

USDA *news*

USDA's Employee News Publication—For You & About You!

If You Haven't Received Your LincPass Just Yet, It Should Be Happening Soon

by Ron Hall

Office of Communications

Chances are that, if you're a USDA employee in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, you already have a LincPass hanging on a chain around your neck or on a clip attached to your pocket. And if you're a USDA field employee, if you're not in that same situation yet then you'll likely be there by August 2009.

"That's because, here at USDA, we've been moving right along in our effort to make sure that virtually all USDA employees, at headquarters and field locations both across the country and around the world, are being issued their LincPasses with dispatch," affirmed **Rick Holman**, Chief of the Physical Security Division in the Office of Security Services.

He noted that the LincPass is the new official identification card for USDA employees. This 'smart card,' with its variety of new features, is called "LincPass" in honor of President **Abraham Lincoln**, who founded the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862.

Holman added that the LincPass contains more personal identification information, than previous USDA ID cards, about the employee to whom it has been issued. In addition, it contains a contact computer chip, imbedded in the card, that holds items of data to verify the cardholder's identity. Such items include a fingerprint 'algorithm,' a digital head shot of the cardholder, the cardholder's unique ID—which is *not* the cardholder's Social Security number—and

information—called "PKI Certificates"—which provides authentication, encryption, and a digital signature, all of which are unique to that employee.

The Sept.-Oct. 2007 issue of the **USDA NEWS** carried a story which was a primer on the USDA LincPass.

Holman said that, as part of the issuance process, employees who have completed the necessary paperwork for the LincPass, to include satisfactory completion of the background investigation process, as appropriate, are then directed to an "Enrollment Station." The employee then has a digital photo taken and is fingerprinted. Following an estimated turnaround time of about two weeks, the employee then returns to the "Enrollment Station" to pick up his/her LincPass and then activates it.

He said that, as of October 24, an estimated 6,000 headquarters employees have completed that process and are currently in possession of their LincPass card. "We expect to complete that process for all headquarters employees by the end of calendar year 2008," he said.

According to Holman, the comparable figure for field employees is that, as of October 24, an estimated 15,000 field employees have completed that process and have been issued their LincPasses. "Our game plan is for all field employees to have their LincPasses in hand by August 2009," he said.

Owen Unangst, the Identity and Access Management Project Manager with the Office of the Chief Information Officer in Fort Collins, CO, said that he has coordinated the deployment of several "Mobile Enrollment Stations" which have traversed the country to provide field employees the ability to



Barbara Pursley, an Application Project Manager with NRCS in Fort Collins, CO, is carefully placing her right index finger onto a fingerprint scanner, located inside a USDA Enrollment Station at Fort Collins. The purpose of the scanner is to verify her fingerprint. It's one of the security steps required so that she can receive and activate her newly-issued LincPass (right, foreground). Thousands of USDA employees around the country have been going through the same process. Note the story on this page.

—PHOTO BY CAROL VAN NATTA

complete the steps needed to receive their LincPasses. Specifically, he worked with **Jerry Epting**, the Farm Service Agency's Homeland Security Specialist, and **Star Bryant**, the Deputy Program Coordinator for FSA's Office of the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations, who both took the lead in coordinating the communications with USDA Field Service Centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to develop the 'Mobile Enrollment Station Initiative.'

Unangst then coordinated a summer

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Ed Schafer *Secretary of Agriculture*

Dear Fellow Employees,
In my last column I talked about how important it is for all of us to take the time to talk with the student interns who join us each year at USDA and help make them aware of the widening opportunities that the fast-changing world of agriculture offers today.

This time I'd like to share with you an example of what can happen when we do that—how today's student intern can turn into tomorrow's colleague or co-worker.

As you may know, I have been visiting meat packing plants around the country to get a firsthand look at the animal handling procedures and inspection practices that are being followed.

During my visit to the L&H Packing Company in San Antonio in June I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. **Kathleen Ralston**, a 27-year-old veterinarian who had just joined the Food Safety and Inspection Service after graduating from the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Ralston told me how she loves working for FSIS and how the three summers and other time she had spent working for the agency through its Public Health Veterinary Intern Program helped convince her that it was where she wanted to work after graduation.

