

May, 2007

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Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2007

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we honor the many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to our great land.

The millions of Americans who trace their origins to nations in the Asian/Pacific region have enriched America. The entrepreneurship and innovation of Asian/Pacific Americans have strengthened our economy. Asian/Pacific Americans enrich our Nation with their strong values of love of family and community. Many Asian/Pacific Americans are serving the cause of freedom and peace around the world, and our Nation is grateful for their service. These good men and women defend our safety and contribute to the character and greatness of America.

To honor the achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and their many contributions to our Nation and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Poster Winner

John Gledhill is the winner of this year's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Poster. He is an EEO Specialist with the Affirmative Employment and Compliance Branch of the NRCS Civil Rights Division in Beltsville, MD. He was also the winner of the Black History Month poster this year.



Winning Poster for the 2007 Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Poster



Mike Cabusi

“I began with my own personal journey of how I became a soil conservationist, from college and choosing a major, to today.”



Suzy Daubert

SCEP Student in Moscow, Idaho

When the Moscow Field Office, located in northern Idaho was assigned a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) in the summer of 2006, they had no idea that they would be working with someone from half-way around the world. Mike Cabusi came from Guam to spend a summer assisting the Field Office and it proved a great success for the NRCS as well as Mike. There may have been somewhat of a culture shock for Mike, but no one noticed. He fit right in and assisted the FO in many activities-not just job shadowing and observing us working, but contributing on conservation plans

development, administering the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and mapping soils with the soil science crew. Mike told us he had a great time and especially enjoyed the NRCS Staff that he worked with everyday and was anxious to return to Guam to share the experience with fellow students and encourage them to apply for a SCEP position. The NRCS staff not only appreciated his assistance, but everyone made friends with Mike immediately and look forward to him returning to Idaho as a full time employee very soon. *Leah Juarros, AA/PI SEPM, ID*

SEPM Visits University Students to Encourage Diversity

As the Asian American Pacific Islander Special Emphasis Program Manager, Suzy Daubert, Soil Conservationist in Binghamton, NY was invited to visit Cornell University's Cornell Asian-Pacific Student Union, or CAPSU, on Nov. 2 to talk to students about a career with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. She said CAPSU is an organization that brings undergraduate groups representing students of Asian/Pacific Islander descent together under an umbrella organization to facilitate networking among the groups, to learn about understanding diverse ethnic backgrounds, and to form a more cohesive community. Suzy contacted Clara Tow, CAPSU president, and arranged to meet with her before the visit, on a social level, so they could get a better understanding of each other's organization. "Clara let me go first, before the group progressed too far in their meetings' agenda," Suzy said. "I began with my own personal journey of how I became a soil conservationist, from college and choosing a major, to today. Because NRCS has minimum requirements for the position, I told them what kind of classes they needed, and about the benefits of becoming a soil scientist and soil conservationist. There were questions on if the classes are fun, and of course I said they were a blast.

Then the questions were focused more on benefits and if there were more administrative and engineering positions available." Suzy handed out some NRCS recruitment folders and told the group about the USA-jobs website that would advertise internships, student opportunities, and jobs that might interest them. She also told them about other resources available to them, such as organizations like the APIO (Asian Pacific Islander Organization) which offers scholarships and a way to network with others. "They liked the idea that after college there would be something like CAPSU for them," Suzy said. She said that after the meeting she was invited to an event they were planning, a Karaoke night. "This is something that is a little near and dear to my heart," Suzy said. "When I went to S. Korea with my parents for vacation, we went to Karaoke bars almost nightly. Although I am not into singing in front of others, it seems that these students felt the same way as my parents do about singing with all of their heart. They were a group of bright young students who did everything whole heartedly. It was a great meeting; I made some contacts and got some advertisement for NRCS." *Suzy Daubert, AA/PI SEPM, NY*

Cultivating the Asian American Farm

As part of Asian Pacific American Heritage month, here are some excerpts about Asian Americans and farming that were taken from an online magazine called Hardboiled, published by the University of California at Berkeley. The author is Adrienna Wong.

“We often think of Asian Americans as an urban or suburban population, an assumption supported by the fact that currently, the vast majority of Asian Americans live in metropolitan areas. This perspective, however, does not acknowledge the degree to which Asian American history is rooted in rural and farming communities...

