

# VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

October 2012, Pacific Islands Area

## Elementary Students Learn the Importance of Conservation at Environmental Expo

Volunteers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Saipan field office staff recently participated in an annual environmental expo. The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a governmental agency of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in Guam hosts the event each year.

This year's expo was open to fourth and fifth grade students of various schools in the CNMI and addressed environmental concerns through educational activities and presentations.

NRCS and Earth Team volunteers staffed a booth and presented to the students during the three-day expo. The booth displayed conservation practices NRCS has implemented such as access roads, mulching, animal waste management systems (piggery), vegetative barriers and rotational grazing systems.



*Volunteer Jan Michael Reyes explains rotational grazing.*

The Earth Team volunteers were students from Northern Marianas Community College, majoring in Natural Resources Management. Not only were the volunteers able to learn more about the earth and conservation, they were able to extend their knowledge to a younger generation.

"Educating students about natural resources and resource concerns is an important step in helping the students understand the importance of conserving our precious resources," said Jay Doronila, CNMI soil conservationist. "Many of the students come from families who own small subsistent farms (i.e. a piggery, a pasture, or a vegetable farm) or have experienced being around agriculture."



*L-R: Volunteers Shirley Taitano, Marlyn Naputi, Jolly Ann Cruz, NRCS employee-Jay Doronila, volunteers Jan Michael and Julius Reyes are ready for presenting.*

*The students sorting photos for a display board that was used throughout the expo.*



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit [www.usda.nrcs.gov](http://www.usda.nrcs.gov).

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.