



Pacific Basin Current Developments



What's New

Inspired by a quote from Hugh Hammond Bennett, "the Father of Soil Conservation", Jenifer Coleson, Soil Conservationist, Guam Field Office, designed a brochure to assist local farmers. The brochure, "Soil Erosion, What it Means for Tropical Farmers", specifically aims to help Pacific Basin farmers and landowners distinguish between sheet, rill, and gully erosion as well as to provide guidance on how to reduce or prevent the damaging effects of soil erosion.

Brochure covers have been translated in Chamorro, Palauan, Pohnpeian and Samoan.

This is a one page tri-fold brochure that should be printed back to back on your color printer.

Please visit the Pacific Basin website to download these brochures:



Jenifer Coleson, Author

http://www.pb.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Soil_erosion.html

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Message from the Director...



Joan B. Perry, Director

Thank you for the excellent work that each of you contributes to the conservation of island resources. I am reminded daily of the initiative, dedication and competence of our conservation team. Employees, partners, cooperators and friends: You are our advocates and our critics. We value both roles. In particular, we are grateful for your active participation and your creative impact. Teams with a common purpose can identify specific targets and take action. We will continue to improve and adapt our practices and science to be appropriate and effective.

Every time a new system is designed to assuage a difficult problem

- ☞ As when Pohnpei staff designed the water box;
- ☞ Or when CNMI staff modified a system to fit a farmer's needs by developing a wand for the distribution of effluent for the benefit of fruit trees;
- ☞ Or helped a landowner resolve problems of an unstable foundation in Guam;
- ☞ Or helped a farmer in Samoa stabilize his steep land farm with Hillside Ditches;
- ☞ Or replanted a damaged mangrove swamp in Palau,

Things get better...

Thank you for this very important work.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



From the Field...

Kagman Project will Benefit Everyone

J. Scott Crockett, District Conservationist
CNMI Field Office

Although some traffic inconveniences will continue in the near future, the completion of the Kagman Watershed Project will benefit Kagman residents and farmers, as well as the rest of the island.

Planning process for the project began in 1985, when the CNMI government approached Joan Perry, NRCS Pacific Basin Area Director, with a request to solve flooding problems and provide irrigation water. Since the completion of the Watershed Workplan and Environmental Impact Statement in 1993, NRCS has overseen the installation of a variety of conservation practices. To date, nearly \$4.4 million in federal funds have been spent on project design and construction activities, compared to just over \$817,000 in local funds. The project, once fully completed, will have estimated annual benefits of \$180,000 of flood prevention and \$500,000 of irrigation water supply. Other benefits will include an enhanced farm economy, wildlife habitat protection, reduced pressure on the aquifer, a healthier coral reef and a cleaner marine environment.

The Kagman Project consists of four waterways, two sediment basins, a 70 million gallon reservoir, a 100,000 gallon storage tank, and an irrigation water delivery system. Two of the waterways will channel surface runoff water into a massive water control structure. The control structure, which is nearing completion, is located southwest of the main Kagman intersection. Water will exit the control structure and flow into either of the other two waterways, each of which ends in a sediment basin designed to remove eroded soil and debris. One of the sediment basins is already operational, removing sediment from storm water that flows to the Tank Beach conservation area. The second sediment basin is planned for the next phase of

construction. It will be situated upstream of the reservoir, which will be located at the site of an unused quarry. Water captured in the reservoir will be used for irrigation on the Kagman farm plots.



Looking into the water control structure
Photo by USDA-NRCS

“Upon completion of this phase, we will have poured over 1,577 cubic yards of concrete. That’s almost 200 truck loads. We’ve also placed more than 215 tons of reinforcing steel.”

**Tim Brasuell, NRCS Civil Engineer
CNMI Field Office**



Looking up Waterway B
Photo by USDA-NRCS

According to Tim Brasuell, NRCS Civil Engineer, who oversees project implementation, Kagman has the highest concentration of flood control structures in the CNMI and is unlike any other venture being attempted on Saipan. Brasuell also states that federal construction requirements are stringent, requiring strict attention to detail. “We have federal construction inspectors on-site at all times to ensure safety and quality,”

he says. Because the project is under a federal contract, it must comply with the Buy American Act, which requires that materials be purchased in the United States.

