

FEATURE – USDA ASSISTS WITH TIRE REMOVAL

INTRO: Abandoned tires can be a health hazard. That's why USDA is working with some rural communities to dispose of old tires. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more.
(1:17)

DISCARDED TIRES CAN BE BREEDING GROUNDS FOR PESTS AND DISEASES. BUT SOME ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES CANNOT AFFORD TO GET RID OF UNWANTED TIRES. THAT'S WHY THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS HELPING A SOUTH TEXAS COMMUNITY GET RID OF ITS USED TIRES.

Raul Villarreal Jr., RC&D Coordinator, Webb County, TX: There could be problems with mosquitoes and so on and so forth. And we're sending road and bridge out there and they're picking them up. We're just paying for the disposal of the tires.

THROUGH THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, OR R-C-AND D PROGRAM, N-R-C-S IS PARTNERING WITH WEBB COUNTY TEXAS TO GET RID OF TIRES THAT RESIDENTS HAVE NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED.

Raul Villarreal Jr.: It's a great project for the small communities and our colonias and the RC&D has really led the way along with road and bridge and if it wasn't for that partnership we probably wouldn't have gotten nothing done.

WEBB COUNTY OFFICIALS SAY THAT MANY POORER RESIDENTS DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS AND RESOURCES TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF OLD TIRES.

Jose Luis Ramos, Superintendent, Webb Co., TX Road and Bridge Dept: They have to bring all of the tires to the Laredo Landfill and they charge them big money for them and what they are doing is they are just dumping all the tires on the road.

THE R-C AND D PROGRAM HELPS RURAL COMMUNITIES DEVELOP, USE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE IMPROVING ECONOMIES, THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING STANDARDS. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.