



Natural Resources Conservation Service



Juan Hernandez

State Conservationist

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Florida**

State Conservationist Juan Hernandez leads NRCS programs that help farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners plan and carry out voluntary conservation activities on their operations throughout the state of Florida. He has provided state leadership for operations and program management since June 2020 for 33 field offices, four area offices, a plant materials center, and the state office in Gainesville. Prior to his current position, Hernandez led NRCS in Maine as State Conservationist for 11 years.

Born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, Hernandez grew up on a small coffee plantation in the mountains of the island, where he learned the “ins and outs” of working on a farm and developed a strong work ethic. Hernandez possesses the principles of humbleness and integrity that only a farmer can teach.

With his parents’ support, he went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences from the University of Puerto Rico. After graduation, he began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Pennsylvania as a student trainee. He then progressed to become a soil conservationist for the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Field Office. Hernandez went on to become a District Conservationist in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, after just five years with the agency, and subsequently served in several positions of increasing responsibility in Washington, D.C., Arkansas, Utah, and Nebraska.

Juan and his wife Carmen live in Alachua, Florida, and have three children, Alejandra, Miguel, and Daniella. They enjoy hiking, discovering Florida’s extensive network of state parks; and their two funny pugs, Sol and Luna.