

Current Developments

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Message from the State Conservationist

We're beginning a new Fiscal Year, working under a Continuing Resolution, and waiting on the 2012 Farm Bill. Needless to say, we are facing several uncertainties.

I'm very proud of our accomplishments this past year. Together, we have developed stronger partnerships and a cleaner environment. I appreciate the professionalism and dedication each of you continue to bring to your job regardless of the uncertainties we face.

Though several commodity groups submitted recommendations, it is too early to know what will be in the 2012 Farm Bill. I will keep you updated.

Since the budget for 2012 is still an unknown, we will be conservative as we begin the year. We will limit travel, training and purchases to only what is necessary to get the job done. Uncertainty surrounding the upcoming budget may impact our ability to fill some positions immediately. However, I am committed to making all line positions (Area Conservationist and District Conservationists) a top priority.

Again, I appreciate the job you did this past year and I look forward to working with each of you during FY 2012. Keep up the good work.



Kevin Brown
State Conservationist

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Sandra Stewart Receives Secretary's Honor Award



The Business Management Leaders Program was recently recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture with the Secretary's Honor Award in the Area of Management Excellence.

While hundreds of NRCS and USDA employees contributed their time and talent to this important program, this award was given to the top 35 USDA employees who contributed the most to the program, including **Sandra Stewart**. Congratulations Sandy!

Mark Your Calendar

Federal Benefits Open Season -
November 14 - December 12

Civil Rights Committee Focus Employee Jason McAfee

by Pam Hoskins, District Conservationist, Woodbury Field Office

Jason McAfee, District Conservationist in the Murfreesboro Field Office in Rutherford County has a BS in Plant and Soil Science from Middle Tennessee State University. After graduation, he worked with the Coho salmon habitat restoration project with AmeriCorps in Washington State. This project gave Jason the opportunity to work in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains with the Stillaguamish Tribe.

Jason began his career with the NRCS in 1999 as a soil conservationist in Roosevelt County, Montana where he worked with the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fork Peck Indian Reservation. Jason says, "Working with the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes was a learning experience for me. I hope they gained as much from the experience as I did."

He served as a soil conservationist in North Carolina in both the Clinton, Field Office (coastal plains of North Carolina) and the Shelby Field Office (piedmont) before becoming District Conservationist in New Albany, Mississippi. His next career step brought him back to his home state of Tennessee where he became a DC in Macon County before being selected for his current DC position in Rutherford County.

When not working for NRCS, Jason enjoys coaching his 5-year-old son's baseball team, camping, fresh and saltwater fishing, hunting, working with his kids in the family garden and grilling amazing ribs.



Photo above (l to r): Daughter Ivy Mae, Jason, son's Cooper and Coleman, and wife Catherine.



Madison County Soil Conservation District/ Jackson NRCS Office has a Surprise Visit from Chief Dave White

The Madison County Soil Conservation District and the Jackson NRCS Field office was honored Friday August 12th as State Conservationist Kevin Brown dropped by unexpectedly with Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

State Conservationist Brown and Chief White were traveling from Memphis to Nashville to attend the Land and Wildlife Expo when they stopped by the Madison County Service Center for a surprise visit.

Although it was a short visit, the Chief took a moment to pose for photos.



Photo above (l to r): District Conservationist Brad Denton, Madison County Soil Conservation Technician Benton James, Madison County District Secretary Mary Beth Flowers, and NRCS Chief Dave White.

Landcare Changes Name but Continues to Offer the Same Great Service!

LANDCARE Changes Name----Now NRCS Distribution Center

The "Native Bees" 2011 Pollinator Poster



One of 19 posters available free of charge!

LANDCARE, the National Publications and Forms Distribution Center, has changed its name to the NRCS Distribution Center. The name is new, but you still get the same great conservation publications, forms and exhibits for free by calling 1-888-526-3227; visiting our new one-stop shop NRCS SharePoint, <https://nrcs.sc.egov.usda.gov/directory/exhibits/default.aspx>; or viewing our traditional website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/distributioncenter.