“Asian Americans have been involved in farming and agriculture since the first Asian immigrants arrived in the United States. American demand for agricultural labor, intensified by periods like the asparagus boom in the early 1900s, brought Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese farm workers to the United States to work on commercial farms and Hawaiian sugar plantations. Like today’s Latino farm workers, these laborers did hard work for low, unfair wages while always facing the threat of violent racial hostility... Asian American workers organized together to strike and form unions. For example, Japanese sugar beet workers joined with Mexican workers in 1903 in one of the first farm worker strikes in the United States. Decades later, Filipino farm workers unions took part in the strikes that led to the creation of the United Farm Workers in 1965, with Filipino organizer Philip Vera Cruz as the UFW’s vice-president.

“Some early Asian immigrants were able to purchase lands and start successful farms, both for subsistence and commercial purposes. As early as the 1860s, Chinese immigrants were starting their own farms to grow crops that would cater to the tastes of Chinese miners. Japanese American farmers organized farming cooperatives to improve growing and marketing of their vegetables and flowers. Asian American farming contributed new farming techniques and crops, introducing vegetables and strains of rice that had not been previously cultivated in the United States... The influx of immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia during the 1960s and 70s led to the establishment of many family-owned small farms in California and in the Midwest...

“Asian American farmers have faced a variety of challenges including laws that made it difficult for Asian Americans to access the resources necessary to participate on equal terms in the farming industry. Asian Americans were largely prohibited from buying land by legislation like the 1913 Alien Land Act. Land-owning restrictions were made harsher by legislators during World War II, due to heightened racism directed against Asian Americans. The courts in the early part of the 20th century also ruled for discrimination against Asian Americans in farming. For example, in 1923 *Webb v. O’Brien* declared sharecropping illegal because it was a way for Japanese Americans to indirectly possess and use land. That same year, *Frick v. Webb* banned Asian immigrants from owning stocks in corporations formed for farming. The Alien Land Act was not declared unconstitutional until 1952...

“The problems that today’s Asian American family farmers confront are compounded by the fact that many are refugees with limited English and a lack of familiarity with government regulations. Southeast Asian farmers in California have been fined up to \$25,000 for using relatives in the field, which is traditional within Asian family structure, but violates rules related to workman’s compensation insurance. They are disadvantaged by the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy necessary to get loans or to become certified as organic farmers. Traditional Southeast Asian farming techniques are not applicable to the climate in the United States, but these immigrants have not been given access to cutting-edge organic and sustainable techniques that boutique farms targeting wealthy customers have been able to establish... *continuation on the next page*



Asia American family harvesting their strawberry field near San Jose, April 5, 1942. Dorothea Lange photograph, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley)

“Asian Americans have been involved in farming and agriculture since the first Asian immigrants arrived in the United States.”



Oriental vegetables

Photograph from North Carolina Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services webpage



Faces of Diversity, North Dakota

“details on construction of practices, different stages of construction”



Idaho Poster Display with Rich Sims, Idaho State Conservationist

Cultivating the Asian American Farm - Continued

“Despite the disadvantages that Asian American small farmers face, they have been able to find a market to tap into with their produce. Asian American farmers have been able to sell their produce at farmer’s markets and ethnic grocery stores. This produce is even hitting the mainstream; accord-

ing to the Fresno County (California) agricultural commissioner’s office, the sale of “oriental vegetables” is increasing, rising from \$10.3 million in sales in 2003 to \$15.7 million in 2004...” *Yuri Plowden, AA/PI SEPM, PA*

North Dakota’s First Cultural Diversity Day

The North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service held its first Cultural Diversity Day on April 11th, in Bismarck. Although winter weather once again gripped North Dakota with snow and strong winds, employees were able to travel safely and enjoy the program. Each of the Special Emphasis Program Managers sponsored a booth/display for their ethnic group. The day was a success and the afternoon closed with an ethnic food buffet.

