

# VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

May 2013, Wisconsin

## High School Volunteer Helps Conservation Any way She Can

*Katyra Von Ruden and her dog Milo*

I am a senior attending Bangor High School in Bangor, Wisconsin. I live on a 15 acre hobby farm near Cataract, Wisconsin, located on my family farm of 344 acres, with my German Shepherd/Golden Retriever mix, Milo, my two horses, Cherry and Buddy, and my many barn cats. My family and I manage and run a pheasant preserve as well, which consists of hatching and raising pheasants.

During my time with NRCS I have been able to do a number of activities with the soils staff and the field office. Because of my school schedule I have not yet been able to get out in the field, but have learned about soils, the soil survey, highly erodible land and a number of computer programs. I was able to assist Shaunna Repking with numbering soil survey transects with site ID numbers so they could go through the archive process. I also learned how to enter soil survey data into Pedon PC which will later be uploaded to NASIS for use in Soil Data Join Recorrelation (aka SDJR or Harmonization) projects. I have also volunteered to help with the Envirothon in April, I will help with site set up and will be a group leader. I am looking forward to working with Shaunna in April to collect temperature data at goat prairie sites. I was also able to work with Web Soil Survey and do some preliminary HEL determinations for the DC. Part of my experience has just been learning how to read maps! In addition I was able to assist Amanda Crowe with some work on the Wisconsin Chapter of the SWCS.



Earth Team



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit [www.usda.nrcs.gov](http://www.usda.nrcs.gov).

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.