She was impressed by the professionalism, skills, and knowledge she saw in the FSIS inspectors she worked with, by the scientific challenges of the pathology work FSIS does, and by her opportunities to help make sure that animals were being handled humanely.

Another key factor in Dr. Ralston's decision to join FSIS was her

positive experience working with Dr. **Joe Kitzman** of FSIS's San Antonio office as her mentor during her internships.

She said it was Dr. Kitzman who made her internship a great learning experience by taking the time to explain to her the full range of responsibilities that Public Health Veterinarians have at every phase of the slaughter process and beyond.

Dr. Ralston said she enjoys working at USDA because she knows she is making a difference in the care of animals and the lives of people.

Along with her inspection duties, Dr. Ralston is working these days to complete two research projects on cattle disease that she began during her intern days. Dr. Kitzman remains a strong supporter. He describes his former intern—now colleague—as “absolutely brilliant” and highly motivated.

I am very pleased to know that Dr. Kitzman and other USDA employees across the nation are taking the time to teach and mentor our young students. Recruiting and retaining quality people is vital to the future success of the Department.

We must continue to take the time to show students the opportunities that are open to them—both at USDA and in the broader world of agriculture. If we do, the Department and the nation will benefit.

I hope every USDA intern enjoys his or her time at this great Department—and that they go on to lead working lives that make a difference for all of us. ■

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program in which 46 Mobile Enrollment Stations, operated by trained registrars on contract, were sent on ‘circuits’ or ‘tours’ to 161 cities and towns across the U.S., including in Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. As part of that effort Unangst coordinated several ‘train the trainer’ sessions at locations around the country to instruct those registrars on contract on how to operate the Mobile Enrollment Stations.

“We called this first phase our ‘summer tour’,” he quipped.

“But, throughout this Phase One,” added **Maj Jafari**, a Project Manager on contract for USDA who is working with Holman and Unangst, “those Mobile Enrollment Stations enrolled a combined total of

about 4,000 employees a week, from May 19 through September 30, 2008.”

Jafari pointed out that Phase Two of this process began on October 20, 2008 and is expected to run through spring 2009. “In Phase Two,” he said, “not only USDA but also several other federal departments—including the U.S. Departments of Treasury, Interior and Energy and the General Services Administration—are relying on the Mobile Enrollment Stations to complete the process of LincPasses for USDA employees and comparable official ID cards for employees from those other federal departments.” “That’s because,” Unangst underscored, “the Office of Management and Budget said it liked the way USDA was handling this process.

So OMB then recommended to other federal departments that they, in effect, link up with USDA in order to complete that process for *their* employees.”

Carol Van Natta, a Technical Writer and Trainer on contract for USDA working with Unangst, noted that one of the features of the LincPass is that employees will *insert* it to automatically access their office computer, whether desktop or laptop. “This particular security feature is based on the concept of ‘Two Factor Authentication’,” she explained. “In other words, USDA wants people to verify that they are who they claim to be, when they log into the Department’s computer systems and/or into a USDA employee’s office computer. So, the user will need something that he/

she *knows*—such as a Personal Identification Number or PIN or a password; and/or something that the user *has*—such as an ID card or a security token; and/or something that the user *is* or *does*—such as a fingerprint or some other biometric identifier.”

“As part of that Two Factor Authentication process,” Unangst added, “the USDA user will need two of them—in the categories of something the user *has* or the user *knows*—to access his/her office computer.”

Holman noted that each employee activates his/her LincPass by use of a PIN, which is unique to that employee and which he/she will then continue to use to access his/her office computer, whether a desktop or a laptop. “So it’s very important

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Notes *from USDA Headquarters*

“Side-By-Side”:

The Economic Research Service is once again offering an easy-to-follow comparison of the new farm bill by placing its provisions ‘side-by-side’ with previous legislation.

ERS Senior Economist **Ed Young** said, “We’ve developed an overview of each of the 15 titles of the 2008 farm bill. Then we’ve placed each description side-by-side with similar information from previous laws, to include previous farm bills.”

