



Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Conservation Districts

January – March 2006

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Applications due February 28

Looking for Greener Pastures?

Greener pastures may be right beneath your feet! If you have problems with soil erosion, animal waste, or other water quality or natural resource problems on your land, help is



available. The Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts are accepting requests for cost share funding, up to 75%, under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program through Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

The 1994 Kentucky General Assembly established this financial and technical assistance program under Kentucky Revised Statutes 262.115 and established that the program's funds be administered by local conservation districts and the Kentucky Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

Once an application is made, the appropriate technical agency and/or conservation district staff will visit your farm and to evaluate practices and complete the cost share application process.

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Campbell County study shows agriculture is stable

The Campbell County Farm Work Group was convened in June 2003 as an initiative of the Campbell County Conservation District. Farmland in Campbell County has steadily decreased over the past 60 years. Of the total 96,640 acres in Campbell County, there were 78,749 acres in farmland in 1940 held in 1,292 farms. By 1997, there were 45,108 acres in farmland, with 503 farms. Local concerns have been mounting about how to preserve the rural character of the county while maintaining an economically viable land base for those who wish to continue to farm.

The following concerns were expressed regarding farming and farmland in Campbell County:

- are we convinced that Agriculture is a viable industry in Campbell County;
- how would farmland preservation efforts be funded on a continuing basis;
- what ecosystem benefits, including those to mitigate the effects of land fragmentation, are potentially attributed to maintaining the county's farmland base;
- how does farmland, and the potential loss of farmland, affect the Ohio River and Licking River corridors for their flood prevention and wildlife habitat benefits?

Later in 2003, the Work Group was awarded a \$20,000 matching grant through the Kentucky Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Corporation, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, to explore farmland preservation options for Campbell County. Matching funds were provided by cash and in-kind support through the Conservation District and their partners: the Campbell Conservancy; Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission; Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service; Campbell County Cattle Association; and Campbell County Farm Bureau.

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Landscapes

Landscapes is a quarterly publication of the Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Conservation Districts, Kentucky - members of the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

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With Assistance From:
United States Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ed L. Thompson Jr., District Conservationist

Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet,
Division of Conservation
Linda Hunter, Area Field Representative



All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

Home Front

News from your Conservation District Office

Landscapes – We're updating our mailing list! Please contact our office if you have a change of address, or if you would like to be removed from the list. *Landscapes* is also available on our web sites, or by e-mail. E-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net, or call our offices.

Conservation District Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held at the conservation district offices and follow this schedule unless otherwise announced:

Boone County –the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Note change for February to Monday 27 February.

Campbell County –first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Kenton County –second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Planning – These cold winter days are a perfect time to develop or update your Agriculture Water Quality Plan! If you own 10 or more acres of land in agriculture or forestry production, you are required to have a plan to protect water resources from pollution. Call your county conservation district office now to schedule an appointment!

Dead Farm Animal Removal Assistance Program - Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County farmers are eligible to receive up to 75% reimbursement of the costs of dead farm animal removal from the farm, through grants from the Ky. Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program. The program is limited to private landowners. To participate, producers must call a licensed hauler within 24 hours of the animal death. Two in our area are: Griffin Industries, 859- 472-7361 (local call); and Shipley & Sons, 513-734-1818 (local call), or any Kentucky licensed hauler. Pay the hauler and turn in your receipt to your county conservation district. Current removal fees start at \$60 for a cow or a hog, \$85 for a horse. Sheep and goat removal prices vary. Reimbursement rates, for services after February 1, 2006, are: cows and hogs, \$ 45.00; horses, sheep and goats, \$ 63.75; or up to 75% of the total haul bill if several carcasses are removed in one haul. Contact your county conservation district, listed on this page.

