

STEM SPOTLIGHT

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Q How did you select your college major?

A I grew up in a rural area and was always interested in Agriculture.

Q What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

A I was given the opportunity to work during the summers and NRCS hired me permanently upon graduation.

Q If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A I think I took all of the needed courses to fulfill my career goals in high school.

Q What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A Helping people help the land and conserving our natural resources.





Q What is the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

A Survey and design best management practices to address natural resources such as soil, water, air, plants, animals, humans, and energy.

Q What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A Being able to help someone solve an issue that otherwise may have not gotten solved.

Q How does your career incorporate STEM?

A Science – We use science to recognize our natural resources.

Technology – It is used on a daily basis with computers, design software, lidar imagery, etc.

Engineering – The best management practices we design and install require engineering to adequately size structures to pass flood events.

Math – Math is used to calculate area, watersheds, soil loss, highly erodible land percentages, land slopes, elevations, etc.

Q What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A When entering college you will need 30 semester hours of soils classes and take as many agricultural courses as possible. This will help prepare you to be knowledgeable in many disciplines within the agricultural community. While still in grade school, strive to make the best grades as possible in order to obtain scholarships and not have difficulties being accepted to the college of your choice.