“We’ve provided this service in the past,” noted **Lewrene Glaser**, Assistant Director for Communications in ERS’s Market and Trade Economics Division. For instance, previous side-by-side comparisons can be found for provisions of the 2002 farm bill and the 1996 farm bill.

“But now we have new features, such a user’s guide, an alphabetical list of key provisions of the 2008 farm bill, and search capabilities within the side-by-side comparison.”

ERS’s side-by-side comparison can be found by clicking on www.ers.usda.gov/farmbill/2008

The 2008 farm bill—the *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*—became law in June 2008. Young said it is to govern the bulk of federal agriculture and related programs for the next five years.

“Our side-by-side isn’t a complete digest of all of the provisions of the 2008 farm bill,” acknowledged Young. “And it doesn’t include every element within the 2008 farm bill.”

“But we’re confident,” he said, “that our side-by-side comparison offers a handy reference

to its major provisions.”

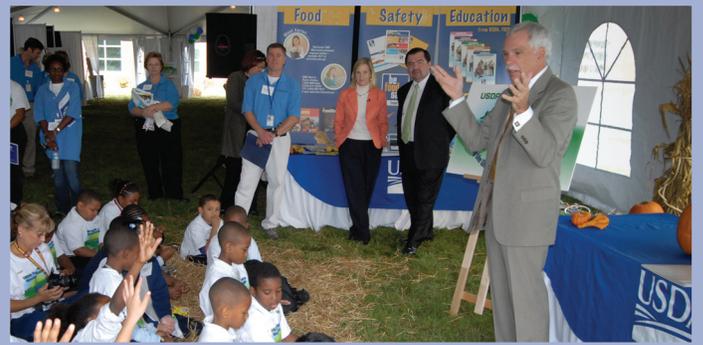
“Summer Harvest”:

Summer has left us already, but the success of USDA’s “Summer Harvest” food drive won’t soon be forgotten by the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, DC. That’s because it was the recipient of over 32,000 pounds of food and beverages donated by USDA employees and contractors during the Washington, DC metropolitan area “Summer Harvest” food drive which took place from June 2 to August 29.

“USDA employees conducted the food drive through the use of collection boxes located at several Departmental office locations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area,”

explained **Magda Angulo**, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Administration and one of the coordinators of Summer Harvest. **Betty Cabbell**, a Quality Assurance Specialist in the Office of Operations, noted that, in addition to the contributions of individual USDA employees, the Department also provided more than 200 pounds of fresh vegetables, which had been harvested from the ‘Vegetable Demonstration Garden’ located on the side of USDA’s Whitten Building in Washington, DC.

Marian Romero, the Building Concessions Supervisor in OO, added that Sodexo, which is USDA’s food service provider for its cafeteria facilities at USDA headquarters, contributed weekly donations to the Summer Harvest campaign. “Its contributions ranged from cases of canned food to cases of pasta from its inventory,” she noted.



Secretary **Ed Schafer** (standing, right) speaks to elementary school students from Prince Georges County, MD at a Food Safety Education Camp hosted by FSIS. The event took place on October 1 on the grounds of USDA’s George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, MD. **Donna Karlsons**, a Public Affairs Specialist with FSIS’s Food Safety Education Staff, noted that the purpose of this Camp—the third one that FSIS has hosted—was for students to learn important food safety lessons through science. —PHOTO BY **BOB NICHOLS**

Plus, Canteen Vending, which is USDA’s beverage and snack food vendor at USDA headquarters, donated eight pallets of beverages, water, and snack foods.

The contributions were picked up periodically throughout the summer by staffers with the Capital Area Food Bank, which is the largest public nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

Are similar concentrated volunteer efforts scheduled to take place at USDA field locations in the future? Angulo replied that, “We’re hoping that USDA field sites—which haven’t already tried something similar at their own respective locations—might consider this as a worthwhile volunteer initiative, as one of the many ways to give back to their own communities.”