Native Grass No-Till Seeder - The Boone County Conservation District, Ky. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Northern Ky. Chapter of Quail Unlimited have teamed up to help restore some of Kentucky's wildlife heritage and promote sound conservation practices to protect soil and water resources. A no-till seed drill with a native grass box is now available to landowners in Northern Kentucky. Establishing native grassland species is difficult due to the fluffy nature of the seed and requires specialized equipment to plant it in large areas. Native grasses and native grass mixtures that include forbs need to be planted between April 15 and June 30. Several state and federal agencies are available to help private landowners improve wildlife habitat on private land and apply conservation practices to farming operations. Cost share assistance may also be available. For information call Mark Jacobs at 859-586-7903.

Program helps farmers solve resource issues

(Continued from page one)

Practices eligible for funding through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program include:

- Vegetative Filter Strips
- Integrated Crop Management
- Pesticide Containment Facilities
- Sinkhole Protection
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Rotational Grazing System Establishment
- Water Well Protection
- Animal Waste Utilization
- Forest Land Erosion Control System
- Strip Intercropping System
- Stream Crossing
- Cropland Erosion Control Systems
- Pasture and Hayland Erosion Control
- Streambank Stabilization
- Agricultural Waste Control Systems
- Closure of Agricultural Waste Impoundment
- Riparian Area Protection

Applications must be made by Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

To apply, contact your conservation district office at: Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts, 6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington, KY 41005; Phone: 859-586-7903. Campbell County Conservation District, 8351 East Main St., Suite 104, Alexandria, KY 41001. Phone: 859-635-9587. Questions may also be directed to Kristin Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician at Kristin.Scott@ky.nacdnet.net

Before applying for cost share funds, farmers should be aware of these requirements.

1. Farmers must have an existing soil erosion or water quality problem on their property that needs to be corrected.
2. Farmers must have prepared a conservation plan, a compliance plan, a forest management or forest stewardship plan, or an agriculture water quality plan.
3. Priority will be given to animal waste related problems and agricultural district participants where pollution problems have been identified.
4. Once an application is approved, recipients have up to 12 months to implement the funded conservation practices. Extension will be granted for intervals of six (6) months with a maximum of two (2) extensions per approved application. After two extensions have been granted and expired, the application is void.
5. Practices receiving state cost share funds must be installed according to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications. Conservation practices that are approved and completed are subject to an engineering spot check by the technical agency for design standards and specifications.
6. Applicants shall agree to maintain approved, completed conservation practices according to the provisions defined in the Performance and Maintenance Agreement and the defined life span of the specific practice according to the technical agency's standards.
7. The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program provides funding up to a maximum of 75 percent of the actual cost of a practice, not to exceed \$7,500 or \$20,000, depending on the practice.
8. Applications compete on a statewide basis and are ranked according to how well the practice addresses statewide resource concerns.
9. The applications are rated and approved, based on local conservation district review, by the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, located at the Ky. Div. of Conservation in Frankfort.
10. Cost share practices are granted based on available funds.

Campbell Farm Study

(Continued from page one)

The Work Group was required to accomplish three tasks:

- a.) prepare an agricultural lands and services inventory to give a better picture of the status of agriculture in Campbell County, and identify classes of farmlands in the most need of protection;
- b.) develop an educational program for both farmers and the urban/suburban community regarding farmland preservation; and,
- c.) investigate techniques to finance a local farm protection program.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) was contracted to perform a Cost of Community Services Study and Agricultural Industry Profile to determine the contribution that agriculture makes to the overall economy of the county. AFT also investigated techniques to finance a local program to protect farmland.

The AFT study found that agriculture in Campbell County, despite changes in tobacco production and increased development of land, shows stability and signs of growth. The report notes, "Farmers appear to be adapting to change and, with proper support and investment, prospects look good for continued diversification and growth, especially in industries such as cattle and calves, and nursery and greenhouse production." There were 581 farms reported in the 2002 U. S. Census of Agriculture with 50,383 acres in farmland, or 49 percent of the total land area.

