

Kansas Apprentice Program

SALINA, KS, December 15, 2010—The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas has a program that offers a unique chance for high school and college students to experience what it is like to work in natural resources conservation. Through the Kansas Apprentice Program (KAP), students can work as an apprentice in their local NRCS county field office, an area office, or the state office.

Students serving in the KAP will learn firsthand what employees of NRCS do for agriculture and the environment. All students will be considered for the KAP whether they have an urban or agriculture background.

The KAP will offer students an opportunity to begin a career in conserving our natural resources. An apprentice position allows a student to participate in a variety of hands-on learning experiences, including engineering surveying, staking conservation practices such as terraces and ponds, water quality activities such as water quality monitoring, environmental education, natural resource camps, as well as administrative tasks in financial management and contracting.

Apprentices will gain experience and knowledge that will help them make career choices. Whether or not they go to a college or a technical school, their work experience will be good for job applications or resumes. Also, many scholastic scholarships require applicants to have completed some form of community service and an apprenticeship could fulfill those requirements.

Applicants must be at least 14 years of age. Hours are flexible to fit the student's schedule.

Prospective apprentices are invited to stop by an NRCS office and talk to the staff about the program. Additional information about the KAP and other natural resources activities can be found on the Kansas NRCS Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov or by contacting the KAP State Coordinator, Jan Klaus at 785-625-2588.

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