Ambassadors From USDA:

Asif Chaudhry is the new U.S. Ambassador to Moldova—so he’s now the fourth USDA employee to become a U.S. ambassador after having served at USDA.

Frank Lee, Deputy Administrator for the Office of Foreign Service Operations with the Foreign Agricultural Service, noted that all four worked at FAS before being nominated and then confirmed as an ambassador.

Lee said that Chaudhry was the Deputy Administrator for the Office of Global Analysis in FAS before being sworn in, in August 2008, as the U.S. Ambassador to Moldova. The other three USDA employees included: **Suzanne Hale**, who was the Agricultural Minister Counselor for FAS in Japan, based in Tokyo, until she served as the U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia from 2004-2007—and who is currently Special Assistant to FAS Administrator **Mike Yost**; **Mattie Sharpless**, who was Special Envoy to Emerging Economies for FAS until she served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic from 2001-2004; and **Chris Goldthwait**, who was USDA’s General Sales Manager until he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Chad from 1999-2003. ■

—**RON HALL**

We Honor Our Award-Winning USDA Achievers

by Charlene Baker

RD Human Resources Staff

USDA honored a number of its employees, for their outstanding achievements, at its 61st Annual Honor Awards Ceremony, which took place October 22 in the Jefferson Auditorium of the South Building at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC.

USDA honor awards that were presented at the Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony were awarded to 32 recipients, including 6 individuals and 26 groups, with 534 group members in total. In addition, USDA employees were recognized who significantly contributed community volunteer service to meet national or community needs.

At the ceremony, Secretary **Ed Schafer** delivered the keynote address. "Public service, working for America, [is] more than just a job," he told the audience. "It's a calling; it's a commitment. And we're honoring those here today who have shown that commitment in ways that range from heroism in the face of mortal danger to the diligence in performing the quiet, day-to-day work that we all do here at the Department every day."

"Today we're celebrating not just all the award winners, but we're celebrating all of USDA's dedicated, loyal, and able staff," he added. "Thanks to all of you, USDA is a powerful force for good and for change across this country. And I am proud to work with you. You have my gratitude for your service to USDA, and for your service to the people of the United States of America."

Anita Adkins, USDA's Performance Management Program Manager with the Office of Human Capital Management, said that the award nominations had been submitted through their respective subcommittee officials for concurrence. The nominations were then due for submission to OHCM personnel by June 27, 2008 for procedural review. Ultimately 32 nominations, which included 6 individuals and 26 groups, were forwarded to the Office of the Secretary for ultimate approval.

"This program, which was created in 1947, recognizes the highest level of employee achievement," emphasized **Cecilia**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
61ST ANNUAL

Secretary's

INDIVIDUAL HONOR AWARD WINNERS



R. Davis



E. Miller



R. Hansen



H. Hodge



K. Lewison



M. Murphy

Matthews, USDA's Employee Recognition Program Manager in OHCM. "These Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by USDA.

The six Individuals receiving USDA Honor Awards included:

For Supporting Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America: **Roger Davis** (Rural Development), Raleigh, NC; and **Eddie Miller** (RD), Raleigh, NC.

For Protecting and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources Base and Environment: **Roger Hansen** (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Columbia, MO.

For Supporting the President's Management Agenda and Civil Rights: **Horace Hodge** (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights), Prairie View, TX.

For Heroism and Emergency Response: **Katharine Lewison** (Farm Service Agency), Viroqua, WI; and **Matthew Murphy** (Forest Service), Girdwood, AK.

The 26 Groups—which included 534 group members in total—receiving USDA honor awards included:

For Enhancing International Competitiveness of American Agriculture: the Biotech Rice Group (Foreign Agricultural Service), Washington, DC, **Beverly Simmons**, Group Leader; the BSE Post-OIE Group (FAS), Washington, DC, **Steven Shnitzler**, Group Leader; the China Cotton

Reform Team (Agricultural Marketing Service), Washington, DC, **Darryl Earnest**, Group Leader; and the Food Price Analysis Team (Economic Research Service), Washington, DC, **Ephraim Leibtag** and **Paul Westcott**, Group Leaders.

