

Featured Earth Team Vignette

Featured Volunteer: Jim Green

Location: Raleigh, NC

Volunteer Job Title: Grazing Specialist

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Grazing Specialist Finds that “Grass is Greener” as an Earth Team Volunteer



When Jim Green retired from the North Carolina State University Crop Science Department in 2006, he had 29 years of experience in planning and implementing grazing systems and a wealth of knowledge about forages and grassland. Over the years, Jim worked closely with the NRCS Ecological Sciences Staff (ECS) in Raleigh in developing training sessions and demonstration projects. Fortunately, Jim and ECS were able to continue their joint initiatives after Jim retired because Jim immediately signed up as an Earth Team Volunteer.

Jim has contributed more than 350 hours of volunteer time in helping to further the NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in North Carolina. As an Earth Team Grazing Specialist, he has worked with field staff to conduct technical reviews of grazing land practices and has assisted in preparing job sheets and technical notes. Jim also assists with delivering training and providing onsite assistance to field staff and farmers, his favorite part of the job. “I always liked my work,” Jim notes, “but now I can focus on what I enjoy most—getting out in the field and helping agency people and farmers to address resource concerns on grazing land.”

There is a great diversity in the grazing land across North Carolina, from the steep mountain pastures in the west to the coastal plains in the east. Add to that the variety of animals that graze the land—beef cattle, dairy cows, sheep, goats, horses, and even exotic animals—and it is not surprising that Jim’s expertise is in great demand. NRCS District Conservationists often call upon Jim when they encounter an unusual or challenging situation in the field. “I always encourage field people to give me a call or to have the farmer they are working with give me a call if they think that I can be of help to them.”

Jim also likes the opportunity that the Earth Team affords him to interact with natural resource professionals who have the latest information on new technology. At one recent training session, speakers were present from the NRCS East National Technology Support Center. “This is a great opportunity for me to listen to their presentations on Soil Quality as part of my own continuing education,” said Jim. “I can use these concepts when I am helping people in the field.”

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--Jim Green