



**Natural Resources  
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# News Release

Release No.: 0000012.15

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## **Conservation Volunteers Honored During National Volunteer Week**

**Auburn, Ala. April 7, 2015** – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alabama is celebrating National Volunteer Week April 12-18 by thanking and honoring its Earth Team volunteers for their service to conservation.

Earth Team is the agency’s volunteer workforce, and in fiscal year 2014, more than 25,000 people across the country donated 318,530 hours of service to NRCS worth about \$7.2 million.

“Volunteers work closely with our staff, and they play an important role in our state’s conservation work,” said Alabama State Conservationist, Dr. William E. Puckett. “We are grateful for the help, but we also recognize much more conservation work needs to be done,” Puckett added. In fiscal year 2014, more than 3,200 volunteers worked 22,655 hours through the Earth Team Volunteer program in Alabama.

Earth Team is a program that partners volunteers with NRCS employees. It was created in 1985 and offers many opportunities to individuals 14 and older who are interested in volunteering to improve the nation’s natural resources. Earth Team volunteers help NRCS conservationists provide private landowners and others a range of services from conservation technical assistance to teaching and generating awareness about conservation through community projects.

Earth Team volunteers allow NRCS to stretch available resources and help put additional conservation practices on the ground. Volunteer efforts help improve land and wildlife habitat and contribute to cleaner water and air for everyone.

Learn more about the Earth Team Volunteer Program online at:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/earthteam> or by calling (toll-free) 888-526-3227.  
For more information on NRCS Alabama visit [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov).

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\*Note: The Value of Volunteer Time to the Agency is \$22.55/hour as established by the Independent Sector and utilized by the Federal Interagency Team for Volunteerism.

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