

## Gerry Berning — Illinois' Featured NRCS Employee

**Employee Job Title:** District Conservationist

**Location:** Jacksonville, Illinois

**Date:** May, 2008



**Gerald Berning**  
Resource Soil Scientist

***“Working daily with producers and completing projects on which, as a soil scientist I had limited input, is rewarding.”***

### Meet Gerry Berning

As a Resource Soil Scientist in Southern Illinois, the variety of activities in which Gerry is involved provides a new challenge nearly every day. Assisting staff in field offices, RC&D offices and MLRA offices in southern Illinois, affords Gerry the opportunity to work with skillful individuals implementing a wide array of programs. Gerry works in the Edwardsville, Illinois NRCS Field Office. Gerry has 33 years of service with the agency, putting a lot of purpose and a lot of passion into this veteran employee.

For Gerry, supplying the technical expertise to planners and producers is rewarding. The requests for technical soil information in the Metro St

Louis area are frequent and occasionally quite a challenge to address. Training the individuals involved with the program is even more rewarding. According to Gerry the more skillful the staff becomes in using and interpreting existing resource data and collecting site specific data in the field, the more efficiently the agency and staff can operate.

*“For this reason I seldom go to the field alone. I can impart some knowledge and learn more about the programs and practices with which I am involved if I go out with another staff member, trainee, or partner. On a recent detail as acting DC—nearly a year now—I had the opportunity to incorporate some of my own advice into WHIP, EQIP, CRP and WRP plans. Working daily with producers and completing projects on which, as a soil scientist I had limited input, is rewarding,”* Gerry explains.

While Gerry has a passion for soils, he’s also got a passion to learn more and absorb the larger spectrum of issues and resources NRCS strives to protect.