

You Can Make A Difference!



*Challenging Careers in the
Natural Resources
Conservation Service*



*The United States Department of
Agriculture's Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS) needs
people who are committed to action.*

*NRCS is looking for people who
want to apply their education and
experience to make sure that all of
us enjoy the benefits of...*



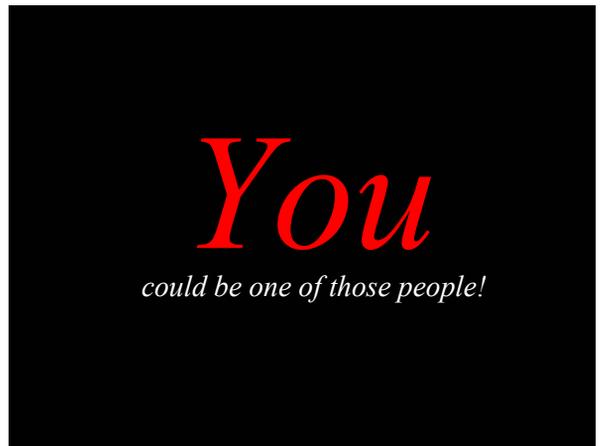
Productive soil,



clean water,



*and healthy
natural
resources.*



You

could be one of those people!

About NRCS...

Before we get into the people and careers that make NRCS the Federal Government's conservation leader, here's some information about NRCS and what it means to America.



Who We Are...

The NRCS came out of troubled times--the Dust Bowl days of the 1930's. Dust storms ravaged the Nation's farmland, stripping away millions of tons of topsoil. Huge dust clouds carried the soil hundreds of miles, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Since that time, NRCS has kept a commitment to protecting and conserving soil and other natural resources on America's private lands.



Who We Are...

The NRCS is known worldwide for its accomplishments and innovations in conservation. The people of NRCS are recognized for their talent, dedication, and ingenuity in making the agency's programs work. Participation in NRCS' programs is voluntary--the people we serve want us with them as they take necessary steps to reduce erosion, protect wildlife, promote good land use, and to preserve the Nation's natural resources for future generations.



Who We Are...

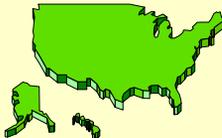
At NRCS, we take pride in our partnerships. We work with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to let people know how important it is to conserve our natural resources...and, together, we work with America's private landowners who want to put conservation on their land.



NRCS' Impact in the Nation

According to a national 2001 report compiled by the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), America's farmers and ranchers are pleased with the service and assistance they receive from NRCS.

Landowners who had recently received conservation technical assistance gave NRCS a satisfaction index of 81 out of 100 possible points. Ratings from survey participants were 10 points higher than those received by private sector organizations and agencies and more than 12 points higher than the average index for federal government services. ACSI data also indicates that NRCS clients rely on the technical assistance they get, giving NRCS a "trust index" of 90 out of 100 possible points.



What's Great About NRCS?

You work with great people who live on the land and love the land.

NRCS is recognized as global leaders in soil science and technology. NRCS uses science and research to create understandable and effective solutions to real-life problems.

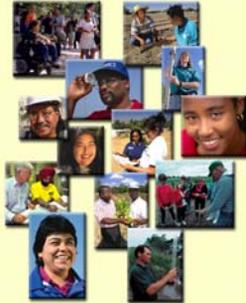
Everyday you see the difference you make!

NRCS Chief Pearlle Reed said:

"I can fly around the country and look down on the land and see the work that NRCS has done."

Who Are We Looking for?

NRCS is looking for dedicated people seeking the opportunity to preserve our natural resources.



Where Do You Fit In?

NRCS Opportunities Include:

- Student Internships
- Earth Team Volunteer Opportunities
- Professional Career Positions
- Entry Level Opportunities

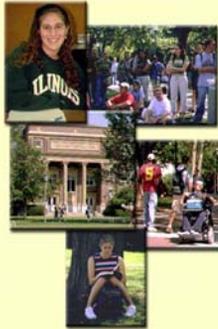
Who Are We Looking for?

Student Interns

Each year NRCS hires students under its Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). If you are attending college or graduate school, you may qualify.

You can work a flexible schedule while attending school. You'll work for and learn from NRCS professionals in your field of study.

Participation in this program can open doors to exciting career possibilities.



Who Are We Looking for?

Earth Team Volunteers

The Earth Team Volunteer Program needs your skills and talents.

The program offers outstanding and exciting opportunities for people in search of professional work experience or academic credit or who just want to do their part to preserve and protect our natural resources. Who knows? After serving on the Earth Team, you may decide to pursue a career in conservation.



Who Are We Looking for?

Career Professionals

NRCS career professionals work with private landowners to develop conservation plans that meet their personal goals and objectives and meet the needs of the land.



Who Are We Looking for?

Entry Level Opportunities

NRCS offers entry-level positions for those who are looking for an opportunity to explore a variety of areas to establish a direction towards a meaningful career.



What Career Areas Does NRCS Offer?

The NRCS offers career opportunities for college graduates and others who support the conservation effort.



NRCS Career Areas...

Biologist

As an NRCS Biologist, you will spend most of your time outdoors working with private landowners, other NRCS technical specialists, other agencies, and units of government. You will:

- provide technical support on fish and wildlife habitat development or wetland restoration, and
- suggest ways to manage fish and wildlife populations and restore or develop habitat.



NRCS Career Areas...

Engineer

NRCS employs a large number of engineers who have specialized skills in erosion control, water management, structural design, construction, hydraulics, soil mechanics, and environmental protection. We also employ those with general engineering skills.

