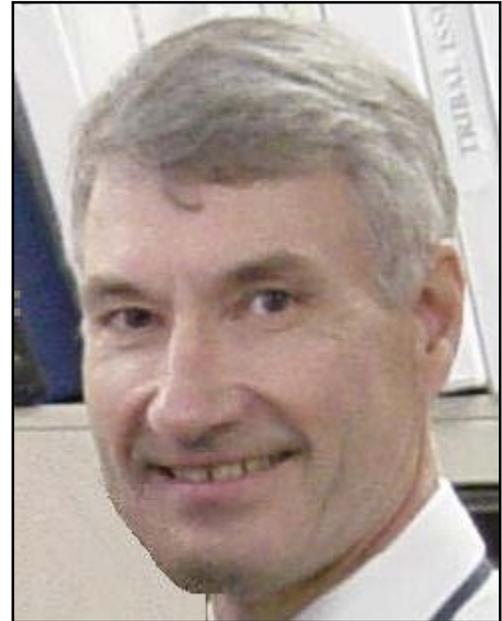


2010 Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award

Harry Slawter

Harry Slawter served in multiple roles in his over 30 year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), working his way up through the system into leadership roles at the state level and into headquarters. Throughout his career, Harry brought to these roles the unique and dynamic combination of a deep love and appreciation of conservation, gifts for inspired yet practical and factually grounded program implementation, and a thorough grasp of the intersection of conservation policy and how to make it work on the land. Harry understood the needs and concerns of the people responsible for the resources on the land and how the NRCS professional community and the program tools at their disposal could best work with the NRCS customers on the land. For this reason Harry was regularly one of the core NRCS staff that were turned to when a knotty problem needed to be solved, or creativity and imagination needed to address practical conservation needs, whether in headquarter or the field.



Harry had intimate knowledge of programmatic business tools and program policy and how to refine and modify these tools for the greater efficiency and effectiveness of the field conservationist. Examples of his work include refinement of ProTracts so that it became fully operational and accepted nationwide, development of the financial assistance programs' payment schedule approach, and development of the cost-share programs evaluation and ranking tool for producer applications. Harry's ability to integrate business tools and policy better than anyone to the advantage of the conservation community, both field conservationists and customers, was recognized with a Chief's Circle of Excellence Award for his role in the migration of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) management processes and data migration from Farm Service Agency to NRCS. As a result Harry, working with other key staff, served as the programmatic linchpin that supported the dramatic expansion of NRCS private lands financial assistance programs, and played an instrumental role in the unprecedented and enormous expansion of the nation's private lands conservation programs.

Harry is a native of Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University. He started his professional career as a Soil Conservationist for NRCS in Ohio and then worked his way up through the ranks. Harry was a District Conservationist in Ohio, a State Resource Conservationist in Maine, and an Assistance State Conservationist in Illinois. Harry was the leader for the Oversight and Evaluation Team in the Midwest Regional Office in Madison, WI after it was formed and then was selected as the leader for Wetlands and Wildlife Team in the Watersheds and Wetlands Division of the (former) Programs Deputy Chief Area. He also held the positions of Branch Chief for the former Environmental Improvement Programs Branch, Leader for the Programs Business Tools Team and completed his career as Director of the Financial Assistance Programs Division. Harry also was Acting Utah State Conservationist in 2004 and held Officer Positions in 3 Soil and Water Conservation Society chapters.