

THE GREENSBORO ECHO

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NRCS VISITS



A cold blistering day on the farms in Greensboro, MS, personnel from NRCS was soliciting information from members of the Winston County Self Help Cooperative and other landowners. Although, the weather conditions were adverse, nevertheless, the on site visits were beneficial for both entities. NRCS staff identified several problems on various farms ranging from erosion, lack of interior fencing & insufficient water supply, fertilization & other conserva-

tion practices needed to be corrected. NRCS's personnel stated, each coop member should sign-up in early January to participate in the environmental quality incentive program for cost-share assistance at the local office of Natural Resource Conservation Service. According, Walter Jackson, NRCS's Grassland Specialist, we are here to assistance landowners and farmers to enhance their opportunities of succeeding in taking care of the natural resources. We encourage all interested individuals to visit a county office of NRCS to gain better perspective of our work in the local communities. The Winston County Self Help Cooperative is committed to help save rural America with assistance from NRCS our dreams will come to fruition. Additionally, thanks to the following NRCS's personnel for participating Alan Holditch, Ken Estes, Ramsey Russell, and Chuck Lea.



Family Nutrition Program by Sandra Jackson

During the month of December, the nutrition program focused on Milk Matter. The programs were presented to students at Fair Elementary School. The purpose of the program is to educate the students on the importance of including milk in their diet. The students learned that milk and dairy foods have lots of calcium and other nutrients that make bones grow strong and healthy. The students also learned the recommended amount of milk is needed for each day. Also, they learned the main nutrients found in the milk group. This information was provided to students K-3rd grade. Also, newsletters were sent home to parents with information about

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Winston County Self Help Cooperative sponsored a "Women in Business" workshop, on January 23, 2006, 6:00 p.m. at the extension office on Vance Street in Louisville, MS. The theme was "Starting Your Business from Scratch" with Dr. Albert Myles from extension service facilitating. The workshop concept is a hybrid of Alcorn State University and Mississippi of Association Cooperatives Small Farmers Conference. Several WCSHC cooperative members participated in the conference and were inspired to plan a workshop in East Central Mississippi. "We look forward to thrashing our minds and planning our future in business." according cooperative member Gloria Moore.

CONNECTING

The Winston County Self Help Cooperative Membership is moving forward into the digital society with 55 percent its members connected to the World Wide Web. The cooperative members have participated in several computer trainings and workshops over the past two years with various groups. The Mississippi State's office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service donated WCSHC a computer through the E-GOV program in August 2004.

This has ignited a thirst for more trainings and programs to be installed on the cooperative's computer. This gift has allowed members without computers access to the World Wide Web an opportunity to monitor current markets data and up-dates on USDA programs. Also, this has allowed direct distribution of information without mailing expenses; therefore, we will continue to encourage our members to become com-

puter savvy. The cooperative is planning training sessions with the local community college and perhaps establish a relationship with the local school resource center director. Winston County Self Help Cooperative is committed to "help save rural America" and with continuing assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service our dreams will come into fruition.

CHANGING LEADERSHIP STYLE



The Winston County Self Help Cooperative is changing leadership style with a vision of creating more leaders from within the membership. Leadership is competence, loyalty, commitment, decision making, courage, and the ability to inspire or motivate others to action. The cooperative has made a commitment with Alcorn State University's Community Voices program to provide leadership training classes in the first quarter of 2006. "We are appreciative of this opportunity to work with Alcorn State University's Extension Program to validate quality leaders in our communities," according to cooperative member Mary Hannah. Our cooperative has adopted an ambitious agenda for the first ninety days of 2006, and each member has selected a project to complete by April 7. The leadership classes will help escalate completion of our agenda and build momentum toward the last quarter of 06. We are developing future leaders to carry our mission of "helping to save rural America" into the 22nd century.

"Saving Rural America"