For Enhancing the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural Farm Economies: the East National Technology Support Center (NRCS), Greensboro, NC, **Carolyn Adams** and **Philip McCloud**, Group Leaders; the Farm Loan Programs Streamlining Task Force (FSA), Washington, DC, **Bill Cobb**, Group Leader; and the Quality Initiative for California Almonds Exported to the European Union (AMS), Washington, DC, **Lloyd Day**, Group Leader.

For Supporting Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America: the 2007 Census of Agriculture Edit Processing Team (National Agricultural Statistics Service), Washington, DC, **David McDonell** and **Asa Manning**, Group Leaders; and the Business Programs Group (RD), Des Moines, IA, **Randall Frescoln**, Group Leader.

For Enhancing Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply: the E. Coli O157:H7 Work Group (Food Safety and Inspection Service), Washington, DC, **Rachel Edelstein** and **James Withee**, Group Leaders; the Meat and Poultry Risk-Based Inspection Team (Office of Inspector General), Beltsville, MD/Chicago, IL, **Joseph Mickiewicz** and **John Pepper**, Group Leaders; the Public Health-Based Performance Measures Workgroup (FSIS), Washington, DC, **Janell Kause**, Group Leader; and the Ug99 Team to Combat New, Virulent Wheat and Barley Stem Rusts (Agricultural Research Service), St. Paul, MN/Raleigh, NC, **Yue Jin** and **David Marshall**, Group Leaders.

For Improving the Nation's Nutrition and Health: the FDPIR Funding Work Group (Food and Nutrition Service), Alexandria, VA, **Nancy Theodore** and **Laura Castro**, Group Leaders; Good Nutrition Can Lead to Great Things (FNS), Alexandria, VA, **Jean Daniel** and **Pat Steward**, Group Leaders; the Kids in the Woods Inter-Deputy Team (Forest Service), Washington, DC, **Gloria Manning**, Group Leader; the MyPyramid for Pregnancy

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USDA Spotlights Its "Unsung Heroes"

by Ron Hall

Office of Communications

USDA recognized 12 employees and one group as "Unsung Heroes" during its recent observance of Public Service Recognition Week.

The Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) runs the "Unsung Heroes" contest. The purpose of the "Unsung Hero" designation is to identify those employees who have been "unusually dedicated and efficient and had a positive attitude."

This is the 21st year of the contest, which was conducted USDA-wide. Following a Departmentwide solicitation, over 50 employees were nominated by fellow USDA employees. The final selection was made this past spring by a team of USDA officials. Related information and photos can be found at www.opeda.net.

OPEDA, which was founded in 1929, is the largest and oldest professional organization at USDA.

USDA's "Unsung Heroes" for 2008 include:

1 **Diane Berger**, a Financial Review Specialist with Rural Development in Washington, DC, who volunteered to take on additional responsibilities because of the loss of a seasoned, key employee in her unit, and thereby developed into the 'go-to-person' in such areas as: her office's implementation of OMB's Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART) requirements and RD field office use of RD's Guaranteed Loan System (GLS) nationwide data system which processes, tracks, and services the guaranteed loans and grants

provided by RD's Business and Cooperative Programs.

2 **Paul Bjorg**, a Soil Conservation Technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Grand Forks, ND, who, while often working 'behind the scenes,' has engaged in such efforts as: coordinating a Soil Salinity Workshop for agricultural producers in several counties in North Dakota's Red River Valley, assisting with the



D. Berger



P. Bjorg



A. Endres



S. Ervin



B. Hoppe



K. Matsutani



J. Piatt



H. Solhjoo



J. Toles



S. Vazquez-Negron



M. Watson



J. Woodley-Jones

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Unsung Heroes

Rain Barrel Project in the Grand Forks County Conservation District, helping to develop a statewide Rural Homeowners Handbook, titled the "Rural Living Handbook," in part to educate urban residents moving into a rural setting in North Dakota, and assisting with the Soil Conservation District's annual Ecology Education Camps for seventh graders in Grand Forks County.