The Cost of Community Services study analyzes revenues and expenditures for the county for fiscal year 2003 – 2004. The study looked at how much money was generated by three categories of land use – residential, commercial/industrial, and farmland properties - and how much that category required in public services (e.g. public safety, government administration, schools, courts, etc.).

The study found that for each \$1 of revenue received from residential properties in Campbell County that year, \$1.21 was spent providing services to those properties. For each \$1 from commercial/industrial land, 30 cents was spent; and for each \$1 received from farmland, 38 cents was spent providing services. It is important to note that 79 percent of the revenue was generated by residential properties, 20 percent by commercial/industrial, and 1 percent by farmland. Of the total expenditures, 94 percent went to provide services for residential land use compared with 6 percent for commercial/industrial uses and less than 1 percent for farmland.

The Farm Work Group conducted a survey of agricultural landowners and county teens. A total of 1,307 surveys

were mailed to owners of land who are listed with the Conservation District as being engaged in agricultural production. Of the 1,307 surveys distributed, 472 were returned (36%), a high rate of return for a mail survey. The survey included landowners in control of 18,950 acres of land, or 38% of the total acres in agricultural production.

The survey asked questions to gain an understanding of attitudes toward agriculture in the county. In general, 65% of those responding to the survey want their land to stay in agricultural production for the foreseeable future, about 20 – 30 years. About 32% would like to keep their land in agriculture even after they no longer own it, and 21% are willing to explore options for protecting their land for the future. Approximately 65% of landowners indicate that farmland protection should be considered with the provision that it is voluntary. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the landowners would consider options for protecting their land if tax benefits were available and local tax relief would be considered an incentive.

Three groups of teens were surveyed to look at attitudes of youth toward agriculture as a career, and the value of farmland. A total of 346 surveys were completed by the following groups: Campbell County Extension Service – 4-H Horse Club and Livestock Club; Campbell County High School Future Farmers of America Club; and, Bishop Brossert High School students in grades 9 – 12.

Sixty percent (60%) of the students reported that their grandparents and 47 % of their parents had lived on a farm. Only 28 % of the students reported that they lived on a farm. Forty-five percent (45 %) of the students plan to have a career in agriculture. Of those, only 4.6% plan to farm full-time; 8.2% part-time; and 24.1% plan to farm part-time and hold a full-time job off the farm. The remaining 8.2% plan to work in the agricultural industry, but not on a farm.

In general, students listed loss of land to subdivisions, population growth, and taxes as the hindrances to farming in Campbell County. They listed family and friends, nice people and communities, and the land, as things that would keep them here. Almost all of the students, 346 out of 362 surveyed, answered the question, "Is it important to protect and/or preserve farmland in Campbell County?" Of these, 77% said it was important to protect and/or preserve farmland in Campbell County. Only 5% said it was not important and 18% had no opinion.

The study was released in September and a strategic planning session was held in November to outline how to best utilize the information gathered in the study. For more information on the study contact the Campbell County Conservation District at 859-635-9587.

Laws of the Land

News about legislation and programs that may affect you!

Legislation currently under consideration by the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate.

How to contact your legislators: Call the Legislator Message line at 1-800-372-7181 to leave a message for your legislator. **To track a bill**, call the Bill Status Line at 1-866-301-9004 or visit www.lrc.state.ky.us. From the Web site, click "Legislation and Legislative Record". Bills can be found by topic or number. (Source: Kentucky Legislative Research Commission.)

House Bill 271 would amend KRS 262.850, **The Agricultural District and Conservation Act**, to define "Agricultural land", "Agriculture", "Horticulture", "Aquaculture", "Livestock", and "Poultry"; include local Comprehensive Plans and 401 Facilities Plans when considering the formation of an agricultural district; require agricultural land to be used for agriculture for at least one year before being eligible to be in an agricultural district; require agricultural districts of less than 10 acres to have annual reviews and to comply with any necessary conservation plans; require the board to inform all members of agricultural districts that they must comply with KRS Chapter 132 in order to get an agricultural assessment on their property; and make technical corrections to the statute. The changes would also allow land of at least five contiguous acres that is used for agriculture to be included in an agricultural district. Current Status: House Agriculture and Small Business - Feb 2- 1st reading.

