

Colorado's NRCS Hosts International Guests and Shares Conservation Methodologies

DENVER, December 20, 2011 – Recently, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado partnered with the U.S. State Department's Office of International Visitors Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to host 10 delegates from Uzbekistan. NRCS shared methodologies surrounding subsurface drip irrigation systems, crop selection, and management considerations. The visitors were invited to the U.S. under the Department of State's International Visitor's Leadership Program.

Delegates included representatives from the Uzbekistan Management Department's National Irrigated Land Reclamation Fund, officials within their Ministries of Finance, and Agriculture and Water Resources Departments, as well as the Land Water Management Specialist and the National Technical Coordinator for Capacity Building for the United Nations Development Program.

NRCS, in coordination with the West Adams Conservation District, arranged for an onsite presentation and tour of the Berry Patch Farm operation located in Brighton, CO. *"We couldn't think of a more perfect location to host the group,"* said Cindy Einspahr, NRCS District Conservationist, Brighton, CO. *"Tim and Claudia Ferrell own and farm the organic operation. They are true land stewards who understand the importance of conserving natural resources. Their operation was a perfect fit for this group because, they not only have the subsurface system the group was interested in, but they also participate in our Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which assisted in the development of a high tunnel, cover crop, and crop rotation system."*

Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges. Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment. NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. For more information, please visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.

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