



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN 230-6-1

SUBJECT: EOP – Black History Month

Purpose: To provide information on Black History Month

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006

Indiana's NRCS employees are a very diverse group. It is this diversity that in some respect is our strength. Each year we set aside the month of February as a time to reflect, learn and celebrate who we are. Through this time of reflection we have an opportunity to learn about the heritage and culture of the people we work with daily. By taking a little time to learn about the heritage and culture of the people of our diverse workforce, our lives will be enriched and we will have an improved working environment.

February is celebrated as Black History month. It is the month in which we bear witness to the progress, richness, and diversity of African American Achievement. During the 1920s an African American named Carter G. Woodson created and promoted Negro History Week. February was chosen because it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976 the month-long celebration was implemented. It is a time for Americans to reflect on both the history and teaching of African Americans whose contributions are still too little known.

The theme for the 2006 Black History Month is, **Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions**. "While most Americans recognize the centrality of the African-American religious institutions in the formation of community, too little attention has been paid to the full spectrum of black organizations. While the Black Church has served as a rock in a weary land, black fraternal, civics, and social organizations have also aided African-Americans in their efforts to draw sweet honey from the rock of their American experience".

Our Black Emphasis Program Manager has put together a number of links to sites that offer an array of information on the history, culture and contributions of African Americans. I hope you will take a little time and visit some of these sites. Check out the "February is Black History Month" link on the in.nrcs.usda.gov homepage.

If you have plans to be in the State Office during the month of February, I invite you to take a moment to view our Black History display along with the informational materials.

If you have any questions about Black History Month, please contact Bennie Clark, Jr., NRCS Black Emphasis Program Manager, at 317-290-3200, x394 or by e-mail at Bennie.Clark@in.usda.gov.

/s/

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Acting State Conservationist

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