Your job assignment may include:

- establishing streambank and erosion control measures and water supply systems;
- designing waste management systems and concrete and earthen dams;
- applying bioengineering principles to solve a host of natural resource problems;
- Working with community leaders to address urban erosion, stormwater, or flooding concerns.



NRCS Career Areas...

Engineering Technician

As an NRCS Engineering Technician, you'll be involved in conservation planning and conservation practice design. You will:

- survey the land,
- plot data,
- layout and design construction measures,
- inventory and correlate data,
- make computations,
- prepare maps and cross sections of landscape profiles, and
- serve as a construction inspector on a wide variety of projects.

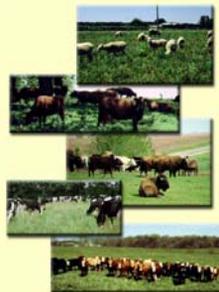


NRCS Career Areas...

Grassland Management Specialist

An NRCS grassland specialist plan grazing systems that improve the quality of forage and other grazing land functions. You will:

- suggest ways to use grazing animals as tools to improve and sustain natural resources,
- offer advice on water management or better ways to produce forage, and
- tailor conservation plans to help landowners meet their goals.

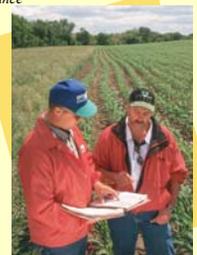


NRCS Career Areas...

Soil Conservationist

As an NRCS Soil Conservationist, you'll spend most of your time in the field working with farmers, ranchers, and other clients. You will:

- offer conservation planning and technical assistance to farmers and local government officials,
- suggest ways to conserve the soil, improve water quality, manage nutrients, and protect and improve wildlife habitat,
- help teachers start outdoor laboratories,
- give conservation demonstrations to students and clients,
- help people set local conservation priorities,
- provide outreach for NRCS programs, and
- plan, layout, design, and implement conservation practices.



NRCS Career Areas...

Soil Conservation Technician

Soil conservation technicians are the primary technical specialist at the field office level. As an SCT, your most important job is working on the land with farmers, ranchers, and others. You will

- show clients how to install conservation practices and oversee the quality use of those practices,
- perform engineering surveys and design standard conservation practices, such as waterways, terraces, and contour stripcropping systems, and
- make follow-up visits to check the progress and results of the practices and update the land owner's conservation program.

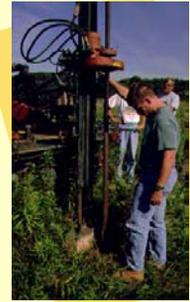


NRCS Career Areas...

Soil Scientist

As an NRCS Soil Scientist, you will:

- map and classify soils,
- identify soil issues such as compaction and erosion,
- use aerial photographs to map soils ,
- conduct lab work to classify soil types and write soil descriptions,
- create digital soil maps and databases,
- prepare and use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data and resources,
- sample soils and evaluate soil quality, and
- work with watershed information and quality reports, and record land use patterns.



Other Careers in NRCS...

Agricultural Economist

Agronomist

Archeologist

Biologist

Business Administration

- Accountants
- Office Automation Assistant or Clerks
- Human Resource Management

Cartographer

Communications Specialists

- Marketing
- Writing
- Graphic Design

Other Careers in NRCS...

Computer Specialists

- Hardware and Software Specialists
- Systems Administrator
- Programmer

Contract Specialists

Engineering

- Civil
- Design
- Hydraulic

Environmental Specialist

Forestry

- Agro Forester
- Forester

Geographic Information Specialist

Other Careers in NRCS...

Geologist

Landscape Architect

Plant Sciences

Resource Planning Specialist

Sociologists

- Community Planner
- Sociologist

And Much More!

Placement and Salary

Placement

The NRCS has more than 2,500 field locations throughout the United States. In Illinois alone, NRCS has 115 offices. So, regardless of your location, there may be opportunities with NRCS.

Salary

Starting salaries are competitive with those of other government agencies and the private sector.



Training and Advancement

Training

You will receive many opportunities for on-the-job and classroom training. You set your own career goals, and NRCS will help you achieve them.



Advancement

There are many promotion opportunities with an NRCS career. How fast and how far you advance depends on you. Advancement opportunities broaden as you gain experience with varied work assignments and achieve success.

Employee Benefits...

Health and Life Insurance

Health and Dental

The NRCS pays a substantial portion of your health and dental insurance costs. There are a variety of medical plans offered under this voluntary program. You pick the provider you want.

Life

NRCS pays portion of the cost of a voluntary program that provides life insurance.

Retirement

NRCS provides a retirement system for its employees called the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This system has three components (1) Social Security (2) a basic annuity, and (3) a tax-deferred Thrift Savings Plan (401K), where NRCS matches a portion of your contribution.



Employee Benefits...

A Quality Work Experience

The NRCS offers flexible work schedules and programs to help employees balance the demands of work with personal and family responsibilities. These include various alternative work schedules, job sharing, telecommuting, and the employee assistance program.

Vacation

During your first 3 years of service, you'll earn 13 days of vacation each year. After 3 years, you'll earn 20 days. After 15 years, you'll earn 26 days.

Sick Leave

Each year, you will earn 13 days of sick leave. You can accumulate and save sick leave without limit to cover maternity leave or serious illness.

Disability

Special benefits are available if you are disabled or injured while working.



Us Out!

- Call an NRCS office in your county to set up an office visit.
- Try us out as an Earth Team Volunteer!
- Visit with an NRCS professional in your career field.
- Visit our website at: www.il.nrcs.usda.gov

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

For More Information

Contact your local NRCS office listed in the phonebook under "United States Government" or visit our website at:
www.il.nrcs.usda.gov



*You **CAN** make a difference!*