House Bill 361 would decrease the number of **petitioner signatures required for soil and water conservation district supervisor**, city officer, justice of the peace, magistrate, constable, and board of education member to two (2) signatures. Conservation district supervisor petitions currently require 25 signatures. It would also remove the requirement that petitioners submit a Social Security number and specify that the date a petitioner signs must be included. Current status: House - Feb 2-posted for passage in the Regular Orders of the Day for Fri., Feb. 3.

House Joint Resolution 47 urges the Kentucky Congressional Delegation to support legislation calling for the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to the east, reflecting **Big Bone Lick State Park**, along with Louisville, as being one of the bases for the formation and one of the original sites of the expedition's beginning. Current Status: Jan 27-to Senate Economic Development, Tourism & Labor.

House Bill 262 would make changes in **flood plain management** by amending KRS 151.230. The bill notes, "Local governments, including those containing a city of

the first class, shall have the authority to issue building permits to landowners whose property lies within a special flood hazard area, as shown on the appropriate flood insurance rate map, if the local government has or has access to engineering staff with sufficient expertise to meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program...." The bill also requires the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet to abide by local flood hazard area building permit provisions. Current Status: Jan 9-to Local Government (H)

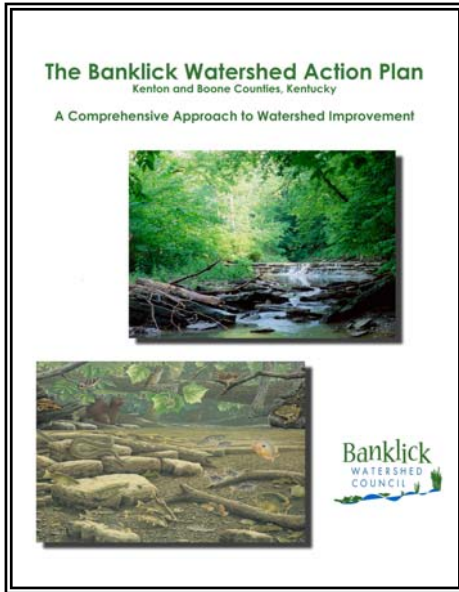
House Bill 392, relating to **damage caused by wildlife and hunters**, would create a new section of KRS Chapter 150 to allow counties to enact an ordinance creating "a damage stamp program" to generate funds to compensate for damage to motor vehicles, and to crops, fruit trees, commercially grown Christmas trees, nursery stock, livestock, colonies of bees, bee equipment and appliances, or farm equipment, that is caused by deer, elk, or bear, or by hunters and that persons suffering loss or damage caused by such wildlife or by hunters should receive compensation for damage to their property. The bill proposes a \$5 damage stamp on all hunting licenses of persons hunting in a county with a damage stamp program. Current Status: House Natural Resources and Environment, Jan 19.

House Bill 145 would amend KRS 224.50-868 to extend the **waste tire fee** of \$1 until July 31, 2010; amend KRS 224.50-872 to require the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet to report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2010, on the effectiveness of the waste tire program and to make changes to conform. Current status: Jan 31-to Appropriations and Revenue (S).

House Concurrent Resolution 120 would create a **Land Stewardship and Conservation taskforce** to study strategies for the protection of natural areas, farmlands, habitats, and forests and produce recommendations for a comprehensive land stewardship and conservation program, by June 30, 2007, to be called the "Conserve Kentucky" program. Current Status: Jan 27-to House Natural Resources and Environment

Banklick Watershed Council releases action plan

The Banklick Watershed covers about 58 square miles, the majority of which lie in Kenton County with a few acres in Boone County. The Banklick Watershed, which includes Doe Run Lake and Dam, drains into the Licking River about four miles upstream of Covington and the Ohio River. The watershed has been of interest and concern for many years, mainly due to flooding of Banklick Creek and persistent problems with sewage and sediment.