The speakers and topics included:

“Developing Cultural Competency Skills” - Pierre Atilio, Program Coordinator for Cultural Diversity Resources

“Cultural Change on the Northern Plains” ~Jack Gladstone, Blackfeet Indian storyteller

“Career Path” ~Plater Campbell, Retired NRCS Employee

Native American “Fancy Dance” ~Stetson Hagel

Lisa Lund, AA/PI SEPM, SD



Conservation Practices Booklet

One of the projects we have in the Northwest part of the State is, compiling a booklet for our landowners showcasing conservation practices available for our area. Many of our landowners have shown interest in knowing details on construction of practices, different stages of construction and when we need to visit the farm for inspection. Our booklet has detailed pictures of practices in various stages of construction such as composters, dry litter stacking sheds, fencing, watering facilities and ponds. *Rhonda S. Foster, Multicultural Emphasis Program Manager, AR*

State APA Heritage Month Activities

Alabama (Susie Daniel): national poster display; map of Asia and the Pacific Islands and some other information about these countries; brochure "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Farm and Ranch Operators", "Asian Farm and Ranch Operators" from the Quick Facts from the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Arizona (Richard Strait): Contest for the first field office to sign up a new Asian/American Pacific Islander farmer for any NRCS program.

Arkansas (Rhonda S. Foster): Bulletin will be sent to all employees informing them of the Heritage Month, Poster Display

Hawaii (Cheryl Morton): NRCS employee's poster contest; poster display

Idaho (Leah Juarros): APA Month Celebration featuring presentation on India by Shatakshi goyal

Indiana (Ashwar Chowdhery): Indiana had a speaker, Kanwal Prakash "KP" Singh, who talked about diversity and respect for one another.

Michigan (Amalia Gomez): Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration at the Capitol in Lansing, Michigan

Minnesota (Cutrina Moreland): Ly Vang, Executive Director of The Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota (AAHWM) is the guest speaker during Minnesota's APA Heritage Month Celebration.

Nevada (Rochelle Ocava): A taste of APA food was displayed during the employee training at the State Office: Filipino (desserts "puto" or "rice muffins" in English & fruit salad), pork dumplings, from Thailand (Dried Mangoes, Wasabi Rice Crackers), Japan (Roasted Green Peas), Singapore (Strawberry Biscuits), Philippines (Spicy Shrimp Crackers, Adobo Flavor Crackers Nuts & Garlic Flavor Corn Nuts "Cornik").

South Dakota (Mary Ellen Vailancourt): Poster Display

Wyoming (Kelly Counts): Poster Display, APA Heritage Month Newsletter

Asian American Heritage Reading List

Burton, Jeffrey F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, and Richard W. Lord. "Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites." Western Archeological and Conservation Center, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Publications in Anthropology 74, 1999.

Chan, Sucheng. *Twayne's Immigrant Heritage of America Series: Asian Americans, An Interpretative History*. New York: Twayne's Publishers, 1991.

DuBrow, Gail with Donna Graves. *Sento at Sixth and Main: Preserving Landmarks of Japanese American Heritage*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2002.

Espiritu, Yen Le. *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992.



Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Poster display at the state office in South Dakota

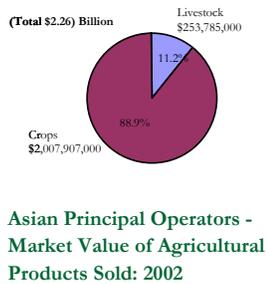
"Poster displays

Speakers

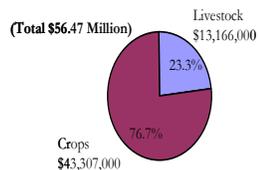
Pot lucks"



Kanwal Prakash "KP" Singh spoke during the APA celebration in Indiana.



7 percent of Animal Production comes from Beef cattle ranching and farming



Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Principal Operators - Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 2002

Source: USDA - NASS 2002 Census of Agriculture

South Dakota Graduate Program Announcement

South Dakota NRCS is hosting an opportunity for persons of Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry that are U.S. Citizens, who are either enrolled to attend graduate school or would like to go to graduate school and have NRCS pay for tuition and books (Sept '07 or Jan '08). The students would then work for NRCS for the same number of years as tuition was paid. We are looking for engineers, hydrologists, soil specialists, biologists, agronomists, or soil conservationists. This person could attend or already be attending graduate school, and be trained and work for NRCS in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Brookings or other South Dakota cities. We are searching for qualified candidates in state also, but wish to extend the opportunity to your out-of-state graduates as well. After the initial job appointment requirements are fulfilled, this position leads into a permanent position if the individual wishes to continue employment & pursue leadership opportunities with NRCS. If you know any students recently graduated that are US Citizens of Asian or Pacific Island ancestry that may be interested in this opportunity, please forward this announcement to them and have them submit a resume to sdhumanresources@sd.usda.gov. The announcement can also be found on the South Dakota NRCS Career Intern Page for Human Resources.

