United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Post Office Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

DEC 2 0 2013

SUBJECT: EOP – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Civil Rights Policy Statement

TO: All NRCS Employees File Code: 230-15

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees represent an array of cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds, and that diversity helps us meet our mission. I am committed to enforcing the Secretary's zero tolerance policy on discrimination. Prohibited discrimination is a violation of Title VI and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

It is NRCS' policy to treat all customers and employees equitably regardless of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and expression), religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, parental status, and protected genetic information. It is also our policy that customers and employees be free from reprisal or harassment in the pursuit of fairness and equal employment opportunities.

Complainants, representatives, and witnesses involved in complaints of discrimination must be unimpeded and free from restraint, coercion, or retaliation in the exercise of eliminating discrimination in the workplace. Agency officials, managers, supervisors, and other employees will be held accountable for discrimination, reprisal, civil rights violations, and related misconduct.

Managers and supervisors are responsible for the environment in which their employees work and have a duty to take both affirmative and corrective action to ensure equal opportunity and civil rights for customers and employees. To deter violations, managers and supervisors are required to take appropriate corrective or disciplinary action on findings of discrimination, reprisal, civil rights violations, and related misconduct in employment and program matters. They must demonstrate an elevated regard by supporting civil rights, equal employment opportunity, and diversity in the workplace.

All NRCS employees are expected to adhere to this policy. NRCS will ensure appropriate corrective or disciplinary action is taken against violators who engage in discriminatory behavior.

The Civil Rights Division will continue to provide guidance and ensure the agency's compliance with the laws and principles of equality for employment and programs.

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints of discrimination, contact the Civil Rights Division at (301) 504-2181.

Jason A. Weller
Chief