The Banklick Watershed Council was formed in March 2002 with the goals of improving and protecting the physical, chemical and biological integrity of Banklick Creek, its tributaries, and watersheds. The Council hopes to foster public enjoyment, health and pride in the Banklick watershed, and sponsored their first public stakeholder meeting in July 2002. Out of that grew four main goals: clean the water, reduce flooding, restore the banks, and honor the heritage.

An action plan for the watershed was released in November 2005 at public meeting in Covington. That plan provides an overview of the watershed and cites the physical features of the area, documented pollution problems, and initiatives underway to remedy those problems. For a copy of the action plan, or for more information, contact the Banklick Watershed Council at 927 Forest Avenue, Covington, KY 41016; phone, 859-380-2528; e-mail, info@banklick.org; or visit their web site at www.banklick.org.

Doe Run Lake and Dam

The Doe Run Lake flood control project was part of a larger watershed plan, the Banklick Creek Watershed project for Boone and Kenton Counties, initiated in the late 1960's. The final proposal for the project was submitted to the USDA Soil Conservation Service in August 1972 for federal funding under Public Law 566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

The initial proposal included one flood control structure, Doe Run Dam, and three multiple purpose structures throughout the watershed that would provide flood control as well as public recreation such as fishing and boating. The project was due to be installed over a period of five years, at a total cost of \$4,930,200 of which \$2,856,850 was to come from PL 566 money. The remainder of the money had to be raised from local funds.

Doe Run Dam was the only structure built of the four proposed. It retards the waters of Bullock Pen Creek and Doe Run Creek. Project sponsors were the Kenton County Fiscal Court, Kenton County Conservation District, Boone County Conservation District, and USDA Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service), with the Soil Conservation Service providing the technical design and construction oversight.

Ground was broken for the project in February 1976, and the dedication was held in October 1981. In the 1990's care of Doe Run Dam and lake was turned over to the Kenton County Fiscal Court, and it has since become a part of the county park system.



Doe Run Lake and Dam, circa 1990. Conservation District staff photo.

The theme for Stewardship Week 2006 is Water Wise

Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 30 – May 7, 2006, is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored the national Soil and Water Stewardship Week program. The concept of stewardship involves personal and social responsibility. We have a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely. Sometimes the scope of the world's problems seems beyond the reach of one person. And sometimes we are tempted to believe that large agencies and organizations will take care of this important work, without our help.

The theme this year is Water Wise. Water is vital to our life. Water makes up more than 60% of our body, and about 75% of our brain. Water helps make possible our every movement, thought, and feeling. All our food and most other products we use require water. It takes about 4,000 gallons of water to grow a bushel of corn, and about 11,000 gallons for a bushel of wheat. We sometimes take water for granted. But this precious resource may become increasingly scarce as we place more demands on fresh water supplies. To ensure future water supplies, we need to learn about water resources, and plan to use them carefully.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week helps reminds us of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When people work together with their local conservation district, that power grows and grows. Join us as we help share with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and children the very important reasons we all need to be "Water Wise." For more information, or materials to celebrate Soil and Water Stewardship Week, contact NACD at 1-800-825-5547, ext. 3; or visit the web site at www.nacdnet.org and click on Educational Resources or NACD Store.

You can take action every day to help conserve resources and improve the environment. Even small changes in your lifestyle can produce big results. Here are some simple ways to act as a good steward of the earth's resources:

Conserve Energy

Turn off lights when not in use.
Plan car trips carefully to save gas.
Walk or ride a bike instead of taking short car trips.
Improve your home's insulation.
Upgrade your heating and cooling for more efficiency.
Recycle glass, paper, metal, and plastic.