Mary Ellen Vaillancourt, AA/PI SEPM, SD

Asian Principal Operators - Farms by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): 2002

	Farms	Percent
Crop Production		
Oilseed and grain farming	209	2%
Vegetable and melon farming	1,203	14%
Fruit and tree nut farming	3,422	41%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	1,589	19%
Other crop farming	587	7%
Animal Production		
Beef cattle ranching and farming	560	7%
Cattle feedlots	36	1%
Dairy cattle and milk production	31	1%
Hog and pig farming	75	1%
Poultry and egg production	265	3%
Sheep and goat farming	87	1%
Animal aquaculture and other animal production	311	4%

NAICS classifies farms based on primary activity. Each farm is represented once, categorized by the product account for 50% or more of the total production value; farms with no single crop product or livestock product accounting for 50% or more are classified as either All other crop farming or All other animal production.

Source: USDA - NASS 2002 Census of Agriculture

Heart Mountain, Wyoming

During World War II, several internment camps were opened up throughout North America. By April 1942, Japanese Americans and immigrants were forced to evacuate mostly from the west coast due to previous prejudices and political reasons. One of these internment camps, Heart Mountain, was located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming. The first internees arrived on August 11, 1942 with only the possessions that could fit in their suitcases. They were the first of the 10,000 internees to pass through the gates at Heart Mountain. They described the area as “barren, desolate, flat open desert, bleak, scrubby, lonely, dusty, and a plain of sagebrush with not a tree in sight.” For the next three years, they lived in poorly constructed barracks heated with pot-belly stoves which housed six families apiece. This confinement caused the breakdown of the Japanese family unit. Fathers were normally respected because they were the strong central figure of the family. However, in the camp they no longer could provide for their families.

Activities in the internment camp were mostly dependent on the season. Children participated in judo, basketball, volleyball, weight lifting, ice skating and sledding dur-

ing the winter months. During the summer they swam in a makeshift pool, played softball and baseball. Boy and Girl Scouts played a major role in keeping the kids busy when they were not in school. Troup allowed the children to leave the compound to go camping and hiking outside of Heart Mountain. Adults were allowed to attend sewing, woodcarving, calligraphy, bonsai, and flower arranging classes as well as going to movies in the mess halls and participating in a few Japanese games.

During the last couple of months only the families with single mothers and the very old were left in the camp. It was harder for them to leave with no destination to go. With very little money it was hard for them to leave even though they were giving free transportation and a stipend of \$25.00 . In order to force people to leave, they slowly shut down the facilities and did not allow any visitors into the compound. On November 10, 1945 the camp officially closed. Several years later on July 2, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Japanese Claims Act distributing \$38,000,000 to all the Japanese families confined in the America’s internment camps. *Kelly Counts, AA/PI SEPM, WY*



Relocation center residents walk along F Street, with Heart Mountain rising in the background.

The first internees arrived on August 11, 1942 with only the possessions that could fit in their suitcases.

Asian Operators: Top 5 States (2002)

State	Operators	Percent of U.S. Total
1. California	5,379	41%
2. Hawaii	2,969	23%
3. Florida	689	5%
4. Texas	500	4%



Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Principal Operators Farms by North American Industry Classifi-



Amalia Gomez at the AAHWM conference.

Over 36 percent of Asian Principal Farm Operators have farms only one to 9 acres in size

Language	Approx. number of speakers
1. Chinese (Mandarin)	1,075,000,000
2. English	514,000,000
3. Hindustani ¹	496,000,000
4. Spanish	425,000,000
5. Russian	275,000,000
6. Arabic	256,000,000
7. Bengali	215,000,000
8. Portuguese	194,000,000
9. Malay-Indonesian	176,000,000
10. French	129,000,000

