

## **WYOMING RANCHER RECEIVES NACD/NRCS**

### **OLIN SIMS CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD**

CASPER, WY, Feb. 4, 2009—The 2nd Annual NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award was presented to Wyoming rancher Ralph Brokaw on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, during the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in New Orleans. Brokaw was chosen for his outstanding leadership and service in conserving natural resources.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, Xavier Montoya, praised Brokaw for his contributions to conservation. “Wyoming NRCS is fortunate to have Ralph Brokaw’s leadership for our closest partners, the 34 conservation districts in the state,” said Montoya. “As President of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) he exemplifies the meaning of leadership in helping Wyoming farmers and ranchers help the land.”

Brokaw has served more than 18 years as a conservation leader at the local, state and national level. He has served with distinction as vice-chairman and chairman of the Medicine Bow Conservation District in Wyoming; as President of WACD and as a member of NACD’s Natural Resource Policy Committee.

The Brokaw family ranch, the Three Circle (000) Livestock LLC, located near Arlington, Wyoming, is a testament to his passion for healthy lands. His commitment to natural resource conservation management makes him a leader and example in his community and throughout Wyoming.

Bobbie Frank, Executive Director of WACD, said, “I am sure I speak for all of our Conservation Districts in congratulating Ralph on receiving the Olin Sims Leadership Award. It is a very deserving award for the work Ralph has done for natural resource conservation efforts in Wyoming, the region and at the national level. This award will hold significant meaning to Ralph I am sure, given that it is in memory and honor of his best friend and long time mentor, Olin Sims.”

Established in tribute to the late NACD President, Olin Sims, the award recognizes outstanding conservation leadership at the state and local level. The award is presented annually to an individual, based upon superior service to the conservation community in promoting conservation on private lands. Sims, a rancher from McFadden, Wyoming, lived a life distinguished by years of volunteer service to conservation.

“Olin was a true conservationist who was equally committed to practicing conservation and advocating for it,” said NACD President, John Redding. “This award epitomizes the conservation leadership and integrity that was his life and highlights the leadership of other conservationists who assume the mantle of conservation leadership into the future.”

Brokaw received the award during the Appreciation Banquet at NACD’s Annual Conference in New Orleans, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Since its inception in the 1930s, NRCS' conservation delivery system continues a unique partnership, delivering conservation that respects local needs, while accommodating state and national interests. For more information on NRCS, the conservation partnership and conservation programs available in your community, stop by your local USDA service center, or visit NRCS online at [www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov).

NACD is the non-profit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For almost 70 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices. NACD's website is at [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org).

WACD represents the 34 local conservation districts in Wyoming; each has a five-member publicly elected board. Conservation districts, by state statute, are charged with conservation of resources including water quality, quantity, wildlife habitat and rangeland. Districts assist landowners and local residents with their conservation needs. Visit WACD's website at [www.conservewy.com](http://www.conservewy.com).