Save Water

Take a shower instead of a bath.
Don't run water while brushing teeth.
Check for leaky faucets and fix them.
Put trash where it belongs.
Don't cut lawns too short.
Plant native plants that don't require watering.
Dispose of hazardous wastes properly.

Plant a garden to see how plants grow

Learn about farms and farming around you



Conserve Soil

Minimize your use of pesticides and fertilizers and always follow directions.
Plant grass or other ground cover on bare soil.
Build a compost pile to make new soil from leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen refuse.
Put mulch around trees and bushes.

Protect Native Plants and Wildlife

Set up a bird bath.
Plant a butterfly garden.
Feed wild birds with plants and feeders.
Learn about wildlife and wild plants in your area.
Plant native plants in your yard or park to provide food and homes for wildlife.

Visit Parks and Wildlife Preserves

Plant a Tree

Conservation Calendar

Envirothon 2006, Topics are soils, forestry, water, wildlife, and Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate. Sponsored nationally by Cannon, this competitive, problem-solving, natural resources experience is for students in grades 9 - 12. School teams must be registered by **Feb. 27**. For information, www.envirothon.org

Wed., Feb. 22, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Electronic Scrap workshop, General Butler State Park, Carrollton. Recycling and management techniques for high-volume generators of electronic scrap. (Open to individuals) Free. Registration required to Melinda.Meredith@ky.gov or call the Div. of Waste Management, 502-564-6716, ext. 333.

Tues., Feb. 28 - Hunting & Fishing Licenses expire Feb 28. All hunters born on or after Jan.1, 1975, must have completed a hunter education course. Purchase license by phone, call toll free 1-877-KYTAG-01 (877-598-2401), at a local license agent (listing available online or by calling above number), or online at www.fw.ky.gov (some restrictions apply).

Wed., Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Watershed-Based Planning Workshop, Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington. Geared for public agency staff, watershed organizations, and others developing or implementing watershed-based plans. Fee \$60. Kentucky Waterways Alliance, 107 E. Court Street, Greensburg, KY 42743. For information, call 270-932-2884 or visit www.KWAlliance.org

Thurs., Mar. 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Kentucky Water Resources Annual Symposium, Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington. Features current research and programs in water issues. Fee \$60. Information, contact Geaunita Caylor, 859-257-2820 or e-mail: gcaylor@enr.uky.edu

Boone, Campbell & Kenton County Conservation Districts
6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005

Wed., Mar. 1 - College Scholarships applications due. Two \$1000 statewide scholarships are offered by the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary. Students must be pursuing an area of study related to conservation. Contact your conservation district listed on page two.

Wed., Mar. 1 - Applications for Reading the River, June 18 - 23, 2006 begin to be reviewed. Weeklong learning experience for high school teachers in the Big & Little Sandy and Licking River Watersheds. Sponsored by No. Kentucky University and Morehead State University. For information, contact Dr. Yvonne Meichtry, 859-572-6380 or e-mail: meichtryy@nku.edu.

Wed., Mar. 22, 5 - 6 p.m., Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit Seminar, Home Builders Assoc. Conference Center, 209 Grandview Dr., Ft. Mitchell. Historic property owners, rehab contractors, and others will benefit from this workshop to explain tax credits for certified rehabilitation projects. No fee, but reservations are required. Call 859-331-9500 or e-mail: karenl@hbanky.com.

Sat., Mar. 25, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Ohio River Valley Woodland & Wildlife Workshop, Diamond Oaks Career Center, Cincinnati, OH. Features sessions on woodland and wildlife management. Keynote speaker, Bruce Ferguson, Union, KY. Includes sessions for new woodland owners. Registration fee \$25 to Historic Hoosier Hills RC & D, P O Box 407, Versailles, IN 47042 or <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu> Information, Ohio State University Extension, 513-946-8993.

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