

# HINDS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

322 NEW MARKET DRIVE  
JACKSON, MS 39209



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Dear Teacher:

It's time again for the Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual essay contest. This opportunity supplements your conservation objectives in the state curriculum. The essay contest is for the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Included with this letter is a set of rules. Each essay will be judged separately by a committee of educators and volunteers.

The theme for the contest this year, as chosen by the national and state conservation associations, is "**Soil to Spoon**". The theme emphasizes the importance of understanding where the food comes from that we eat each day. You see a wide variety of products in your local grocery store. What is the connection to the soil you walk on each day? (The importance of soil as it relates to our food supply) Essay ideas relating to the theme are included in the rules with websites.

**Any teacher from any subject area may submit essays** i.e. science, social studies, English. Please submit all entries; do not prejudge essays. We have judges who will select the school and county winners according to the criteria. Certificates will be given to the top three winners from each grade at each school. The first place essays from each grade in each school will then be judged in the overall county contest. The essays in the county contest will be judged in the following categories to correlate with the area and state contests: 7th & 8th, 9th & 10th, and 11th & 12th. Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded to the First, Second and Third place **overall county winners** in each category. **Prize money for county winners are as follows- 1<sup>st</sup> place- \$40.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- \$30.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place- \$20.00.**

In order for the contest to be successful, so that the students realize their stewardship responsibility, we must count on you, the educator, to promote the contest. As a reminder I'm available to help you meet your conservation objectives through classroom programs, resources, field trips, etc. If you have any questions about the contest or programs please feel free to call me. (601-965-5682 Ext. 3) or email me at: [lynn.porter@ms.nacdn.net](mailto:lynn.porter@ms.nacdn.net) The deadline for the contest is **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Essays may be turned in before the deadline.** Thank you for your assistance in helping to promote conservation.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Porter*

District Administrator



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