

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION
PASQUOTANK-CAMDEN-CURRITUCK FSA / DISTRICT 7
JANUARY, 2011**

SERVICE TO FSA/AGRICULTURE

**NOMINEE: MARIA E. TIRADO PT in Charge/Acting CED
P.O. BOX
ELIZABETH CITY, NC 27909
(252) 335-5710**

**Nominated by: Denise G. Gregory
P.O. Box 303
Camden, NC 27909**

Maria E. Tirado has worked with FSA in the Pasquotank-Camden-Currituck County Office for nineteen years. In 2010, she was temporarily promoted to PT in Charge/Acting CED, while the previous Acting CED completes the COT Program. She serves three counties with a total of approximately 1750 farms covering 160,000 acres of cropland. Around 1450 operators and owners receive service from this FSA Office.

Maria has always been in charge of Production Adjustment and the Farm Bill Programs, such as DCP, issuing close to two million dollars per year in this program alone. She is the Compliance/GIS PT and is constantly updating our aerial maps and working with the farmers. Over the years she has been in charge of all of the computers and automation responsibilities, such as Start of Day and End of Day, installing Releases, performing all Backup duties and all other required Automation PT duties. When any of our employees have a computer problem or a producer needs an aerial map they always know to go to Maria for assistance. As soon as she was temporarily promoted to PT in charge/ Acting CED Maria stepped up to the position and has fully exceeded in handling the position while still completing all of her other required duties. With a short staff office, she was able to issue the 2010 DCP payments, continue to work with Compliance and GIS updating aerial maps, perform the daily automation duties, second party all other payments, such as SURE and CAP, while helping to train the newly hired PT with other programs such as Common Programs, Reconstitutions and Transfers, Payment Eligibility and others.

Maria is from Puerto Rico, therefore speaking English and Spanish fluently. She has assisted other counties at times with translations. In 1996, she traveled to California to assist the California State Committee, the Monterey and Santa Cruz County Committees and the producers of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties in one of their biggest natural disasters.

She has received several awards over the years such as Individual Time Off Awards, Quality Step Increases, and Spot Cash Awards for her dedication and hard work while serving the producers of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck Counties.

Maria has been an active member of NoCASCOE for several years, attending National and State Conventions. She has assisted with the conventions, helping the officers with the Convention preparations and assisting during the Conventions.

I would like to nominate Maria E. Tirado for the Service to FSA/Agriculture Award. She has successfully helped the Pasquotank-Camden-Currituck FSA Office function and serve the producers for several years, but this year in particular she has gone far and beyond her required duties. With FSA changing every day she has handled all situations very professionally and I feel that she certainly deserves this award.