Two Rutherford County Family Farmers Honored at 2011 Small Farm Expo

by Joy Hall, District Technician, Murfreesboro

Two Rutherford County family farmers, Ray and Doris Radford and the Walden Family, were honored at the 2011 Small Farm Expo on September 8, 2011 as Tennessee Small Farmers of the Year. Ray Radford was selected as Small Farmer of the Year in the Innovative Marketing category and the Walden Family was selected in the Alternative Enterprise category. Radford was also selected as the overall winner of the 7th Annual Tennessee Small Farmer of the Year Award.

Ray and Doris Radford's farm is located on Shirley Lane in Smyrna, Tennessee. The Radford's farming operation is approximately 425 acres, with 300 acres of pasture and 125 acres of hay. The enterprise is built on the Corrientes breed which is usually used in sports such as rodeos and roping. The farming operation includes about 70 Corrientes that are on the road in sporting events, leases for pinning and roping, sale of seed and breeder stock, leases for breeding bulls, leases for bucking bulls, and grain and grass fed cattle.

The Walden Family Farm, located on Rocky Fork Road in Smyrna, began in 1986 when brothers, Robert and Raymond, and their sister Ramona, along with their spouses purchased the 260 acre family farm. The family enterprise began almost by accident. In 1999, Robert Walden's son, Randy and his wife Heather, planted a few rows of pumpkins just for fun. They had so many more pumpkins than they could use, they piled them against the barn. People passing by the farm noticed the pumpkins piled against the barn and from there the family pumpkin business took off. In the fall of 2000, the Walden Pumpkin Farm opened to the public and



Photo above (l to r beginning at podium): Dr. Nick Gawel, Superintendent of TSU Otis Floyd Research Center, McMinnville; Dr. Tim Cross, UT Dean of Extension; Lacy Upchurch, President, TN Farm Bureau Federation; Dr. Latif Lighari, TSU Associate Dean for Extension; Doris and Ray Radford, Radford's Cattle, Area and State winners of the Small Farmer of the Year Award in the Alternative Enterprise Category; and Ed Harlan, TN Department of Agriculture Agribusiness Coordinator.



Photo above (l to r beginning at podium): Dr. Nick Gawel, Superintendent of TSU Otis Floyd Research Center, McMinnville; Dr. Tim Cross, UT Dean of Extension; Lacy Upchurch, President, TN Farm Bureau Federation; Dr. Latif Lighari, TSU Associate Dean for Extension; Walden Farms' Robert and Marietta Walden, Area Winner of the Small Farmer of the Year Award in the Alternative Enterprise Category; and Sherry and Raymond Walden, (Back row) Ed Harlan, TN Department of Agriculture Agribusiness Coordinator.

included other activities including hayrides, picking pumpkins, petting farm animals and touring the farm.

The 2011 Small Farm Expo, sponsored by the Tennessee State University College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences, was held at the Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center in McMinnville, Tennessee.



A Madison County Community Treasure

by Kenneth Williams, Soil Conservationist, Jackson Field Office

Alma Williamson has been an active member of the Madison County farming community throughout her life. Mrs. Williamson, and her late husband Savannah Williamson, Sr., began farming in the early fifties. In recent years, she has participated in many USDA programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

While participating in these USDA programs, she has been able to improve the productivity of the soils and increase crop yields by controlling erosion by installing and implementing practices such as no-till planting, terraces, and grade control structures.

Mrs. Williamson was selected as the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year in 1992 by the Madison County Soil Conservation District for her outstanding strides in conservation through the installation of numerous erosion control structures on her farm. Mrs. Williamson continues to have a positive influence on people in the agriculture community and through her personal commitment to conservation, she encourages others to protect the natural resources.



Photo above: Alma Williamson of Madison County has been active in the farming community for more than half a century.

Web Utilization Classes Offered Across the State

by Carter Harris, Program Analyst

In May and June, NRCS Public Affairs offered web utilization classes in the four Area offices to people interested in developing websites or utilizing the TNRCS hosting services. Forty-three people attended the classes.

This month a workshop was offered in Area 1 for people who missed the first class or wanted to refresh their skills.

The Public Affairs staff is also providing consultation and support for hosted sites.

Forth-five websites are now being hosted on the TNRCS host; twelve of the websites have gone public and the remaining sites are in various stages of development.

