

## Alabama Bulletin No. AL360-16-2

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**Date:** March 10, 2016

**Subject:** PER – Conservation Planning Training – Part II - Week 3

**Purpose:** To authorize personnel to attend training

**Expiration Date:** December 30, 2016

**Background.** This is a 3 week course which encompasses Conservation Planning Modules 6-8; CNMP Training; Nutrient Management (Part II) and Pest Management (Part II).

Week 3 will be held April 4 through April 8, 2016 at the Auburn State Office, located at 3381 Skyway Drive, Auburn, AL. The agenda is attached.

The following NRCS employees are authorized to attend Week 3 of the training on official time at government expense. Resource Engineers and employees who are new to Alabama, but who are already Certified Conservation Planners, should work with their Supervisor and ASTC-FO to determine if any of the course work is needed. If recommend by your ASTC-FO or State Office Supervisor, your name will be added to the attendance list.

ADAMS	DAVID	L
BADGER	TRAVIS	DORE
BARTON	MICKEY	
BOYETT	GABRIEL	CLARK
COLLINS	DANIEL	ROBERT
DAUGHERTY	JUSTIN	RYAN
DEARMON	DANIEL	BENTLEY
FOUNTAIN	JAMES	NICHOLAS
HUDGINS	PAUL	
JOHNSON	DEMETRIS	
KILGORE	CHARLES	
LLOYD	STEVE	DELANEY
MANGRUM	JOSHUA	
MCBROOM	LOGAN	ELIJAH
POTTER	DUSTIN	TORREY
SOUTH	HANNAH	ELIZABETH
STIDHAM	SUMMER	SANCHEZ
WILBURN	JOHN	CLARKE
WILLIAMS	BRADLEY	WAYNE
YELVERTON	CODIE	LYNN

If you require any type of accommodation, contact your supervisor or Jeff Thurmond at jeff.thurmond@al.usda.gov. If you plan to attend the training, but your name is not on the above list, contact Jeff Thurmond ASAP.

The following Partner employee has indicated participation in the training:

Green, Andrew

A block of rooms has been reserved at the [Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham](#), 1651 Parker Way, Opelika, AL 36801; Phone: (334) 745-0415. The hotel is beside the Gander Mountain at the Tiger Town Opelika Exit 58. The Block room rate is \$62 a night. The hotel has been sent a copy of our Tax Exempt status and should not add tax to any of the rooms. Please check your bill when you check out to ensure they did not charge taxes.

District employees, TSP's and other Partners are welcome to attend the training. Each Partner employee and TSP's will need to handle their own travel expenses.

**All participants shall be prepared to give a 15 minute oral presentation on the RMS Conservation Plan they developed with the landowner.** Attendees and their supervisors should read the attached instructions for the course assignment that is required for completion of Conservation Planning, Part II, Module 9. This module is required in order to obtain Certified Conservation Planner status.

Note to Students, The NEDC Course "Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning", consists of 3 parts:

- Part I – Self-study (AgLearn: Web Based NRCS-NEDC-000083 and NRCS-NEDC-000085 )
- Part II – Facilitated session (Week 2 of the Conservation Planning Course in Nauvoo, AL)
- Part III – Completion of a nutrient and pest management component of an RMS plan

To receive credit for Part III, bring your completed RMS plan with the nutrient and pest management component documented. The plans will be reviewed during the week by the State Agronomists.

Any questions concerning the training should be directed to Jeff Thurmond, Wildlife Biologist, at 334-887-4510

/s/

SHANNON K. WEAVER  
ASTC-Technology

Attachments:  
Agenda  
Module 9 Assignment

Dist: E

# **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**Welcomes you to:**

**Conservation for New Employees  
(Week III)**

**Auburn, Alabama  
NRCS State Office**

**April 4 – April 8, 2016**



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Conservation for New Employees  
Auburn, Alabama  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Week)**

