





Marc Bordelon, MSSO Project Leader, Ruston, Louisiana, Region 9, Soil and Plant Science Division (SSD) has had the opportunity to participate in this event several times, and this year was no exception. Marc enjoys bringing the world of “Soils” to young individuals and enlighten them to the fact how much our lives are connected to the soil. He explained that Soil is one of our most important natural resources along with Air and Water and described how these natural resources interconnect to create a healthy ecosystem to support all living things. Using the forest as an example, he explained how the soils support the growth and production of the forest.



Kevin Cox, soil conservation technician from the Mansfield, Louisiana Field Office, and Macey Canerday, district technician from the Natchitoches, Louisiana Field Office talked about using Web Soil Survey and other published soil survey books and maps to provide the scientific data needed to carry out their everyday responsibilities as conservationists, technicians, biologists, engineers, water quality specialists, and soil scientists.

## Key Outcomes

Students and teachers, came away with a better perspective of how important “Soil” is and how it works in conjunction with air and water, to create a healthy ecosystem that provides for sustainable plants and crops, healthy livestock and wildlife populations, clean waterways, and clean air. They also learned the Soil Scientists version of the difference between “Dirt” and “Soil”... that “dirt” is what you have stuck to the bottom of your shoes and track it into your homes, and that “Soil” is a three-dimensional medium that supports life, not only humans but all plants, animals, and the billions of bacteria, fungi, and microorganisms that can be found in every thimble full.



Soil components used to feel texture.

## Future Goals

The Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) is committed to providing the best possible soils information for land use and management. Participating in activities that bring other agencies together will ensure soils data is used when making determinations regarding land management practices. Continuing to educate students and teachers on soil processes ensures future generations will benefit from healthy, sustainable, and productive soils.

