

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil and Plant Science Division

Soil Survey Region 11



Gallatin, Missouri, MLRA Soil Survey Office

Soils Presentations Inspire Students to Learn More

Purpose

Soil scientist Kim Vinson, from the Gallatin, Missouri, Soil Survey Office and District Conservationist Ashley Johnson presented to the Agricultural Science class at Knox County in Edina, Missouri. The two presenters tied together knowledge of construction practices, volunteer opportunities, and potential career paths in conservation.

"I have lots of opportunities to present to school-age groups, but working closely with the District Conservationist was especially beneficial for myself and the students," Vinson stated.

The soils portion of the presentation addressed soil properties, landforms, parent materials, water movement, Web Soil Survey, careers, and related topics. Soil cores and correlation trays were used to discuss soil formation and development, along with a variety of texture samples, rocks, and visual aids. Vinson impressed the students with a live demonstration of the hydraulic soil sampling probe truck. The students and their teacher were so inspired by what they learned that they plan to assemble a team for the FFA soils contest this year. She provided the local District Conservationist, Ashley Johnson, with presentation materials about the basics of soil judging. Johnson will meet with the team to begin the training.

Key Outcomes

Outreach and education provided to students at local schools develops young minds, enabling an increased knowledge of soils, conservation, and proper management of natural resources. Educating students about soil science helps build a society that values soil as essential to life.



Soil scientist Kim Vinson from Gallatin, Missouri, teaches high school students in Edina, Missouri, about soil properties.