The project is about four months behind schedule due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances. The original contractor went bankrupt, stranding men and equipment on three islands. NRCS worked with the bonding company to hire another contractor to finish construction. “Of several projects left unfinished by the defaulted contractor, the Kagman Project continues progress toward completion,” states Brasuell. Other setbacks were caused by typhoons and a dock worker strike, which resulted in delays of material delivery.

Final installation plans include beautification activities to ensure that the finished product is not cold and industrial looking. Room has been left within the intersection right-of-ways to allow space for attractive trees and bike and running paths. NRCS will work with the Kagman residents to make sure they have a say in how the intersection will look.

The Education Island learning center, planned and installed with NRCS assistance, is currently avail-



Education Island, Kagman
Photo by USDA-NRCS

able for use by schools as an outdoor classroom for environmental education.



From the Field...

Kagman Project will Benefit Everyone Continued from page 2

Operation and maintenance activities of the Kagman Watershed Project, including management of the irrigation system, is the responsibility of the Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District. The District is a partner with the NRCS, providing local leadership and direction. District representatives have been closely involved with the project from the very beginning, securing land rights, obtaining permits, and making sure the needs of the local people were considered.

“None of the benefits would be realized without the SWCD -- They had the vision and will to make it all happen.”

**J. Scott Crockett, District Conservationist
CNMI Field Office**

got conservation?

Do you have any photos, conservation tips, success stories, announcements, or any other items of interest?



Current Developments is a great medium for sharing information with our partners and one another!



Photos by USDA-NRCS

Northern Guam Farmers meet with Congresswoman Bordallo

Jenifer Coleson, Soil Conservationist
Guam Field Office

On May 27th, 2004, the Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a meeting with Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam delegate to U.S. Congress, at Ernie Wusstig's Dededo Farm. The purpose of the gathering was to provide a forum to voice farmer concerns to Congresswoman Bordallo and to provide her an opportunity to address these concerns.

L-R: Ernie Wusstig, Rory Respicio, Madeleine Bordallo, Paul Bassler and Peter Bautista



Photo by USDA-NRCS

In attendance from the Government of Guam Department of Agriculture were Paul Bassler, Director and Joseph Torres, Deputy Director. NRCS was represented by Charlie Frear, Pacific Basin Assistant Director, Flora Paulino, Pacific Basin Administrative Officer, Peter Bautista, District Conservationist, Guam Field Office, and Jenifer Coleson, Soil Conservationist, Guam Field Office. A modest number of farmers were present including long time Northern farmers Juan Pangelinan, Bernard Watson and Felix Quan. Senator Rory Respicio, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, also attended to show support for the farmers and to answer questions.

The first topic of discussion was the Northern Guam Irrigation District proposal, which was submitted to the Congresswoman by the Northern SWCD. The proposal is to conduct a feasibility study to provide irrigation water to farms located within Tract I of Northern Guam. According to the Congresswoman, it has been introduced as a \$100,000 appropriation for the next fiscal year. Congresswoman Bordallo pledged her full commitment to the problem of adequate water supply for irrigation and stated that it is her "number one priority". Other matters discussed were the high cost of fertilizer and the need for locally produced compost, the lack of follow-up by GWA in fixing water leaks, and the legislative developments to promote recycling.

Bringing the farmers together with Guam's elected representative to Congress is hopefully one of many steps toward increased support for Guam's farmers.



From the Field...

Conservation Practice through EQIP

Colleen Simpson, Soil Conservationist
SRC Staff

NRCS field staff in the Pacific Basin Area works hard to provide conservation technical assistance to their cooperators. The American Samoa, CNMI and Guam field offices have been especially busy for the past few months extending the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Seven EQIP applications were selected this February for conservation plan development. Over \$400,000 of financial assistance monies was committed. This is about 59% of the total allowance. Approximately \$288,000 remains available for the second round of sign-up.

What is EQIP?

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps cooperators with technical and financial resources to install and manage conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

What is a Conservation Practice?

A conservation practice is any technique or measure used to protect soil and water resources for which standards and specifications for installation, operation or maintenance have been developed.



