

District Sponsors Day Camp



This photo is of the 2011 Lawrence County 4-H Summer Day Camp held at Lake Charles in June. The Lawrence Co. Conservation District has donated money for the past several years that has been used to purchase a t-shirt for all participants, adult volunteers, youth counselors and 4-H staff; as well as snacks and materials and supplies. 41 youth ages 8 - 13 participated in this year's camp which included educational programs on "Digital Photography", "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math", and "Youth Gardening." The youth also enjoyed playing games, crafts and swimming each session.

Tinsley Elected as Board Member



Roger Tinsley, from Walnut Ridge, was recently elected to the Lawrence County Conservation District Board of Directors.

Roger has farmed since 1972. He operates his farm in the Laura Town area. Roger has one son, Ben, who lives in Jonesboro and one daughter, Robyn, who lives in Pocahontas. Roger also has three grandchildren, Tucker, Haven, and Conner.



\$10,000.00 to be given away in a drawing on October 29, 2011 at the Iron Mt. Festival in Walnut Ridge. Do not have to be present to win!!!!

**ONLY 250 Tickets to be SOLD!!
\$100.00 per ticket
All donations are tax deductible**

**Tickets can be purchased from any Lawrence County 4-H Foundation member or by calling or coming by the Lawrence County Extension Office
1100 West Main Street
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476
870-886-3741**

Group purchasing of tickets is allowed but the ticket will be stubbed to only one person in the group.



Backgrounder for USDA Officials

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers



Hispanic and women farmers.

- Since the first days of the Obama Administration, we have worked to write a new chapter for civil rights at USDA. We have taken comprehensive, definitive actions to move the Department into a new era as a model employer and premier service provider.
 - We believe that every farmer and rancher should be treated equally and fairly and we are committed to resolving all cases involving allegations of past discrimination by individuals, including
- As part of our work towards this new era, we announced a settlement with black farmers to address pending claims, and finalized a historic settlement agreement with Native American farmers who claim to have faced discrimination by USDA in past decades.
- And the claims process we announced on February 25, 2011, will turn the page on allegations of discrimination made against the Department by Hispanic and women farmers and provide compensation to a final group of individuals who faced discrimination.
- Together with the Department of Justice, we are providing Hispanic, Latino and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination an option for a streamlined process to resolve their claims simply.
- As we move through this claims process, we will continue our work so that fairness and inclusion serve as the foundation of everything we do at USDA, and that each employee and customer is treated fairly and equitably, with dignity and respect.
- Never again should hard-working Americans be forced off a farm their family has tilled for generations because they can't get help they deserve to make it through a bad harvest, or are denied a loan to repair a broken tractor. The American people deserve no less.

Background on Unified Claims Process

- In recent years, Federal courts decided not to certify the lawsuits brought by Hispanic and women farmers as class actions. This means that the individual farmers were left with one option: to take their claims individually through the federal court system.
- Having to rely on the courts might discourage many farmers from seeking redress because of the significant financial and time resources required for an individual lawsuit. The process we announced will help folks resolve their claims more simply.
- If you believe that USDA improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, Latino, or female you can find information about the claims process at www.farmerclaims.gov or by calling 1-888-508-4429.
- Claimants will have 180 days from the opening date of the Claims Period, to be announced by the USDA, within which to file a complete Claims Package.
- As part of this claims process, USDA will conduct extensive outreach and notice efforts to Hispanic and/or women farmer communities so that all eligible farmers and ranchers learn about this option and are provided an opportunity to participate.