United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# ONE-TIME Group

## Earth Team Volunteers . . .

### Clare Vanderwerken & Jessica Hoffman

*Clare Vanderwerken & Jessica Hoffman*

## Area 1

*A one-time group works together on a project once. Hours are recorded as a group.*

National Volunteer Week April 6-13, 2014

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS *Making A Better Tomorrow Today*

**Earth Team Volunteer Categories**

- Individual
- Recurring Group
- Friends of Conservation
- One-time Group
- Hosted

# Celebrate Volunteers

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Fourth in a series featuring. . .

## Earth Team Volunteers in Missouri

*Contributing author, Morgan Rodery, Earth Team volunteer*

There are numerous ways Earth Team volunteers can introduce others to the wonders of nature and natural resources. Jessica Hoffman and Clare Vanderwerken, senior Future Farmers of America (FFA) students in Savannah, discovered just how rewarding volunteering for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can be.

Hoffman and Vanderwerken assisted in a one-day event designed to educate fourth graders about natural resources in Missouri. The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) funds and organizes the event, while partners from NRCS and the Missouri Department of Conservation speak at each of the five stations. Vanderwerken, Hoffman, and three additional volunteers, Jacob Cobb, Heidi Hegeman, and Blaire Todd guided fourth graders to each of the stations where they played educational games and learned about natural resources. Station topics included soils, wildlife aquatics, and forestry.

"Teachers and fourth graders look to our FFA students as significant leaders," Andrew County SWCD District Program Specialist II Paula Richter said. "Our FFA student volunteers do a great job guiding our youth through the stations. Andrew County high schools are our primary source of volunteers."

Along with contributing to the community, volunteer work also offers great experiences. Hoffman is interested in a teaching career. "By working with the kids at Ford's Farm, I am able to experience what it might be like to teach young children," Hoffman said. Vanderwerken adds, "The kids really enjoyed this event and it was actually very informational for the volunteers too!"

In addition to having their hours documented through the Earth Team program, both volunteers also received extra credit in their agricultural class and hours that count toward their A+ tutoring.