Since the 1930s, NRCS has developed and employed hundreds of conservation practices. NRCS conservation practices run the gamut from access road to windbreak. Conservation practices for the Pacific Basin Area are found in the Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.

What are the Resource Priorities in the Pacific Basin?

Reducing soil erosion, protecting water quality and decreasing non-point source pollution are resource priorities in the Pacific Basin.

Photos by USDA-NRCS

Examples of Conservation Practices in the Pacific Basin

Tree planting

helps to stabilize areas and reduce soil erosion. Roots hold the soil in place and organic matter is added to the soil when leaves fall



to the ground. Organic matter helps to hold moisture and slows water runoff. Seedlings and trees provide shade reducing soil temperature. These changes create a microenvironment or a small area that allows bare and eroding land to heal.

Cover crops,

green manure and planting of legumes or nitrogen fixing plants such as this sunn hemp are extremely beneficial. The roots of these plants help



recycle nutrients deeper in the soil. Organic matter added to the soil helps retain soil moisture, holds nutrients acting as a slow release fertilizer, and increases microbial activity in the soil. Planting green manure cover crops help break pest, disease and weed cycles. 'Tropic Sunn' sunn hemp is resistant to root knot nematode. Studies conducted in the Pacific Basin showed reduction in nematode population after planting of sunn hemp. All these benefits directly address the Pacific Basin Area environmental priorities.

No-till planting

minimizes disturbance of the soil during planting and harvesting.

The ground cover provided, drastically



reduces soil erosion by protecting the soil from runoff and impact of raindrops. Soil moisture increases, pH improves, nutrient retention increases, microbial activity of the soil improves, and potential for runoff of sediment and nutrients is decreased.



From the Field...

Conservation Practice through EQIP Continued from page 4

Drip irrigation

increases efficiency of water applied to plants by delivering the water directly to the plant. Evaporation of water is reduced by dripping the water near the plant roots versus spraying the water across the field. Irrigation systems designed by NRCS provide 90% uniformity. This means the plant furthest from the water source gets it fair share. Fertilizer applied through the irrigation system is more available for plant uptake.



Nutrient management is managing the amount, timing and placement of fertilizer on a field for a specific crop. The first step in good nutrient management is to have a recent soil analysis.



The local NRCS field office on your island has information available on how to collect a soil sample and where to send the soil sample for analysis. The soil analysis can tell you how much nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and organic matter is in the soil. It will also give you the pH of the soil. pH affects the availability of nutrients for plant uptake.

Mulching around crops conserves water, retains moisture, reduces soil temperature, helps hold nutrients longer, reduces soil erosion caused by watering or intense rainfall and increases microbial activity in the soil.



Pasture planting of high value grasses and legumes provides better cover for the soil, utilizes manure dropped by the animals, improves soil quality and provides better forage for the animals. When coupled with prescribed grazing or a managed grazing schedule, feed for the animals and cover for the soil is provided year round.

Sun Safety

Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist

Many NRCS employees spend a great deal of time outdoors. Living in a tropical environment, sun safety should be an important part of your field preparation checklist.

Ultraviolet (UV) rays can be harmful whether it is sunny or cloudy outside.

Please use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or above.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 50% of all newly diagnosed cancers are skin cancers. Skin cancer is the most preventable type of cancer, and if caught early it's usually curable - but if untreated, it can spread to other parts of the body and in worst cases, be fatal.

Sun Safety Tips...

- **When possible, stay in shady areas.**
- **Wear a hat, preferably wide-brimmed.**
- **Wear sunglasses with 99-100% UV absorption.**
- **Use lip balm & sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or above. Reapply every 2 hours, or as needed.**

In addition, stay hydrated. Drink small amounts of water frequently, even if you are not thirsty. Water helps to regulate your body temperature. When it's hot, you sweat and lose water as a way to cool down and regulate your body temperature. If you get dehydrated, there is not enough fluid to produce sweat and your body can't cool itself down. In the extreme this can lead to serious problems, such as heat stroke or heat exhaustion. Recommended daily intake of water is 6-8 glasses, you may need to drink more, depending on the temperature and how long you will be outdoors.

