

NRCS State Conservationist Addresses American Agri-Women 37th Annual Convention & Annual Meeting

Denver, CO., December 6, 2012 – Rushing West to Seek Our Fortune in Agriculture; that was this year’s theme for the American Agri-Women’s (AAW) National Convention. Denver, Colorado hosted some 100 women in attendance for the five-day meeting. Participants conducted annual business meetings, engaged in educational workshops; toured historical landmarks, farms, and agri-businesses; as well as shared in keynote addresses presented by Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar; Farm Service Agency (FSA), Colorado State Executive Director, Trudy Kareus; Colorado’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State Conservationist, Phyllis Ann Philipps, and many more.

“It was a pleasure to have been asked to speak during the Agri-Women’s convention,” says Philipps. *“Agriculture is one of our nation’s most important industries generating over \$4 billion in revenue annually for Colorado alone. It’s also one of the state’s most important landscapes. Ag., lands and the conservation of our natural resources are often the foundation and are always critical to the quality of life we all enjoy.”*

Philipps was among the panelists who shared insight and updates on the emerging Farm Bill which is an authorizing piece of legislation that governs an array of agricultural and food programs and is renewed about every five years. Others presenters discussed Ag in the Classroom, Farm Business Strategies and Planning, opportunities for women within FSA.

The American Agri-Women Association begin with just four states over 30 years ago and today hosts 50 state and commodity affiliate organizations as well as individual members throughout the country. The group represents tens of thousands of women involved in agriculture, with activities in making a difference in legislative and regulatory matters at the local, state, and national levels. It has also been instrumental in student and consumer education about agriculture.

“It was a privilege to welcome participants to The West for the 37th Annual...Convention. Denver - - the Mile High City...offers us a beautiful vista and a perfect opportunity to learn about western agriculture,” stated Karen Yost, President for American Agri-Women.

NRCS is a USDA federal agency that 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. The Agency has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges

For additional information about USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado, please visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov or call 720-544-2810.

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