**Dakota Farm Talk – NRCS Honors Earth Team Volunteers**

**Pam Geppert**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is honoring South Dakota's Earth team volunteers and celebrating their contributions to Natural Resource protection during National Volunteer Week, April 17th through the 23rd. NRCS District Conservationist and South Dakota Earth Team volunteer coordinator, Krecia Leddy, explains. Opportunities for volunteers exist in every county across the state and nation, assisting staff in the office and out in the field.

**Krecia Leddy**

So, it's very diverse. And whether it be education, farmers, ranchers helping with staking conservation practices on their farm ground and just a whole plethora of activities. Right now, in South Dakota, we have a very active effort with our grassland coalition and our Soil Health Coalition.

**Pam Geppert**

The Earth team is a great value to local conservation efforts. This past year, 125 individuals contributed more than 2074 hours to South Dakota's Earth team across the state. In addition, volunteers can explore new career opportunities and stay active.

**Krecia Leddy**

Helping others is a huge benefit, and this is one way that they can have an involvement in their community. So, becoming an Earth team volunteer member has lots of rewards. Just making those connections with human interactions with people, giving back, learning some new skills.

**Pam Geppert**

The NRCS Earth team offers volunteer opportunities for retirees down to youth ages 14 years and up. To learn more on volunteering with the NRCS Earth team, visit any USDA service center and complete an application. I'm Pam Geppert is reporting for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Helping people help the land.