



United States Department of Agriculture

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

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National Volunteer Week is April 10-16, 2016. This is a perfect time to show our appreciation to our Earth Team volunteers and recognize what they do for us and our customers.

The NRCS theme “Volunteers Improve Today For Tomorrow” is what we are all striving for in improving the environment not only for today but for the next generation. Last year, 285 individual Earth Team volunteers and 514 group volunteers chose to work with us. They believe in us and what we are doing to help the environment. They worked with us and they contributed 8,331 helping Iowa NRCS and our partners with our critical conservation work.

Earth Team volunteers are important conservation partners. Their work allows us to stretch available resources and put more conservation practices on the ground.

If you recruited an Earth Team volunteer last year or worked with one, I congratulate and thank you. You are personally responsible for helping make the Earth Team program a success for NRCS in our state.

We can do more and we must do more. Budgets are tight and workloads are heavy. Earth Team volunteers can help us with our conservation efforts and we need to tap into this resource. Conduct an office needs assessment. Look for tasks Earth Team volunteers can do and recruit them. If you need help, contact Teresa Steffens, our State Volunteer Coordinator or the Area Volunteer Reps, Greg Marek, Area 1 Rep; Becky Scott, Area 2 Rep; Margaret Henderson, Area 4 Rep and Jenny Stewart, Area 5 Rep.

National Volunteer Week will soon be here. Plan now to take a moment to tell our volunteers how much we appreciate them and the help they give us. Then let’s all join in celebrating National Volunteer Week April 10-16, 2016.

Respectfully,

Kurt Simon
State Conservationist

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