Lands</i></p> <p>Ryan Diener, Quail Forever State Coordinator Josh Smith, NRCS Forestry Specialist</p> <p><i>Plant Health</i></p> <p><i>Why are different pasture management strategies needed today compared to the past?</i></p> <p>Jeremy Huff, NRCS Grazing Specialist</p> <p><i>Emphasis on Soil Health</i> - Troyce Barnett, NRCS Soil Agronomist</p> <p><i>Building Resilient Cropping Systems with Soil Health Management</i></p> <p>Barry Fisher, Central Region Soil Health Specialist</p> <p><i>Watershed Planning & PL566 Funding</i></p> <p><i>Addressing Resource Concerns Using Landscape Initiatives</i> - Dianne Schlenker, NRCS Initiative Coordinator</p> <p><i>Agriculture Conservation Easements Program</i> - Randy Childress, NRCS Asst. State Conservationist for Easements</p> <p><i>Nutrient Losses in Crops</i></p> <p>Dr. Mike Daniels, U of A Division of Agriculture</p> <p><i>Irrigation Water Management Tools to address Water Resource Concerns</i></p> <p>Charolette Bowie, NRCS Irrigation Engineer Dr. Chris Henry, U of A Division of Agriculture</p>	<p>Silver City 4</p> <p>Silver City 5</p> <p>Razorback West</p> <p>Razorback East</p> <p>Silver City 7</p>
1:30pm	<p>AACDE Business Session</p> <p>Jeanette Hale, AACDE President</p>	Silver City 6
3:00pm	<p>Water Use Registration Training</p> <p>Mike Guess, ANRC & USGS</p>	Razorback East
3:00pm	<p>Business Session</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Feral Swine Activities Update – James Mitchell, West Central Area President</p> <p>Resolutions – Bill Bailey, Bylaws & Resolutions Chairman</p> <p>Nominating Committee – Amy Cowling, SW Area President</p> <p>Election of Officers 2019-2021</p> <p>License Plates Report and Distribution of Funds</p>	Silver City 5
3:00pm	<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff Meeting</p> <p>Mike Sullivan, AR State Conservationist</p>	Silver City 7
4:30pm	<p>Meeting Adjourns</p>	