For more information, please consult your physician or visit the American Cancer Society website at:

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/PED_7.asp?sitearea=PED

Photos by USDA-NRCS



From the Field...



Rat Fences

Ken Kramer, Soil Conservationist
CNMI Field Office



A fence for rats: What will NRCS think up next? Scott Crockett, District Conservationist for the CNMI Field Office, was talking to Lino Mendiola on Rota one day, when he had his “Eureka” idea for a rat electric fence. Mr. Mendiola, who grows pineapples, was complaining to Scott about his enormous loss of pineapple to the local rats (4 legged rodent variety). He was losing half of his entire pineapple production to these “CNMI rabbits.” Scott, who said, “I designed it on the spot,” is very familiar with electric fences for cattle. He knew that rats can climb and circumvent normal fences with ease; therefore, a way had to be found to deter and block the rats from gaining access to the pineapples. He realized an electric fence was the answer. With the assistance of the Northern Marianas College/CREES, which secured a Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) grant for the project, NRCS and CREES installed an electric rat fence around Lino Mendiola’s pineapples.

They built the rat fence, then placed rat bait to poison any rats still located inside the fenced in field. Once the rats were eliminated inside the fence, the crop was safe from further destruction. The fence uses a typical cattle fence charger and battery system; it differs from a typical electric fence system in that it has a series of 1 ½ inch wide poly-tapes used for horses that delivers a pulsed charge of 7000 volts of electricity. According to Scott, it also keeps the toads under control. Lino Mendiola now reports that the pineapples are able to ripen on the marketable product.



This electric fence have widespread farmers. It can be any crop susceptible watermelons, squash, and others. for as little as \$600 can provide as long as they are inside of the fence. rat control in the from neighboring move in to replace eliminated. Now, fence, it does not rats are in the will not cross 7000. Finally, Scott

system for rats can benefits to CNMI used with almost to attack by rats: cucumbers, corn, Scott estimates that an acre, a fence protection from rats, eliminated from the The problem with past is that rats areas would simply the rats that were with the electric rat matter how many vicinity, since they volts of electricity. asserts that this

electrical fence system is relatively safe for pets and children and the environment will benefit in the long run from less dependency on rodenticides. Everyone should be happy about the reduction in rodenticides, as these dangerous chemicals indiscriminately kill any other hungry animals that happen by, including pet dogs and cats. Thanks to Scott’s inspiration and CREES’s assistance, the rats on Rota will not have their hands in the cookie jar anymore.

For additional information please contact the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at (670) 234-6170 or the USDA-NRCS CNMI Field Office at (670) 236-0888, Fax: (670) 236- 0889.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s [TARGET Center](#) at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Personnel Actions & Awards...

Personnel Information provided by Jacqueline Yeager
Personnel Specialist, Hawaii State Office

Name	Action	Position	Location	Date
Wallace Jennings	Promotion	GS-12, District Conservationist	Am. Samoa Field Office	3/21/2004
Anwar Karim	Transfer	District Conservationist	Rochester, New York	5/29/2004
Pamela Sablan	Promotion	GS-7, Soil Conservationist	CNMI Field Office	6/13/2004



Awards

USDA 58th Annual Secretary Honor Awards

Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary, Ann M. Veneman, recognized a number of employees for excellence, dedication and heroism during the *USDA 58th Annual Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony*, which took place on June 25, 2004 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards given by USDA.



Jed Johnson, Outreach Coordinator,
Pohnpei Field Office, FSM.

The USDA-NRCS Pohnpei Field Office, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), was one of the recipients of the USDA Plow Award Group Honor.

Congratulations to group leaders Philip Giles, District Conservationist and Jed Johnson, Outreach Coordinator!

Phil and Jed were recognized for their hard work and dedication in developing a program to convert seawater to fresh water using solar distillation, which provided severe drought relief to residents and agricultural operations on remote islands in the FSM.



Philip Giles, District Conservationist,
Pohnpei Field Office, FSM.