3 **Agnes Endres**, a Resource Management Assistant with the Food Safety and Inspection

Service in Philadelphia, who, while waiting for a train at a subway platform in Philadelphia, noticed that a man had fallen off the platform and was lying motionless on the train tracks below. So, amidst a now-panicky crowd, she ran to an emergency call box, pulled the alarm, and informed the transit operator about the incident—thereby ensuring that an approaching train was stopped in time to

avoid a potential tragedy.

4 **Sharon Ervin**, a Program Complaints Specialist with the Farm Service Agency's Office of Civil Rights Branch Office in Montgomery, AL, who, beyond her regular duties, volunteered for such special projects as developing and maintaining the Review Guide used by FSA to conduct civil rights and equal employment opportunity management reviews of FSA offices nationwide. In that voluntary activity, from 2000-07 she then tracked those management

reviews and prepared an annual 'Summary of Findings Report' which she then sent to FSA headquarters in Washington, DC.

5 **Bob Hoppe**, an Agricultural Economist with the Economic Research Service in Washington, DC, whose analysis of family farms and farm structure for ERS has included the fact that, for the past three years, he has led the production of the agency's annual report on "Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: The Family Farm Report." In addition, for the last six years he has produced a brochure from that report. Both publications are then widely distributed, by a number of USDA agencies, to interested groups around the country.

6 **Kent Matsutani**, a Project Manager with NRCS in Fort Collins, CO, who, while serving as the agency's Assistant Director for Programs in Honolulu from 2004-07, led NRCS's farm bill program activities in the Pacific Islands Area, with the result that those activities provided support for 75 percent of Asian Pacific Islander minority producers. Specifically, on behalf of those producers he initiated the first Conservation Innovation Grants Program, contracted the first Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, initiated the first Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Grants, and finalized the first Wetland Reserve Program Easement.

7 **Jim Piatt**, a Meatcutter with the Agricultural Research Service's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, MD, who has combined his extensive knowledge of animal anatomy and muscle structure with his concern about the care and handling of BARC's research animals, as well as with

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Editor's Roundup *USDA's people in the news*



Leonard Jordan is the Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability in the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

From November 2005 until his selection for this position Jordan served as Director of the Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division for NRCS. He was Director of NRCS's Conservation Easement Programs Division from Jan.-Nov. 2005.

Jordan served as NRCS's State Conservationist for Georgia, based in Athens, from 2001-05, after having served as the State Conservationist for Washington State, based in Spokane, from 1998-2001. He worked as the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Oregon, based in Portland, from 1994-98, after having worked as the Area Conservationist for Northeastern Indiana, based in Huntington, IN, from 1991-94. He began his career with the agency as a Conservation Technician, based in North Vernon, IN, in 1977.

Kathy Gugulis, the previous Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability for NRCS, is now its Deputy Chief for Management. ■



Liz Agpaoa is the Regional Forester for the Forest Service's Southern Region, based in Atlanta. From September 2006 until her selection for

this position Agpaoa served as the Deputy Regional Forester for FS's Pacific Northwest Region, based in Portland, OR.

From 2004-06 Agpaoa served as Chief of Staff to [then] Forest Service Chief **Dale Bosworth** at the agency's headquarters office in Washington, DC. She was the Forest Supervisor on the Cibola National Forest, based in Albuquerque, NM, from 1998-2004. She served as the Corporate Information and Planning Staff Officer at the Siskiyou National Forest, based in Grants Pass, OR, from 1996-98, after having worked from 1991-96 as a District Ranger on the Galice Ranger District on that same National Forest. She began her nearly 30-year career with the agency as a District Wildlife Biologist on the Willamette National Forest, based in Oakridge, OR, in 1979.

Chuck Myers, the previous Regional Forester for the agency's Southern Region, is now FS's Associate Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, based in Washington, DC. ■



Andy Hammond is the Area Director of the Agricultural Research Service's Pacific West Area, based in Albany, CA.

From May 2004 until his selection for this position Hammond served as the Associate Area Director of the Pacific West Area for ARS. He was Associate Area Director of ARS's South Atlantic Area, based in Athens, GA, from 2000-04.

