

# NRCS participates in climate-smart agriculture field tour

*By Roger RyDell Daniels, NRCS public affairs specialist*



Several NRCS team members participated in a climate-smart agriculture field tour last month aimed at increasing underserved farmers participation in USDA programs.

About 25 people attended the event hosted by the Tennessee chapter of the National Women in Agriculture Association at Quinton Farm in Drummonds, Tennessee.

"Agriculture is everything," said Dr. Tammy Gray-Steele, National Women in Agriculture Association president. "We're the largest agricultural organization for women in the world."

Hannah Goff, district conservationist in the Alamo Field Office, spoke about some of the benefits of protecting and increasing soil health and how NRCS can assist landowners and producers with implementing conservation practices.

She covered four main principles related to soil health through conservation, including planting without disturbance, planting cover crops, growing diverse crops, and grazing diverse plants.

“Planting no-till means minimal disturbance to microorganisms and breaking up of soil structure,” Hannah said. “There are more microorganisms in a handful of healthy soil than there are people in the world.”

Jeffrey Woodward, area resource soil scientist in the Jackson Field Office, conducted a rainfall simulator demonstration of soil impact, while State Conservationist Sheldon Hightower spoke about the NRCS grant opportunities, soil conservation and hiring priorities.

Other topics included FSA loan opportunities, biochar versus fertilizers, common sense forestry, and opportunities in farming and forestry.

The group finished the event with tours of the [Quinton Farm](#) and [Ajitas Garden](#).

Click [here](#) to view photo gallery.