A directory of the sites is available at: <http://partners.tnrcs.org>.

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Booth Family Committed to Conservation

by Hank Webb, Soil Conservationist, Brownsville Field Office

Becky and Milton Booth's dedication to conservation has not gone unnoticed; they have received the Conservation Farmer of the Year in Haywood County in past years.

The Booths farm 223 acres of cropland. In 2009 they installed 2,575 feet of terraces with cost share through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Ag Non-Point Special Project program. The terraces treated ephemeral gullies and directed runoff to safe exits around the field. They also planted 11 acres of cropland to alfalfa/orchardgrass mix for hay through TDA. This conversion of cropland to alfalfa/orchardgrass mix will save the Booths approximately 10 tons of soil per acre per year.

They have planted 13 acres in bermudagrass and 7.2 acres in alfalfa/orchardgrass mix on highly erodible soils which will save approximately 15 tons of soil per acre per year.

The high protein in the alfalfa/orchardgrass hay and the bermudagrass hay will significantly improve the conditioning of the registered Quarter horses they show and sale. They have a total of 44 registered Quarter horses in their herd and have won numerous awards showing their horses.

The Booths have also enrolled 30.5 acres into State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This will benefit grassland and shrub birds by providing nesting habitat, escape cover, brooding habitat, and food sources in addition to reducing soil erosion and improving water quality.

The Booth's are committed to conservation and wildlife. They are protecting and improving the natural resources to ensure the land is productive for their children, grandchildren, and future generations.



Photo above: Becky Booth with one of the registered Quarter horses the Booth's show and sale.

Volunteers Make Morgan County SCD Tree Sale a Success

by Justin Howard, Soil Conservation Technician, Cumberland/Morgan County

Eleven (11) Earth Team Volunteers assisted the Morgan County Soil Conservation District (SCD) with its' 5th Annual Tree Sale. The sale began on April 7th and the beautiful spring weather brought folks out early. Customers were there by 7 o'clock ready to buy and the Earth Team volunteers and SCD staff were ready and available to answer questions, load up plants or assist in any way. Many customers had questions on what they should plant and what would work well with their landscape.

Nearly 150 customers purchased trees. The Earth Team volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the tree sale. Earth Team Volunteer Tonya Morgan worked 96 hours; the combined total of hours worked by all the Earth Team Volunteers was 173 hours, which is equivalent to \$3,695 in today's wages. The work of the Earth Team volunteers made this year's tree sale a successful event.



Photo above: Earth Team Volunteers assist with the SCD tree sale.



Jason Seaton Has a Dream.....

by Mitchell Aman, Soil Conservationist, Sevierville Field Office

Jason Seaton's dream is to convert his traditional fescue / clover and woodland farm into a wildlife area. He loves to hunt and watch wildlife which is immediately apparent when you enter his home in eastern Sevier County, Tennessee. The walls are covered with wildlife trophies of all sorts and Jason has a story to tell about each trophy.

Jason and his mother, Beverly, are avid wildlife fans; they watch and film the deer on their property. In fact, they go so far as to give them names like "Ol Rocky Top"!

In 2010 Jason contacted the Sevier County Soil Conservation District/Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) field office inquiring about the programs that were available. Mitchell Aman, NRCS Soil Conservationist, went out to the farm and discussed the various possibilities of converting the farm to provide wildlife habitat.

James (Wally) Akins, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) and Darren Bailey with the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) worked with NRCS and the Soil Conservation District to assist Jason with a plan to make his dream a reality.

Akins assisted Jason in developing a Conservation Plan. Jason now has a 2011 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract for installing Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Early Successional Habitat Development and Management, Hedgerow Planting, and Firebreaks.

Bailey completed a forest transect and marked the timber that should be harvested in an effort to improve the understory and timber stand and also recommended a local logger, Tracey Martin. After harvesting the timber, Martin left wide smooth access trails through the forest stand.

This fall the Sevier County SCD, NRCS, TWRA, and TDF will assist Jason in fescue eradication and move his project towards completion. Jason has made sure that the hay fields have been cut and he is "sitting on ready".