Most Widely Spoken Languages in the World

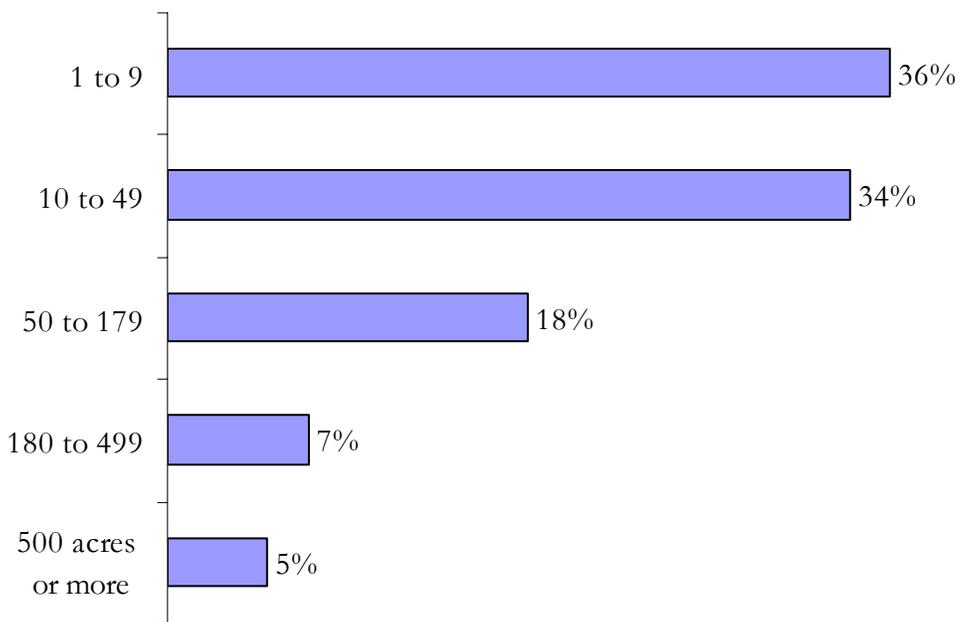
Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota

Association of the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota (AAHWM) was established on August 27, 1981 to help Hmong women and girls access the services and education they need to succeed through gains in social and economic freedom. Our mission is “to strengthen Hmong families through education and leadership development for women, girls and families.” Since its inception, AAHWM has provided services, programs,

and a safe and welcoming place for Hmong women and girls to gather and begin to take charge of their own futures, the futures of their families, and the future of the Hmong community. Today, many Hmong women still lack equality within the traditional patriarchal Hmong culture, and they are still deeply in need of an organization to advocate and speak for them; an organization where they can find the support, knowledge, and resources to address the

issues they confront and overcome the barriers that impact their ability to grow and thrive in our community. Each year our organization serves over 3,000 individuals, with 90% being low-income, through the following program areas: Women’s Center, Health Programs, Culture, Youth & Family Education and Empowerment, and Lub Neej Nstiah (New Life) Programs. *Amalia Gomez, AA/PI SEPM, MN*

Asian Principal Operators—Farms by Size (Acres): 2002



Source: USDA - NASS 2002 Census of Agriculture

API Country Locations



Cook Islands

Fiji

Korea

Pakistan

Timar

Tonga



Virginia Lewis, National
AA/PI Program Manager

**Asian American/Pacific
Islander Emphasis Program**

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AA/PI SEPMS group picture, Alaska, 2006.

Letter from the National AA/PI Program Manager

To all AA/PI SEPMS:

It's been a pleasure and a delight to be of assistance to all of you while serving as the NRCS National AA/PI Emphasis Program Manager. All of you have done an outstanding job for your respective states and I commend you for that. All the times we shared together will always be treasured and remembered. Thanks for the memories.

AAPI Employee Organizations

Asian Pacific Islander Organization" (APIO)

The Asian Pacific Islander Organization, is an employee non-profit organization, was founded by Virginia C. Lewis and Mon S. Yee in May 1998. The purpose of our organization is to provide a forum for employees to exchange ideas, network, mentor, train, and add value to the agency by being a linguistic, cultural and ethnic bridge to our communities and other employee organizations. <http://www.apio.org/>

Asian Pacific American Network in Agriculture

APANA stands for Asian Pacific American Network in Agriculture, a department-wide employee organization in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Organized in 1989, APANA serves as a conduit through which issues of common interests and concerns of the members are addressed. APANA membership is open to all USDA employees.

<http://apana-usda.org/>

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC)

FAPAC was founded in 1985. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the civilian and military Asian Pacific American (APA) employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments. FAPAC is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The primary purpose of FAPAC is to serve as an interagency association within the Federal and District of Columbia Governments, providing a focus for over thirty ethnically distinct groups originating from Asian and Pacific regions as recognized by the United States Bureau of the Census.

<http://www.fapac.org/>