

4H: The future generation of conservation

By Michaela Slagle-Saylor, Jonesborough Field Office district manager for the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District



Left photo: Kinsley Graves, Soil Conservationist in the Jonesborough Field office and Houston Ward, District Technician in Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District teaching students about the rainfall simulator.

More than 100 4H students and 75 adults took part in the 4H Project Celebration Day on May 29 at the Appalachian Fair Grounds. The NRCS Jonesborough Field Office and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District partnered together to teach a class on the rainfall simulator by explaining infiltration rates and erosion rates.

The students were very interested, and staff thoroughly enjoyed spending time teaching the next generation about conserving the land and talking about the importance of cover crops while also getting a chance to explain what SWAPA means: Soil, Water, Animals, Plants and Air.



Project Celebration Day takes place annually and has students from the upper eight counties of Tennessee. This day offers students a chance to take classes that interest them and offers a chance for networking and team building skills. It also is a day of service as the 4H students pick a worthy cause to collect canned food for.

This day also gives a chance for the students to show off their project boards and demonstrate what project area they are specializing in. The 4H slogan is “learn by doing,” and by local field offices and staff being involved with projects like this, the agencies will be better able to impact future generations and be a part of the local communities and economies.