

MEDIA ADVISORY

USDA Satellite Features Feed

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FEATURE – USDA HELPS HURRICANE AFFECTED AREAS

INTRO: The U-S Department of Agriculture is helping out communities still cleaning up after last year's hurricanes. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:35)

OVER A YEAR AFTER HURRICANE IKE, THE GULF COAST IS STILL CLEANING UP. IN FRIENDSWOOD TEXAS NEAR GALVESTON, THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS PARTNERING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS TO FINISH THE CLEAN-UP.

Mark Northcut, USDA NRCS: We're working it in two contract agreements. One with Galveston County consolidated. They're doing some work to haul the debris off and the other agreement is with excavation technologies and the barge, they're picking up the debris out of the channel.

LOCAL OFFICIALS SAY A LOT OF PROBLEMS REMAINED AFTER FLOOD WATERS RECEDED AND PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO COME HOME.

Anderson: By the NRCS program and their funding it allowed us to come in and to remove all of the debris and for the taxpayers of Friendswood and Galveston County this is a big benefit to them and a big benefit to our district. It ensures that the quality of life has definitely gotten better through the EWP program.

ANDERSON SAYS WITHOUT N-R-C-S'S TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM THE POST-IKE CLEAN-UP WOULD HAVE BEEN A MUCH BIGGER CHALLENGE FOR GALVESTON COUNTY.

Joseph Anderson, Galveston County, TX Consolidated Drainage District: Our biggest problem was that we had a lot of windstorm debris that was knocked down everywhere throughout the city of Friendswood and down our channels.

THROUGH E-W-P, N-R-C-S WORKS WITH AREAS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTER TO REDUCE THREATS FROM BLOCKED WATERWAYS, WHICH CAN CAUSE ADDITIONAL FLOODING, SOIL EROSION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.