

NAVAJO RC&D



P.O. Box 499 St. Michaels, AZ 86511 928-871-4528

Navajo Nation Local Work Group Meeting

The Navajo Resource Conservation & Development's (NRC&D) facilitated a Local Work Group (LWG) meeting for Navajo producers, tribal entities and environmental students at the Dine College in Tsaile, AZ. The event was a partnership effort with the college Land Grant Office (LGO), the AZ Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the College's Hatathlie Center and its cafeteria.

To hold the public meeting, members of the NRC&D posted notices, sent meeting invitations, announced the event at public gatherings and had it publicized it on local radio stations. They also worked with the LGO and the college in securing a conference room and coordinated lunch for participants.

On July 8, 2010, NRC&D and the LGO welcomed the public and AZ NRCS staff to the Navajo Nation's LWG meeting. The State Resource Conservationist, Steve Barker discussed the purpose of NRCS Programs and importance of the LWG meeting (an open public comment session to capture concerns and recommendations from agricultural producers, landowners and others within Navajo's five conservation districts). The Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), Tom Hedt gave an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), abstracts of other NRCS financial assistance programs and a question and answer session with attendees. The rest of agenda included explanations of priority resource concerns, applicant ranking, conservation practice and incentives for producers. In the end, Navajo clients were encouraged to provide their natural resource concerns, prioritize them and to specify final recommendations for FY2011 NRCS funding programs. Throughout the event, NRC&D translated information and took meeting minutes.

For NRC&D's initial public meeting coordinated, it was attended by 65 people representing local producers from various chapters and tribal departments. In conclusion, NRC&D provided the LWG meeting minutes with final Navajo Nation recommendations to the AZ NRCS Office.

