

Filming at the National Soil Survey Center

By Linda Greene, emeritus public affairs specialist

Filmmaker Buz Kloot and film editor Lizbet Palmer brought some excitement to the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, this week. They spent the week filming videos that will highlight the Center, including the stories of four staff members and their work in support of the Center's mission. Kloot and Palmer are no strangers to telling the story of soils, having been the creative minds behind the NRCS videos produced for the "International Year of Soils." The sheer beauty of those videos, along with their message of soil and its importance as a natural resource, made Kloot and Palmer the logical choice for filming at the Center. They decided to focus on individual staff members, telling personal stories intertwined with soil and the Center.

The week was spent filming what Kloot called his "stars:" Henry Ferguson, Candiss Williams, Janis Lang, and Skye Wills.

Henry Ferguson is a soil scientist whose duties primarily involve Soil Data Management. He spent a day being interviewed and filmed on the University of Nebraska's East Campus. Often referred to as the Center's "Renaissance Man," Ferguson has so many interests both inside and outside the office, the filmmakers found it a challenge to cover them all. You'll have to wait to see the finished product to learn more.

Another star was Research Soil Scientist Candiss Williams, whose filming included aerial shots involving a drone (scary) ... need I say more! Williams was a perfect interview, both personally and professionally. She told her story of growing up in a family with a three-generation legacy of working with soils.

Janis Lang is a physical science technician whose "day job" puts her in the Center's Kellogg National Soil Survey Laboratory. She is also an accomplished and nationally recognized painter. Her paintings have been on display in museums and galleries across the country. Her paintings are known not only for their beauty but also for their unique use of soils as a paint source. Her Lewis and Clarke Bicentennial paintings still show up in publications.

Finally, and certainly not least, was Skye Wills, a soil scientist with a passion for tall plains grasses. Wills shares her story involving multiple moves around the country to work in diverse areas and on the many projects that made her an accomplished scientist. She demonstrates the unique ability of making complex information understandable. Trust me, "Dynamic soil properties" will make perfect sense thanks to her communications skills.

Catch a glimpse of the vlog (video blogs) trailers and photos by visiting the links below, and get a hint of what's coming in mid-November ... stay tuned!

- Day 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArJUs-N-g-0> (10/5)
- Day 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GAyJsMrFhA> (10/6)
- Day 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yx9-XCMdBI> (10/7)
- Day 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jhf1i7Vnpl4> (10/8)
- Day 5 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6-f_ZF8wqs (10/9)
- Photos - <https://goo.gl/photos/e43P3VjB45h15G6U6>