Jason is very optimistic and is already inquiring about starting some projects on land that he has in Illinois! It is not uncommon for Jason to call Mitchell to assist with questions pertaining to his conservation practices or wildlife.

What makes Jason unique is that due to an accident, he is confined to a wheelchair. As a quadriplegic, he is paralyzed from his chest down with limited arm movement. He has a "souped up" four wheel drive wheelchair that takes him



Photo above: Jason Seaton looks on as a bulldozer builds an access trail on his farm.

almost anywhere including the nice trails that are now located throughout the forest stand thanks to Mr. Martin

Jason's family built an accessible shoot house equipped with mirrors so that he can see what is behind him while hunting. A fake hay bale fits over his wheelchair for turkey hunting; he tells folks that his mother is a "pretty good retriever"! And she obviously has a sense of humor. He has a "high tech" gun mount that allows him to shoot by sucking on an air tube.

Where there is a will there is a way, and Jason has plenty of will. Mitchell Aman, NRCS soil conservationist, made Jason aware of the Tennessee AgrAbility Project. After studying this information, he is interested in working with this program to acquire a tractor or other equipment he can use on his farm. He is also looking into taking driving lessons!

Jason is dynamic and truly an inspiration to everyone he meets. You never know where you'll find him and his high powered wheelchair. His farm is a testament to him and his family's fun loving nature. And you can't miss it—just look for a rainbow colored hang glider and its pilot smacked into the side of an old barn! It's now a local landmark.



Photo above: A local landmark- Seaton barn with a whimsical painting of a hang glider and pilot smacked into the side of it.



Earth Team Volunteers Assist Cumberland County SCD with 11th Annual Tree Sale

by Justin Howard, Soil Conservation Technician, Cumberland/Morgan County

The Cumberland County Soil Conservation District held its 11th Annual Tree Sale at the Cumberland County fairgrounds. Seven Earth Team volunteers donated their personal time and talent to assist with the sale. Since 2001, the SCD has sold over 7,500 white pine seedlings, 7,665 nursery stock plants, serviced over 1,500 customers, and made over \$25,000.

Earth Team volunteers and the SCD staff were ready to assist as customers lined up early on the morning of April 7th. More than 125 customers purchased nearly 600 trees during the two-day tree sale. Earth Team volunteers worked 76 hours, equal to more than \$1,620 in wages, during the tree sale.



Photo above: Earth Team volunteers work with the Cumberland County SCD to make the annual Tree Sale a success.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

by Chase Coakley, Soil Conservationist, Manchester Field Office

One of the things that all people hold a common interest in is the love of quality, great tasting food. However, in today's society consumers are primarily disconnected with the sources of the food they eat. The modern grocery store is a Mecca of national and international diversity with produce and food stuffs from all across the world. Large scale farming and global marketing has created a disconnection between producers and consumers.

Know your Farmer, Know your Food is a USDA initiative with the mission to "strengthen the critical connection between farmers and consumers and supports local and regional food systems." The objectives of this initiative include:

- Stimulate food and agriculturally-based community economic development;
- Foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers;
- Promote locally and regionally produced and processed foods;
- Cultivate healthy eating habits and educated, empowered consumers;
- Expand access to affordable fresh and local food; and
- Demonstrate the connection between food, agriculture, community & environment.

At local levels, producers and consumers alike have a lot to gain from one another. The local marketplace allows consumers to obtain a quality product directly from the hands that grew it. Small landowners and producers have the opportunity to market farm goods which otherwise could never make it to the greater marketplace. Coffee County Tennessee producer, Ray Weaver, affirms that the community marketplace is the driving force for the distribution of the seventeen acres of sweet corn he grows annually; "we sell 85% of our corn at local farmers markets." Mr. Weaver also noted that he is able to get more value for his product at farmers markets, and that the local marketplace is a valuable key to the connection between farmers and consumers.

Trends today show us that there is a growing demand and use of local farmers markets. With such a diversity of high quality products for reasonable prices, it only makes sense consumers are realizing the value of locally grown products. In the last 15 years the number of farmers markets has tripled, and now numbers over 7,175 nationwide. The Pick Tennessee Products website has over 100 farmers market locations listed with one or more in at least 60 Tennessee counties. So, the next time you make out your grocery list or get a craving for fresh produce, remember to check out your local marketplace or find out about producers near you; you might just be happily surprised.

