

National Soil Health

Partner Perspectives and Producer Opportunities



Photo courtesy NCBA

Speakers

Dr. C.Wayne Honeycutt, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mr. Jim Gulliford, Soil and Water Conservation Society

Dr. Justin Derner, Agricultural Research Service

Mr. Sheldon Jones, The Farm Foundation

Dr. Scott Davis, Bureau of Land Management

Dr. Evan Whitley, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Dr. John Tanaka, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable

Mr. Allen Rowley, USDA Forest Service

Mr. Craig Ficenec, The Sand County Foundation

National Soil Health Speakers— Tuesday, December 15, 2015



C. Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D.

**Deputy Chief for Science and Technology
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC**

Dr. Wayne Honeycutt received his Bachelor's degree in Forestry and Master's degree in Soil Science from the University of Kentucky, and his Ph.D. in Soil Genesis from Colorado State University. He served as a Research Soil Scientist for 14 years and a Research Leader for 10 years at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service's New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory, where he led and conducted interdisciplinary research on nutrient cycling and sustainable cropping systems. Since 2010, he has served as Deputy Chief for Science and Technology with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Washington, DC. In that role, Dr. Honeycutt serves as the agency's chief scientist, leading programs in technology acquisition, development, and transfer to ensure NRCS conservation practices reflect the latest scientific advances for conserving the nation's soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. He also leads the agency's National Soil Health Campaign, Conservation Innovation Grants Program, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Watershed Rehabilitation Program, Voluntary Public Access - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, and Environmental Markets activities.



Jim Gulliford

**Executive Director
Soil and Water Conservation Society, Ankeny, IA**

Jim Gulliford has more than 30 years professional experience administering natural resource protection programs in agriculture, mining and for the Environmental Protection Agency. He began his natural resources management career with a 1973 BS in forestry management and a 1975 MS in forestry economics and marketing; both from Iowa State University. He worked in mining and reclamation programs at Iowa State University and later at Southern Illinois University. He directed soil and water conservation programs for the State of Iowa from 1982 – 2001 before joining the Environmental Protection Agency as Region 7 Administrator in Kansas City. From there he moved to Washington, DC, where he served for 2.5 years as EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. He currently is Executive Director of the Soil and Water Conservation Society – a professional society dedicated to promoting the science and art of natural resource conservation.



Justin D. Derner, Ph.D.

**Research Leader, USDA-ARS Rangeland Resources Research Unit
Director, USDA Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub, Cheyenne, WY**

Justin was born and raised on a cattle ranch in the Nebraska Sand Hills. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1991, a M.S. degree from Oklahoma State University in 1993 and a Ph.D. degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University in 1996. Upon graduating, he joined ARS as a Rangeland Scientist with the Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, Texas. In 2002, Dr. Derner moved to the Rangeland Resources Research Unit in Cheyenne, Wyoming and Fort Collins, Colorado, where he has served as the Research Leader since February 2010. Dr. Derner's research focuses on management practices addressing production-conservation issues on western US rangelands. He evaluates influences of grazing, prescribed burning, prairie dogs and their interactions on ecosystem goods and services, and adaptation strategies for land managers. Dr. Derner also is the Director for the Long-Term Agro-ecosystem Research (LTAR) research site, on the Central Plains Experimental Range.



Sheldon R. Jones
Vice President, Finance and Projects
The Farm Foundation, Oak Brook, Illinois

Sheldon Jones joined the Farm Foundation, NFP staff as Vice President in October 2008. He brings to the Foundation extensive experience in public policy and agriculture. Through his work in state government, he has been involved in developing collaborative working relationships with local and national government agencies, worked on numerous natural resource issues, and worked extensively on border issues with Mexico. Prior to joining Farm Foundation, NFP he served as deputy commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. From 2002 until 2004, he was executive vice president of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona. From 1997 until 2002, he was director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. During his term, he was active in the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, serving as president of the organization in 2002. Jones worked in the banking industry before beginning his career in government service. He earned his bachelors and master's degrees at Arizona State University.



Scott E. Davis, Ph.D.
Senior Soil Scientist
USDI—Bureau of Land Management, Denver, CO

Scott Davis is the senior soil scientist at BLM's National Operation Center in Lakewood, CO, serving as the liaison with other soil science providers and developing strategies for integrating soil science into BLM's future. Soil Science is recognized as an integral part of many disciplines and many of BLM's permitted activities and applications: forestry, road building and landslides; range; fire/weed management & rehabilitation; energy & mining and reclamation; rights-of-way; recreation & off road vehicles; wildlife and riparian habitats; land use planning; and social and economic sciences where soil is an important ecosystem service.



Evan Whitley, Ph.D.
Manager, Center for Advanced Agricultural Systems and Technology
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK

Evan Whitley was raised in the rural north Texas community of Pilot Point. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Range Management, Master of Science in Range Nutrition and a Doctor of Philosophy in Beef Cattle Management/ Nutrition from Texas A&M University, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Presently, Evan manages the Center for Advanced Agricultural Systems and Technology within the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation's Agricultural Division. He coordinates development and implementation of applied, research programs related to the sustainability of agricultural production systems. Whitley began his career with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, serving as a Livestock Consultant and Team Manager for eight years. From 2008 to 2011, Whitley was employed by Dakota Beef, as Director of Livestock Operations and Executive Vice President. Whitley resides in Madill, Oklahoma with his wife and two daughters.

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John A. Tanaka, Ph.D.

**Associate Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station
Director, James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research & Extension Center
Director, Powell Research and Extension Center
Director, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable
University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY**

John Tanaka, serves as the Director of the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable, Associate Director, University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, Director of the Powell Research and Extension Center, and Director of the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center. He has a BS and MS in Rangeland Resources from Oregon State University and PhD in Range Science (range economics) from Utah State University. Prior to coming to the University of Wyoming, he was a rangeland economist with Oregon State University and research scientist at the OSU Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, focusing on sustainable ranching. He was the president and interim executive vice president for the Society for Range Management.



Allen Rowley

**Director, Rangeland Management & Vegetation Ecology
USDA Forest Service, Washington D.C.**

Allen Rowley serves as the National Director for Rangeland Management and Vegetation Ecology, for the USDA Forest Service in Washington DC. In this role, he oversees aspects of rangeland management, including federal grazing permits, invasive species, inventory and monitoring, pollinator projects, restoration efforts, and soil resources. Prior to assuming this position in April 2015, he spent almost seven years as the supervisor of the Fishlake National Forest, in Utah. During his time as the forest supervisor, Rowley led the forest in implementing projects in a variety of areas including range management, fire and fuels, recreation and energy development. He has worked on six National Forests in Idaho, Montana, and Utah. His experience in natural resource management spans over 30 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Resources Management from the University of Idaho.



Craig Ficene

**Program Director
The Sand County Foundation, Madison, WI**

Craig Ficene is a program director at Sand County Foundation, where he leads the Water As A Crop program. Craig has been part of agricultural conservation partnerships in watersheds of Lake Michigan, the Monterey Bay, and the Peruvian Andes. He spent seven years with the NRCS as an agricultural engineer (in California), Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator (In Wisconsin including GLCI projects), and state manager of easement and financial assistance programs. Craig also managed conservation initiatives for a non-profit organic farming business incubator program in California and developed domestic water projects as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras. He has a B.S. in environmental engineering from Iowa State University, and a M.S in Land Resources from the Nelson Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.
