



## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Youth Workshop April 11, 2008 ~ San Joaquin Experimental Range

Sponsored by Coarsegold, Chowchilla-Red Top, Madera and Sierra RCDs

High school students from Fresno and Madera Counties were exposed to our natural resources with a hands-on approach to learning at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture & Natural Resources Youth Workshop.



*Kathy Purcell, US Forest Service Wildlife Biologist showing the students a starling bird.*

Twenty students, along with their instructors enjoyed the day at the San Joaquin Experimental Range in Coarsegold.

Presentations were given by various resource management professionals and agencies such as Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and US Forest Service. NRCS specialists such as Susan Perez, Area 3 Soil Conservationist in Merced, got the students hands on



*Susan Perez, NRCS Soil Conservationist in Merced teaching soil texture*

with soil profiles and textures. Dennis Dudley and Jeff Hansen, NRCS, Rangeland Management Specialists teamed with Neil McDougald, Rangeland Advisor from UCCE in Madera County to teach the students on identification and monitoring of rangeland plants and wildlife habitat. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, Kathy Purcell spoke on the studies being



*Dennis Dudley, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist in Madera showing students how to clip grass and determine forage production*

performed on the birds that inhabit the Experimental Range and the students were amazed at the Mountain Lion presentation given by Don Neal, a research scientist retired from the Forest Service.



*Kathy Purcell, teaching students how to listen and*

One student from Clovis East High School was awarded a scholarship to attend the California Range and Natural Resources Camp (“RangeCamp”) at Elkus Ranch in Half Moon Bay, June 15-20, 2008. Scholarships were donated by Resource Conservation Districts in Fresno and Madera Counties and the Madera County Fish and Game Fines Committee. (Please visit



*Jeff Hansen, NRCS Area Rangeland Management Specialist speaking about rangeland vegetation*

[www.casrm.org](http://www.casrm.org) for more information on RangeCamp)

The overall purpose of the workshop is for the students to learn that managing our natural resources such as soil, water, air, plants, and animals is critical in determining our present and future welfare. The workshop attendees of all ages were taught that conservation and wise use of these resources found on our croplands, grasslands, and woodlands are key elements in keeping our lands and society productive.

*~ Submit by Jenny Gabor, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Madera*



*Don Neal, US Forest Service (retired) and Neil McDougald, UCCE Rangeland Farm Advisor in Madera County*