View ceremony program online at: <https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/help/myNRCS/HonAwd2004.pdf>

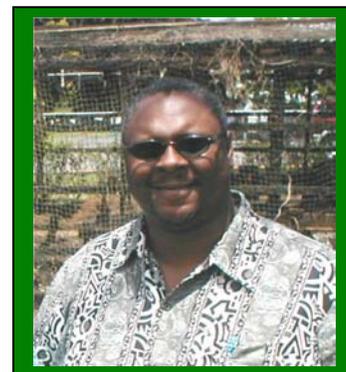
The Pacific Basin area bids farewell to Anwar Karim, who worked in the American Samoa Field Office for over 5½ years.

**Farewell & Best Wishes
to Anwar Karim!**

Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist

Prior to serving as the RC&D Coordinator, Anwar was the District Conservationist for the American Samoa Field Office.

Anwar has relocated to Rochester, New York, as a District Conservationist, and can currently be contacted at USDA-NRCS, Monroe County, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester NY 14620-3036, Phone (585) 473-3440, Fax (585) 473-2124, E-Mail: anwar.karim@ny.usda.gov



Good luck & best wishes!



Pacific Basin Earth Team Volunteers...

Earth Team Volunteer Spotlight

Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist

Amanda Gibbons, better known as Amy, started out as an Earth Team Volunteer in Mid-May, 2004. Amy had applied for a Forestry position within the Department of Agriculture, Government of Guam (GovGuam), when she was contacted by John "Bart" Lawrence, State Resource Conservationist. A fellow (former) Washington resident and Washington State University graduate, Bart advised Amy of the USDA-NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program. "He is the one who sold the Earth Team Volunteer program to me – he convinced me it would be good to get some local experience while I waited to hear about the GovGuam position", explains Amy.

Unfortunately, the GovGuam job didn't work out, but fortunately for us Amy is enjoying her experience with NRCS and is dedicated to volunteering as much as she can. Amy has been working at the Barrigada Service Center, assisting on resource projects for Colleen Simpson, Conservation Technology Specialist, and Dr. Robert Gavenda, State Soils Scientist.

Amy grew up in northwest Washington and graduated from Washington State University in 1997, with a degree in Natural Resource Management. Along with her husband, who works for USDA Wildlife Services on Andersen Air Force Base, she relocated to Guam this past January. Hobbies include hiking, snorkeling and scuba diving. During the school year Amy is a substitute teacher for DODEA schools.

Thank you Amy for your time and dedication!



Meet Earth Team Volunteer
Lisa Castro in our next issue!

Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. There is no maximum age limit. Volunteers need not be citizens of the United States; however, they should be citizens of allied countries.

You may apply at your local NRCS office, or you may contact Antonette Tornito,
Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator at (671) 472-7156.



for additional information please visit us online: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/>



Meetings & Announcements...



2004 Marianas RC&D Council and Island Committee Meeting Schedule

Executive Board:	9:00 am	2 nd Wednesday of the Quarter
Rota:	10:00 am	2 nd Tuesday of the month
Tinian:	3:00 pm	3 rd week of the month
Guam:	5:30 pm	1 st Thursday of the month
Saipan:	10:30 am	3 rd Friday of the month

Pacific Basin Area Civil Rights Advisory Committee (CRAC) Membership Vacancies



There will be two vacant CRAC Special Emphasis Program Manager positions effective October 1, 2004.

The Pacific Basin Area CRAC has the primary responsibility to advise and assist the Deputy Equal Opportunity Officer (DEOO) for the Pacific Basin in carrying out the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program. The Director of the Pacific Basin Area serves as the DEOO. The CRAC serves as a vital communications link between employees and management.

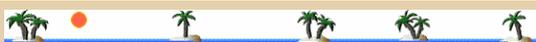
CRAC membership is for three years. Membership is staggered to provide continuity with CRAC efforts in the Pacific Basin. The specific duties of this collateral assignment are located in the General Manual, Title 230, Part 404.

Interested nominees should submit their name, position title, and a statement (approximately 250 – 500 words) detailing their interest in serving as a CRAC member. Statements should include supervisor's concurrence in support of the nomination. CRAC membership represents a 10% collateral duty.

The CRAC committee requests that all submissions be sent to Jessica Pangelinan, CRAC Chairperson no later than **August 16, 2004**. Submissions may be sent via mail, fax or email.

