

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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## TWO NEW AGRONOMISTS JOIN NRCS WEST NTC STAFF

Bruce Newton, director of the NRCS West National Technology Support Center in Portland has announced that Richard Fasching and Giulio Ferruzzi will be joining the staff as agronomists. Since the retirement of Agronomist Tom Gohlke, Newton has worked to increase the support staff to better meet the growing agronomic work in the West.

Rick Fasching was born and raised in dairy country west of Minneapolis. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 1981 with a BS in Agronomy and later received an MS in Agronomy from Montana State University. He has worked for SCS/NRCS in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Oregon. Since 1992 Rick has served as the State Agronomist in Montana where he raised two children, one a Fulbright Scholar now attending Montana State University, the other a senior in high school.

Giulio Ferruzzi grew up in North Carolina. He received a BS in Agronomy from North Carolina State University in 1991 and a PhD in Soil Chemistry from the University of California - Davis in 2001. He has extensive experience in the private sector and academia in agronomy, pest management, environmental consulting, and soil analysis. He joined NRCS in 2001 and worked in California before becoming State Agronomist in Kentucky in 2005. Giulio has served on several national efforts to develop nutrient and pest management policy and technical guidance and is one of the agency's leading experts on RUSLE2.

To learn more about the West National Technology Support Center visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/ntsc/west/index.html>.

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**Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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