

August 2010

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www.swcs.org
check out activities on the national web site.

www.okswcs.org
Check out activities on the Oklahoma SWCS web site.

<http://envirothonok.com/>
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Chapter Activities August 11th

The Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is planning a strategic planning and leadership development meeting at 10:00 am Wednesday August 11th, at Redlands Community College, 1300 S. Country Club Road, El Reno. All members are invited to attend and participate. Enter from the west side of campus at the Conference Center entrance and we will greet you there.

Soil and Water Conservation Society Members Join Feds, Farmers and Friends in Food Drive to Feed Families

By Dick Tremain, NRCS Iowa



There's a little less hunger in St. Louis this summer, thanks to convention-going soil conservationists and scientists. When members of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) preparing for their annual international conference heard about the national Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families (F5) food drive, they decided to help by bringing food to the St. Louis convention, where it was collected and weighed.

"We collected 250 pounds of food and donated it to the St. Patrick Center of St. Louis, which is the largest provider of homeless services in Missouri," said Jim Gulliford, SWCS executive director.

"When you consider that much of the donated food was packed in luggage and went through airport security, this is a great effort. I'm proud of our members and the success of our food drive." SWCS is a professional society dedicated to promoting the science and art of natural resource conservation.

Gulliford credits Bonnie Allely, an exhibitor at

this year's SWCS conference, with the idea of having the organization participate. Allely is the Earth Team national volunteer liaison with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "When Bonnie contacted us about participating in the NRCS F5 food drive, we jumped at the chance. We asked the 615 people attending our conference to 'pack for two, bring food, and help "starve" hunger in St. Louis,'" Gulliford said. Allely's Earth Team exhibit served as the food donation collection point.

Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families is a national program that contributes foods to communities across the country. Allely says she handed convention attendees fliers promoting the F5 partnership. "I'm hoping this hunger-fighting effort continues when the conference-goers return home," she said. "This is a great program." Want to help? Between now and August 31, 2010, NRCS, Farm Service Agency and Rural Development field offices across the country are collecting non-perishable food items that will be delivered to local area food banks.



Oklahoma attendees at the SWCS 65th Annual Conference: Kenneth Hitch, Larry Wright, Jamey Wood, and Ron Hilliard.