Hammond served as the Assistant Area Director of the Pacific West Area from 1998-2000. He spent nearly 14 years, from 1985-98, working as the Research Leader of the agency's Subtropical Agricultural Research Station in Brooksville, FL, where he specialized in beef cattle nutrition research. He began his ARS career in 1980 as a Research Animal Scientist at the Ruminant Nutrition Laboratory within ARS's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD. From 1971-74 he served as a livestock extension technician with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines.

Dwayne Buxton, the previous Area Director of ARS's Pacific West Area, retired from that position following 29 years of federal service, including 26 years with ARS. ■

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for employees to make sure they remember their PIN and keep it in a secure place," he underscored.

A second key feature of the LincPass is that employees will *scan* it to automatically access their USDA facility through electronic cardreading, as applicable.

"Neither of these two features have been fully implemented for all employees yet," Unangst acknowledged. "But based on our current estimates, we're projecting that those employees who have their LincPasses by March 2009 will also—by that same date—be able to use their LincPasses, on their office desktop or laptop computers, to access the USDA computer network."

Mike DeFranciso, Deputy Chief of OSS's

Physical Security Division, projected that employees whose offices are located in the Whitten or South Buildings, at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC, should be able to use their LincPass to automatically access those buildings—through electronic scanning—by January 2009. He added that the situation is more complicated for USDA field employees being able to use their LincPass to access their USDA facility through electronic scanning, as appropriate. That is due to the wide variety of security mechanisms located in a wide variety of USDA facilities around the nation. "Some USDA facilities across the country have already reconfigured the security features of their facilities so that their employees are now using their LincPasses to

access their particular facility through electronic cardreading," DeFranciso said. "But we're projecting that virtually all remaining USDA field employees will be able to use that particular feature of their LincPass by October 2011—and we've created an office within OSS to help our field sites accomplish that."

Holman said that employees can get more information about the whole LincPass process by clicking on <http://lincpass.usda.gov>.

"USDA is leading the way, ahead of most other federal departments and agencies, in complying with the governmentwide requirement to have a much better and more secure official ID card for our employees," he affirmed. ■

Award-Winning...continued from pg. 4

and Breastfeeding Team (Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion), Alexandria, VA, **Patricia Britten**, Group Leader; and the WIC Food Packages Development Team (FNS), Alexandria, VA, **Debra Whitford**, Group Leader.

For Protecting and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources Base and Environment: the Illinois Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), Raleigh, NC, **Christine Markham**, Group Leader; and the Open Space Conservation Team (FS), Washington, DC,

Theodore Beauvais, Group Leader. *For Supporting the President's Management Agenda and Civil Rights:* the Budget Re-engineering Process Team (FSIS), Washington, DC, **Anthony Thompson**, Group Leader; the Change Agents for the Business Process Re-engineering Initiative (Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration), Washington, DC, **William Crutchfield**, Group Leader; eXtension (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service), Washington, DC, **Gregory Crosby** and **Ronald Brown**, Group Leaders; and the Human Capital

Management Team (FSIS), Washington, DC, **Billy Milton**, Group Leader.

For Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management: the USDA Headquarters Green Team (Departmental Administration), Washington, DC, **Ed Murtagh** and **Ed Hogberg**, Group Leaders; and the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference Planning Committee (RD), Washington, DC, **Allan Johnson**, Group Leader.

Additional information can be found on www.usda.gov and then clicking on "Newsroom." ■

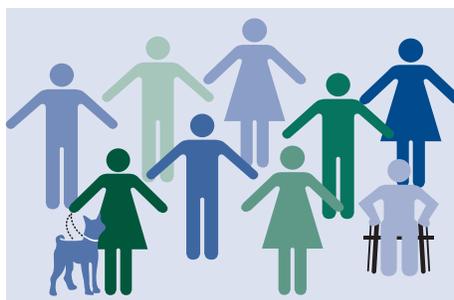
Unsung Heroes...continued from pg. 5

his talents at being mechanically inclined. The result has been that he has contributed significantly to the efficiency of BARC operations and has helped to ensure that quality care is afforded BARC's research animals.

