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Joyce Lane Awarded 2016's Jerry L. Johnson Award for Public Service

AUBURN, Nov. 18, 2015 – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama today announced that Joyce Lane has been named 2016's Jerry L. Johnson award winner. Lane was recognized at the 74th Annual Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama on November 14, 2016.

This award is given to an Alabama NRCS employee for "Excellence in Public Service through One's Family, Employment, Profession and Community." The nominated employee who exhibits the characteristics of Jerry Johnson's spirit and concern for his family, fellow employees, the environment and his community will be recognized.

The award's 11th recipient is known throughout her North Alabama community as a leader in community service. Lane has a true passion for helping people, whether it involves helping people help the land or helping people who are in need. A self-starter who works tirelessly without wanting any praise or recognition, Lane volunteers at the local Salvation Army, serves on a scholarship committee and leads her office's effort for the Feds Feed Families campaign each year. She also wears many hats at her church, Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, where she is a Nursery Director and Sunday School Coordinator.

Lane's upbringing in the small southwest town of Pine Hill and time in U.S. Army Reserves gave her the foundation to work diligently to support her family and serve others. She and her husband Curtis have raised three sons who they have instilled values such as discipline, honesty and integrity.

When she isn't busy serving her community, Lane works alongside private landowners as District Conservationist for Madison and Limestone Counties. She has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1988.

"Joyce Lane is the epitome of excellence. She has dedicated the past 28 years to conservation and community service. The selection committee was proud to present her with this year's award because she has without a doubt, positively impacted several lives in her community," said Ben Malone, State Conservationist for NRCS Alabama.

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For over 30 years, Jerry L. Johnson served conservation in Alabama. As NRCS State Staff Forester, he worked with the conservation partnership to assist landowners with natural resource concerns. His work and dedication positively impacted the forest, wildlife, and water resources of our state. He passed away on December 31, 2003 after a lengthy battle with cancer, only a few months after retiring from the agency. Nominations for the Jerry L. Johnson award are accepted each year in August.

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