



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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September 15, 2004

**INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN-230-4-3**

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Purpose: To provide Information on National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15- October 15, 2004

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

During September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, America celebrates the ancestry and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The theme for this year's observance is "Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation".

Hispanic Heritage Month has evolved from a congressional declaration of Hispanic Heritage week in 1968. The Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. It was celebrated during the week of Independence Days for Latin American Countries. In 1988, the celebration of Hispanic heritage was expanded to a month-long celebration. This was to honor our Nation's Hispanic Heritage.

The Hispanic diversity has brought variety and richness to the mosaic that is America. It has strengthened our national character with invaluable perspective, experience and values. Today, people of Hispanic heritage are an increasingly important and growing segment of our Nation's population. Studies have shown that Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States. The success of Hispanics citizens is vital to our continued national prosperity, and we must empower them with the tools and opportunities they need.

Take some time this month and congratulate your fellow Hispanic Americans, especially those who serve our nation. "September 11, 2001, will be forever etched in the annals of infamy. Yet, if there is any good to have come from the terror sown on that day, it may have been the renewed faith, unity and national pride that surged in the days immediately following, and which remain strong today. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we salute those who have given life and limb in service to the United States, patriots from long ago as well as the new generation of Latinos who are choosing to serve".  
([www.hispaniconline.com](http://www.hispaniconline.com))

Our State Hispanic Employment Program Manager is Edwin Almodovar. He can be reached at 765-448-1805 ext. 3. Please visit the HEPM Website at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/> under Indiana Civil Rights.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY  
State Conservationist

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