**MONDAY, April 4, 2016**

**CHAIR: Summer Stidham**

<b>1:00 - 1:15</b>	<b>Opening Remarks AU State Office</b>	<b>Ben Malone Shannon Weaver</b>
<b>1:15 - 1:45</b>	<b>SWCS &amp; Professional Development</b>	<b>Perry Oakes</b>
<b>1:45 - 2:45</b>	<b>Oral Presentation of Conservation Plans</b>	<b>Participants &amp; S.O. Staff</b>
<b>2:45 - 3:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>3:00 - 4:00</b>	<b>Working with New/Beginning, Limited Resource And Socially Disadvantaged Landowners</b>	<b>Alice Love</b>
<b>4:00 - 5:00</b>	<b>Oral Presentation of Conservation Plans</b>	<b>Participants &amp; S.O. Staff</b>

**TUESDAY, April 5, 2016**

**CHAIR: Bentley Dearmon**

<b>8:00 - 9:00</b>	<b>Oral Presentation of Conservation Plans</b>	<b>Participants &amp; S.O. Staff</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<b>Promoting Conservation - Knowing your Platform &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Amelia Hines</b>
<b>9:30 - 10:15</b>	<b>Travel to EV Smith Experiment Station</b>	
<b>10:15 - 11:45</b>	<b>Precision AG Equipment Variable Rate Irrigation Use of Drones in AG</b>	<b>Greg Pate Christian Brodbeck</b>

11:45 - 1:00 Lunch (travel to Tallassee and back to EV Smith)

1:00 - 2:00 Precision AG Dr. Brenda Ortiz  
-Grid Sampling  
-Sensors  
-Management Zones

2:00 - 2:45 Travel to Mary Olive Thomas Tract

2:45 - 3:15 Woodland Grazing Eddie Jolley

3:15 - 5:00 Forestry/Wildlife MGT Jeff Thurmond/Tim Albritton  
Real World Examples

5:00 Cookout at home of David and Shannon Weaver

WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2016

CHAIR: Demetrious Johnson

7:00 Leave for Jimmy Carter Plant Material Center

9:00 - 10:00 Overview and Tour of PMC

10:00 - 11:30 Cover Crops (Classroom)

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch (catered at PMC)

12:30 - 3:00 Cover Crops - Classroom Excercises & Field Excercises

3:00 - 5:00 Travel back to Auburn

*Optional - Stop at Columbus River Walk and Dinner in  
Downtown Columbus*

THURSDAY, April 7, 2016

CHAIR: Andrew Green

8:00 - 9:00 Oral Presentations of Participants and S.O. Staff  
Conservation Plans

9:00 - 9:30 Travel to Soil Testing Lab



## Course Assignment

### (Module 9 of the Conservation Planning Course)

- 1) By Week 3 of the Conservation for New Employees Course:
  - Assist a client with the development of a complete, comprehensive conservation plan at the RMS level.
    - Farm should be typical for the area
    - Farm should be a diversified unit with more than one type of land use
    - Farm should have existing problems/opportunities
  - Your supervisor and/or your Team Resource Conservationist will serve as your coach. Each student should present their plan to their “coach” for review well in advance of April 4, 2016, so that any needed adjustments can be made to the plan.
  - Bring your plan with you to the Week 3 session
  - During the Week 3 session, give a 15 minute oral presentation of the planning process that went into developing this plan. Be sure to include:
    - Appropriate visual aids
    - Landowner objectives
    - Resource inventory and resource concerns
    - Describe any unique/challenging situations
    - Tools used during the process
    - Alternatives discussed
    - Client decisions
    - Implementation activities, if applicable
- 2) Within 2 months of completing Week 3, complete the tasks listed below. Your supervisor can serve as a coach. When you have completed both tasks, contact your Team Resource conservationist to make an appointment with him to review your work on these tasks.
  - a) Evaluate an existing conservation plan that is well into the implementation stage. Provide documentation on the status of the plan and the results being obtained compared to what was anticipated when the plan was originally developed. Is the plan solving the identified problems, taking advantage of opportunities, and meeting the client’s objectives? Are there any adjustments needed in the plan, and, if so, what are they?
  - b) Assist a client in revising an existing conservation plan that needs revision.