



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Kristy Oates is the NRCS Texas state conservationist headquartered in Temple, Texas.

As a member of the United States Senior Executive Service (SES), Kristy serves as the State Conservationist in Texas for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During her 29 years of service, Kristy held multiple technical, supervisory, and leadership positions in Texas as well as detail assignments in multiple states. Her work included executive level positions of Acting Division Director of Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division in Washington DC, as well as Acting State Conservationist in Iowa and Minnesota.

Kristy leads a diverse workforce of approximately 700 employees in 228 field offices across Texas to deliver voluntary, private lands conservation assistance throughout the estimated 142 million acres of farms, ranches, and family forests.

Throughout her career, she fostered new opportunities to increase streamlining and efficiencies in landscape initiatives. Her leadership created a combined leveraging of federal, state, local, and private resources to maximize the impact of implementing conservation across the country.

Kristy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Sam Houston State University, and she is a graduate of the USDA Emerging Leaders Development Program from The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. She received her Senior Executive Service (SES) certification in 2020.



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