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327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

REGIONAL CALENDAR

JUNE

⇒ 23-24 GMA, Savannah
⇒ 26 RDC Board Mtg., Adel

JULY

⇒ 4 Holiday

in the REGION



MAY/JUNE ■ 2008

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A leader in the development of local and regional programs since 1963.

RDC HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER

The South Georgia RDC Board of Directors held its annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, April 29th at Mike Dinnerman's Farm in Cook County, Georgia. Local officials, state legislators and guests were invited to a special dinner meeting to express the Board's appreciation for the legislators' hard work on behalf of the RDC and local governments.



Community & Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

RDC Supporting the 8th Conservation Production Systems Training Conference and 30th Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference

Farmers and interested persons can learn about the benefits of conservation tillage at the 2008, "8th Conservation Production Systems Training Conference and 30th Southern Conservation Agriculture Systems Conference" set for July 29 - 31, 2008 at the UGA - Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton, GA. The three day conference is designed to educate/share information about conservation tillage systems topics between farmers, researchers, extension agents, and NRCS personnel in an interactive setting.

Georgia College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, Georgia Coastal Management Program, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, U S D A Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, U S D A Agricultural Research Service, Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems, Regional Project Number SERA-IEG 20, and many more. The conference registration fee per person is \$150 excluding lodging and \$225 per person including lodging. Vendors, Equipment Dealers, and other Agriculture Supply Dealers are welcome to set up product displays, for a small fee. Farmers may be eligible for scholarships to cover registration fees if submitted by the deadline of July 7, 2008 and as long as funds are available.



This conference promotes a "Systems Approach" to sustainable agriculture and conservation tillage. Topics to be covered in concurrent breakout sessions include Precision Ag Management Tools, Water/Irrigation, Organic Production, Pest Management, Bioenergy Shifts, Future Technology in Conservation Tillage and much more! Additionally, educational exhibits related to conservation tillage will be on display.

The Conference is cosponsored by the GA DNR Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, Fort Valley State University, USDA Risk Management Agency, Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance, Georgia Organics, Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Central Savannah RC&D Council, Coastal Georgia RC&D Council, Seven Rivers RC&D Council, South Georgia Regional Development Center, The University of Geor-

For more information or to register for the 2008 Conservation Production Systems Training Conference and Southern Conservation Agriculture Systems Conference, please contact Karen McBrayer at 229.386.3416 or by email at karens@uga.edu. Registration can also be completed online at www.ugatiftonconference.org under Upcoming Events.

Local Government Assistance

Contact: John Leonard/Marty LeFiles

Brenda Stalvey Sworn In As President Of Georgia County Clerks Association



Marty LeFiles, SGRDC Assistant Executive Director, recently had the honor of swearing in Echols County Administrator/Clerk Brenda Stalvey as the new President of the Georgia County Clerks Association during the ACCG Annual Meeting in Savannah. Standing with Marty and Brenda are Kathy Arp, Vice-President, and Donna Bell, Treasurer.

Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

City of Tifton Website Update

The South Georgia RDC ITS department is assisting the City of Tifton with implementing three new areas to the City's website. These areas include an online Newsletter, Storm Water and Flood Protection page and the City and County Unified Development Code page. These areas provide the citizens of Tifton and Tift County new information on the latest community events, land development codes, and storm water management practices and ordinances.



Geographical Information Systems

Contact: Chris/Rachel B. Strom

GIS Completes Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)



Our GIS Team has recently completed the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) project for the entire SGRDC region. If your community's highest elected official has not yet received a letter from the census bureau officially accepting this submission, one will be arriving shortly. Thanks to every community in our region for their cooperation and assistance with this very important project.

All in all, we processed about 160,000 addresses for our entire region. Of those, we identified over 108,000 unique residential address across the region and then assigned the county and census geography codes to each record. We are proud of the fact that while many cities and counties across the state were doing either all or most of this work for themselves, your RDC was able to collect the address information from all communities, compile it into a single database, perform the GIS processes necessary and submit this data for every city/county in our region.

Each county was submitted in a separate data file and once received by the Census Bureau the file was analyzed for possible errors. We are proud to also say that we had a **.13% error rate** with our submissions. Yep, out of 108,000 records, only about 140 of them were in error.

< 1%

So what's next you ask? The 2010 Census is just around the corner and this LUCA project was only the beginning. Here's some key milestones that the Census Bureau has published—

- Fall 2008—recruitment begins for local census jobs
- Spring 2009—Census employees conduct door-to-door sweeps to perform a final update to address lists nationwide ...

Workforce Development

Contact: Marcia Gaskins

Valdosta Career Center Holds Youth Job Fair

The Valdosta Career Center held a Youth Job Fair on April 17, 2008. Numerous employers interested in hiring youth and agencies serving youth participated.



Pictured are some of the employers, agencies and youth participating at the Job Fair

Several hundred local youth attended the event. The young people were able to talk to potential employers and with various agencies providing services to youth. WIA Youth Programs operated by Paxen are located at the Valdosta Career Center and were on hand at the Job Fair. Paxen had displays and handouts for the youth interested in academic enrichment and work readiness skills training. SGRDC WIA staff also attended the Job Fair and provided information on WIA services. Congratulations to the Valdosta Career Center for a well-organized and very successful Youth Job Fair!



Charmane Thomas and Teresa Castleberry talk to youth about Paxen's WIA program at the Job Fair



SGRDC WIA staff member Pat Houseal was also on hand at the Job Fair discussing various WIA youth programs

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- Feb-Mar 2010—Questionnaires are mailed/delivered to households
 - April 1, 2010—Census Day!continued
 - Dec. 2010—By law, population counts delivered to president for apportionment.
 - Mar. 2011—By law, census bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

Thanks again for your community's cooperation.