400 Route 8, Suite 301
Mongmong, GU 96910

Fax: (671) 472-7288
E-Mail: jessica.pangelinan@pb.usda.gov



Please submit questions, stories, tips, photos and other contributions to:

Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist
USDA-NRCS
400 Route 8, Suite 301, Mongmong, GU 96910
Fax: (671) 472-7288
Email: barbara.aflague@pb.usda.gov

All submissions become property of NRCS and may be edited for content, clarity and length.

Pacific Basin Current Developments is published three times a year.

Next submission deadline is September 30, 2004.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The NRCS offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through a private vendor, Sand Creek Group, LTD. An employee can receive free confidential counseling to help deal with life's difficult moments. Family members are also encouraged to use EAP. If you choose to do so, you can use administrative leave for the first visit. After the free visit you must use sick or annual leave. The EAP is confidential and visits to the EAP are between you and the counselor. NRCS does not receive information on employees using EAP services.

For additional information please visit these online links:

<http://www.pb.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/EAP.html>
<http://www.sandcreekeap.com/aboutus.php>



Information for Employees...



Identity theft occurs when a criminal uses another person's personal information to take on that person's identity. Identity theft is a growing concern, so we have compiled some tips to help reduce your risk.

Keep personal information in a safe place. Don't carry your birth certificate, social security card or passport, unless you need to use it. Make copies and store them, along with the originals, in a secure area (e.g. locked cabinet in your home or your bank safe deposit box). If you lose any of these documents contact the appropriate government office immediately. Don't release personal information over the telephone, internet or mail, unless you can confirm you are dealing with a legitimate organization. Tear or shred credit card receipts, pre-approved credit offers, credit applications, insurance forms, bank statements and expired ATM and credit cards.

Carry only the credit cards you need. Make copies of both sides of each ATM and credit card (toll-free numbers are often listed on the back) you own. Store copies of credit cards, along with credit cards seldom used, in a secure area place (e.g. locked cabinet in your home or your bank safe deposit box).

Keep note of your monthly billing cycles. If you have not received your monthly bill, or it is late, contact the creditor immediately. Many times ID thieves change the billing address for the credit card accounts they have "taken over".

Passwords and PIN Numbers. Never write your PIN number on the back of your ATM cards or credit cards. Try not to use the same PIN number for all your ATM cards or credit cards. Avoid using personal information, such as your mother's maiden name, family member's birth dates or last 4 numbers of your social security number.

Check your credit report annually. Many people don't realize they are victims of identity theft until it's too late. Review credit reports regularly to make sure they are complete and accurate. Correct any omissions or inaccuracies with the credit reporting agency as soon as possible. There are 3 major credit reporting agencies:

Equifax - www.equifax.com
To order your report, call: 800-685-1111 or write:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

To report fraud, call: 800-525-6285 and write:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian - www.experian.com
To order your report, call: 888-EXPERIAN (397-3742) or write:
P.O. Box 2002, Allen TX 75013

To report fraud, call: 888-EXPERIAN (397-3742) and write:
P.O. Box 9530, Allen TX 75013

Trans Union - www.transunion.com
To order your report, call: 800-888-4213 or write:
P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022

To report fraud, call: 800-680-7289 and write:
Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634



Barbara Aflague, Public Affairs Specialist
Charles Frear, Assistant Director



The U.S. Federal Trade Commission Suggests:

"Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies every year. Make sure it is accurate and includes only those activities you've authorized."

FTC Brochure - ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name

What to Look for in your Credit Report

1. Review all account numbers and balances.
2. Look for anything suspicious in the section that lists "who has received a copy of your credit history". Some identity thieves "pretext" by posing as a landlord or employer.
3. Make sure no inquiries have been made about loans or leases you didn't apply for.
4. Check for addresses where you have never lived.
5. Check for typos in your social security number.
6. If there is any incorrect information in the records, contact the credit bureau, creditor, employer, or government agency immediately. Follow up with a letter describing what actions were taken. Your protections are usually stronger if you report the problem quickly and in writing.

Please visit the following websites for more information on Identity Theft and what steps to take should you become a victim:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm>
<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>