

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 16, 2014

Soil Health, Conservation & USDA Programs Workshop scheduled for May 7

Gary O'Neill, Oklahoma State Conservationist for the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that NRCS, the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) and the Murray County Conservation District are sponsoring a free conservation workshop and luncheon on, **May 7, 2014**. The workshop will be held at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, located at 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Rd, in Sulphur, Oklahoma. **Pre-registration will begin at 9:00 AM. The workshop will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude by 3:30 PM.** Local farmers, ranchers, Tribes, tribal members and women in agriculture are encouraged to attend in order to receive valuable information regarding USDA programs and conservation training. The workshop will include a tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center, a traditional lunch, information on the new Farm Bill and a demonstration on the importance of soil health with the NRCS rainfall simulator.

An agenda has been developed to provide attendees with valuable information regarding the importance of soil health, best management practices for pasture and rangeland and funding opportunities through USDA Farm Bill programs. Representatives from the USDA NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD), Risk Management Agency (RMA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Murray County Conservation District will be available to answer your questions and provide you with valuable information on their conservation programs and community based funding opportunities. There is no registration fee to attend; however, RSVP is requested, as lunch will be provided. If you are interested in attending this workshop, **please RSVP by noon, May 2, 2014**, to the Sulphur NRCS Field Office at 580-622-3913 to ext. 3 or the Pauls Valley field office at 405-238-6767 ext. 3. You may email your RSVP to carol.crouch@ok.usda.gov. Please plan to join us for a traditional lunch and a very informative conservation workshop.

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