To find out more about locally grown products and to find a marketplace or producer near you, visit the following websites or contact your local extension office, USDA service center, or local government office.

- *Know your Farmer, Know you Food* <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdausdaho/me?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>
- Pick Tennessee Products <http://www.picktnproducts.org/index.html>
- USDA Agriculture Marketing Service <http://search.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/>
- University of TN Extension Service <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/Pages/default.aspx>



NRCS Participates in Veteran's Business Conference

by Eston Williams, State Outreach Coordinator

The 5th Annual Veterans Conference was held on August 2, 2011 at the New Hope Center at the Y-12 Security Complex in Oak Ridge with approximately 500 people in attendance. NRCS setup a display at the conference to create awareness of NRCS programs and employment opportunities to non-traditional customers.

More than 400 attendees from veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, other small businesses, federal agencies and contractors came together at this event to share best business practices and opportunities.

Jerry Prater (SEPM for Veterans), Terrance Rudolph, Shirley Childs, Phyllis White, and Eston Williams staffed the NRCS booth.



Photo above (l to r): Eston Williams and Jerry Prater provide information on NRCS programs and employment opportunities at the 5th Annual Veterans Conference.

The Day I Turned Green now on Sale at Amazon

by Claude Crowley, retired SCS employee

The Day I Turned Green, a new Soil Conservation Service focused e-book, went on sale on the Amazon.com Kindle book site in June. Author Claude Crowley of Fort Worth, an SCS retiree, says that the book is "The first and only novel that accurately conveys the fulfilling, adventurous, and romantic lives of soil conservationists on and off the job."

"Protagonist Hollis 'Spur' Spurlock's story is an account of the adventures and romances of a young soil conservationist facing environmental conflict and personal challenges," Crowley said. "He is patterned on the young agriculture graduates with whom I learned the conservation profession in the 1950s." For more information, go to <http://claudecrowley.com/>

Crowley, 84, states that his platform for writing The Day I Turned Green include ten years as a soil conservationist and DC. Later, he became the first Information Officer for SCS in Tennessee before becoming Staff Leader of the Public Affairs Unit at the South Technical Service Center in Fort Worth.

The Day I Turned Green (\$4.99) can be read on a Kindle, or on a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device with free software downloaded from Amazon.com.

Burn Permits Now Available Online for Most Counties

Burn permits are required for anyone starting an open-air fire within 500 feet of a forest, grassland, or woodland from **October 15 - May 15**. Burning permits can be obtained from the Division of Forestry Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:30 and can be obtained in advance.

Permits are not required for burning in containers such as a metal barrel with a ½" mesh screen cover. Anyone needing to burn within an incorporated city should contact city authorities about any local burning ordinances as many towns and cities have their own burning regulations that supersede the Division of Forestry's burning permit program.

For more information, go to: http://burnsafetn.org/burn_permit.html



The Importance of Volunteering for Public Service in Today's Economy

by Chris Hunter, TWRA Wetlands Biologist

Volunteering for public service takes on many forms and is performed by an array of people across the nation each and every day. By definition, volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time or services. Volunteering in the United States has an estimated economic value of \$158 billion annually. There are many reasons people decide to volunteer including to gain experience in their chosen field of work, helping organizations save on associated costs or just the enjoyment of knowing they are making a difference. Volunteering in the field of natural resources management is no exception.

Several months ago the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service were asked to begin work on setting up different booths for the Land and Wildlife Expo in Nashville. This was an educational event for landowners wanting to enhance the habitat on their properties. The TWRA and NRCS began to realize that additional help would be needed to pull the event off and this is where the volunteering request began to take shape.

TWRA began working with Ducks Unlimited to set up a booth. Everything was going great but there was one issue-not enough personnel available to work the booth. With travel budgets restrained and other government employees assisting with other booths for the expo, Camille Hunter volunteered to help out with setting up the booth and speaking with landowners about conservation on their property. Camille is working on her master's in education and thought



Photo above (l to r): Volunteer Camille Hunter (left) and TWRA Wetlands Biologist Chris Hunter work the TWRA booth at Land and Wildlife Expo.

this would be a good public relations experience for her. This in turn would serve to help out the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service with needed staff. The contribution of volunteers such as Camille helped make the expo a successful event.