⑧ **Harry Solhjo**, an Engineer with ARS's Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans who, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, discounted his own personal safety and personal hardship and worked both in the short-term and the long-term to bring displaced Center employees safely back to New Orleans and bring the Center itself back into full operation. His contributions to these efforts even included receiving training in mold remediation so that he could monitor the Center for the presence of toxic mold in hidden areas of the Center so that coworkers would be safeguarded against its adverse health effects.

⑨ **Johnny Toles**, Director of FSA's Office of Civil Rights in Washington, DC, who has accomplished two 'firsts' in the history of his agency. First, from April 24-26, 2007 his office conducted FSA's first training session for all of the agency's State Civil Rights Coordinators. Second, for the period of FY 2007 FSA did not have any outstanding civil rights issues listed in either the Government Accountability Office Audit Report for FY 2007 or the two Office of Inspector General Semiannual Audit Reports covering both of the six-month-periods of FY 2007.

⑩ **Sara Vazquez-Negron**, a Program Analyst with the Food and Nutrition Service's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Robbinsville, NJ, who, while serving as the Region's



Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager from 1987-2007, served as the driving force in planning and successfully presenting various Hispanic Emphasis programs that had been described as thought-provoking and fun while expanding the vision and ideas of participants, and who, in 2007, partnered with the Federal Women's Program in FNS's Mid-Atlantic Region to hold the Region's first annual 'Dress for Success' clothing drive which provided business attire to low-income persons seeking jobs in the Jersey City, NJ area.

⑪ **Marie Watson**, the Secretary to the Area Veterinarian in Charge for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Veterinary Services operations in Michigan, based in East Lansing, who, over her 19-year career in that office, has helped to train many of the new employees in APHIS's Veterinary Services operations in Michigan. As a result, in 2006 she became the official "Area Training Coordinator," covering Michigan.

⑫ **Josie Woodley-Jones**, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, who, as a proponent of career development, volunteered in 2007 to serve as a member of the Professional Development Task Force

for the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. In addition, since 2000 she has served as a mentor to USDA's 1890 National Scholars. In both situations she has provided informal coaching, encouragement, and leading by example to inspire young people in their professional and personal lives.

⑬ APHIS's Wildlife Services program in Guam, which has maintained continuous control and containment efforts to keep the Brown treesnake from escaping from Guam and then invading Hawaii. The 58 full-time employees and 16 canine teams in this program consistently achieve the goal of zero Brown treesnake sightings in Hawaii, to date, through a focus on all commercial and military air and sea ports of exit, the use of 3,000 Brown treesnake traps, nightly spotlight searches, use of toxicants, deployment of detector dogs, and public education. These efforts have resulted in the removal of some 7,000 Brown treesnakes annually from Guam ports of exit. ■

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RD Management Analyst **Amy McGeehan** (right) and OO Bindery Supervisor **Gallin Murray** are talking about the white oak wooden bench they're using at the U.S. Botanic Garden on the National Mall in Washington, DC. It was built by FS Carpenter **Bob Foss**, sanded, conditioned, and stained by FS painter **Cindy Hanson**, and engraved by FS machinist **Joe Destree**—employees of FS's Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI. The garden bench is unique because it was constructed out of 50-year-old leftover, reused wood materials, to support sustainable products. **Carol Kramer-LeBlanc**, Chair of USDA's Council for Sustainable Development, said it was part of the Council's USDA-focused "Connecting Countryside to Community" exhibit, developed by NRCS Landscape Architect **Bob Snieckus**. It was part of the larger exhibition titled "One Planet—Ours! Sustainability for the 22nd Century" on site at the U.S. Botanic Garden this past summer. —PHOTO BY ALICE WELCH



Help us find **Candelaria Contreras**

Missing: **6-15-2007** From: **Manson, WA**

D.O.B.: **3-21-1991** Sex: **Female**

Hair: **Brown** Eyes: **Brown**

Height: **5 ft. 0 in.** Weight: **109 lbs.**

If you have information, please call

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