



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

**Farm
Service
Agency**

Mississippi State FSA Office
6311 Ridgewood Road, Suite W100
Jackson, MS 39211-2035
601.965.4300
601.965.4806 Fax

Earth Day 2011

As we recognize the importance of Earth Day on April 22, we need to remember to protect and conserve our natural resources the other 364 days a year, as well. Working for the USDA Farm Service agency has given me a new appreciation for the men and women who do just that. I like to think back on the many advances we have made since that first Earth Day in 1970. Each year, we learn better ways to protect the land, water and air we depend on to live. Since that first Earth Day, Americans from every walk of life have joined forces to encourage better stewardship of our natural resources. But even before that first Earth Day, American farmers and ranchers worked the soil and lived the message of natural resource management.

America's farmers and ranchers depend on the earth's productivity to support their families and to provide the food, fiber and bio-fuels needs of the entire world.

Farmers and ranchers are the first and best stewards of the land. They have learned better ways to grow crops and improved methods for raising livestock. In order to ensure an abundant food supply and sustainable fuel and fiber production, they know we must first conserve our environment. They appreciate the fragile nature of natural resources and know the importance of safeguarding the environment for the generations to come. FSA salutes the American farmer and rancher as our nation's premier conservation stewards.

Michael R. Sullivan
FSA State Executive Director, Mississippi



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