Volunteering is an important contribution during these challenging times, not only in the field of natural resources management but in other areas like volunteer fire and police services for example. With businesses and families facing tighter budgets, government must look for ways to reduce cost such as actively search for those people who are willing to give their support for one of the most important endeavors of all, volunteering as a public servant.



USDA Under Secretary Harris Sherman Held Roundtable Discussion with Tennessee Agriculture Producers

Tennessee agriculture producers and agriculture leaders had the opportunity to meet with USDA Under Secretary Harris D Sherman at a Roundtable Discussion at the Lane Agri-Park Office Complex in Murfreesboro. The roundtable discussion allowed producers to provide input on NRCS programs and the 2012 Farm Bill.

Sherman, who is responsible for the restoration, conservation, and management of America's forests and private working lands at USDA, asked participants what are the biggest obstacles they face.

Producers stated they are very satisfied with the conservation technical assistance they receive from NRCS. Many producers have a real desire to produce crops using few chemicals; however, they are very concerned about additional regulations.

Producers told Under Secretary Sherman that they believe NRCS technical assistance is vital to the success of their operation. While organic production is great, producers do not believe the technology is in place to yield enough food to feed the world using organic methods.



Photo above: State Conservationist Kevin Brown (second from left) and USDA Under Secretary Harris Sherman (second from right) meet with producers at the Roundtable Discussion.



Photo above: Tennessee agriculture producers meet with USDA Under Secretary Harris Sherman.

Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail Exhibits with Arts at the Airport at Nashville International Airport

Arts at the Airport selects and presents work by local, regional, and national artists for the enjoyment and enrichment of Nashville International Airport's passengers and visitors. The Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail was selected as an exhibitor. The exhibit is located at Concourse A across from Gate 3 and is on display from June 12 - December 4.

The Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail highlights quilt treasures of the region to preserve the art and heritage of quilting while honoring those, past and present, who have been and are involved in this art form.

The Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail began with six quilt squares in one county in 2007; today there are more than 150 quilt patterns scattered among the rolling hillsides in the 16 county area. For more information on the Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail, go to www.uppercumberlandquilttrail.com. For information on the Arts at the Airport, go to http://flynashville.com/arts/quarterly_exhibits.aspx and select Current Art Exhibits under the Visual Arts heading.



Photo Above Left: Sojourner Truth Star on Jerre and Chris Holder's Fairview farm property in White County on Highway 111. Designed by Kathy Steffen and painted by Jerry Holder and Kathy Steffen. Photo Above Right: Star Flower quilt square pattern on Jeanne Eastham's family barn in Macon County.



NRCS Employees Donate to Wounded Warrior Project

\$570.41 left over from the refreshments fund from the All Employees Meeting was donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “honor and empower wounded warriors” of the United States Armed Forces by raising awareness and enlisting aid from the public for the needs of severely injured service members. The project helps severely injured service members aid and assist each other and provides unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

The Wounded Warrior Project presented a Certificate of Recognition to NRCS employees for the donation. For more information on the Wounded Warrior Project go to: <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>



Wounded Warrior Project presented to certificate to NRCS employees for their donation.

Wounded Warriors Serve as Earth Team Volunteers in Montgomery County

by Kevin Hart, District Conservationist, Clarksville Field Office

The Wounded Warrior Project assists injured service members during their recovery period in several ways, including finding ways they can be productive and gain experience that will benefit them later. Medical appointments, therapy and rehab prevent them from doing their military job. Working as an Earth Team volunteer gives them an opportunity to experience the type of work NRCS does and allows them to give back to the community.

The Wounded Warrior Liaison at Ft. Campbell selects soldiers that have an agriculture background or an interest in pursuing a post-service career in an agriculture or environmental field. This hands-on experience can help them determine their career goals after they leave the military.



Photo above (l to r): Earth Team Volunteer (Wounded Warrior) Patrick Bower, Soil Conservationist Janet Coleman & District Conservationist Kevin Hart inspecting a streambank protection jetty.