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Alabama’s Miguel Otero Named 2015’s Small Hispanic Farmer of the Year

AUBURN, Nov. 24, 2015 – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama today announced that Miguel Otero has been named 2015’s Small Hispanic Farmer of the Year. The [National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees \(NOPHNRCSE\)](#) recognizes a deserving farmer or rancher each year at its annual conference.

This year, Mr. Otero was recognized at the group’s meeting in Grapevine, Texas on October 23, 2015. The award is presented to farmers and ranchers who have worked with NRCS to conserve natural resources on their land. A Cuban immigrant, Otero has managed to successfully run his small farm with his wife Angela for more than a decade while also being good stewards of the land.

Otero has shown a commitment to conservation on his cattle and poultry farm in Dothan, Alabama by working with his local NRCS office to install several conservation practices. His work with NRCS has helped him improve soil health, water quality and nutrient management on his farm. In addition to working on his land to make conservation improvements, Otero has also actively shared information with fellow farmers about NRCS assistance through Farm Bill programs.

“We’re proud of all of Mr. Otero’s accomplishments. He has worked hard to conserve resources on his land and it serves as a great example to others,” said Ben Malone, state conservationist for NRCS Alabama.

“Mr. Otero was an ideal recipient for the 2015 award because he epitomizes all the characteristics of a great small farmer making a big impact on the land. He’s living proof that conservation works for anyone willing to work hard,” said Astrid Martinez, NOPHNRCSE president.

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Otero has been able to make that big difference by enrolling in the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) and the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#). These programs are just two options for ways farmers like Mr. Otero can work with NRCS to make conservation a reality on their land.

Financial and technical assistance are available to eligible producers across the nation on a continuous basis. Interested landowners are encouraged to contact their [local USDA service center](#).

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