



Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts
January — February 2007 ***VOL. XXII, NO. 1***

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 Wednesday, February 28, 2007.



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 to evaluate practices and complete the cost share application process.

To apply, contact Kristin Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician at Kristin.Scott@ky.nacdnet.net or call 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

(Continued on page six.)

Your Place in a Growing Community

Thurs. Feb. 22, 2007

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kenton County Public Library
 401 Kenton Lands Road, Erlanger, KY

Our second session in this series will take us Beyond Landscaping, to look at conservation best management practices for your property. Whether you have a ½ -acre lot or 40 acres, there are many things you can do to improve and protect your land and to make a difference in your community. We'll take a look at rain barrels and rain gardens for storm water control, using landscaping to improve water quality and cut utility bills, and managing invasive species on your property.

Our third session set for Thurs., March 22, 6:30 p.m., also at the Erlanger Branch library, will explore the condition of local waterways and watersheds and the influence of land use on water quality. Our last session on Saturday morning, April 28, will take us out to explore some of our neighborhoods to see what impacts we are having on our community.

For more information, contact Mark Jacobs, E-mail: mark.jacobs@ky.nacdnet.net or phone 859-586-7903.

Inside

Home Front	Page 2
Meet the board members.....	Page 3
Northern Ky. Horse Network meetings.....	Page 5
Opportunities for students, teachers.....	Page 7
Conservation Calendar.....	Back Page

Landscapes

Landscapes is a quarterly publication of the Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties 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 added to or removed from the list. *Landscapes* is also available on our web sites. 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 26 February.

Campbell County –first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Nov. - March, and 7:30 p.m., April - Oct.

NRCS Service Area Changes - Effective October 1, 2006, Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Ed L. Thompson was appointed Acting District Conservationist for Grant County. This is in addition to his responsibilities as District Conservationist for Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties.

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 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 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.

Conservation Boards Welcome New Members

Kenton County

Kenton County Conservation District welcomes one new board member, James Kreissl of Villa Hills, as a result of the November election. Marc Hult, Covington, and John Heist, Erlanger, were re-elected to the Kenton County District board. Janet Scanlon did not seek re-election.

Until his retirement in January, 2001, Mr. Kreissl was the US Environmental Protection Agency's principal technical expert for small community wastewater collection, treatment and reuse systems and onsite wastewater systems. Since leaving the agency, he has performed several consulting assignments, and has been appointed to the National Capacity Development Project Steering Committee and the Water Environment Research Foundations' Decentralized Research Advisory Council.



James Kreissl

Mr. Kreissl is an affiliate of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse/NESC, leader of the Water Environment Federations' task force to update their alternative sewers manual of practice, and chair of their Small Communities Committee. He is also the author of several USEPA reports designed to promote effective management of decentralized wastewater systems. He holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Marquette University, and a Master of Science degree in Sanitary Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, where he also completed doctorate level work.

Jim hopes to use his expertise to help the Northern Kentucky area accommodate population growth with a minimal impact on the environment. He and his wife, Susan, have two daughters, Laura and Rebecca, and three grandchildren. Jim enjoys sports and reading, and coached soccer for a number of years.

Campbell County

Three incumbent board members ran without opposition in the Campbell County election. Sanford Record, Dennis Walter, and Ken McCormick were re-elected to serve a four-year term from January 2007 - December 2010.

Boone County

The Boone County Conservation District board welcomes two new members, Kenneth Robert Hall and Thomas Comte. Former board members Edward D. Moore and Mike Keller chose not to seek re-election. Monty Taylor, who was appointed to the board in July to fill an unexpired term, was re-elected. One position remained open and was filled by appointment in January through the Kentucky Soil and Water Commission.

Rob Hall was elected to the board in November. He is the Supervisor of Computer Operations/Deputy Property Valuation Administrator for Campbell County. Mr. Hall holds a Bachelor of Science from Northern Kentucky University in Psychology and Sociology and has done post-baccalaureate work in Psychology. Prior to taking the position with Campbell County, he worked for the Hamilton County Child Support Agency.



Rob Hall

Mr. Hall, a resident of Florence, sought election to the board because he wanted to become more active in the community and be of service to the county. His hobbies include reading, writing fiction, hiking and swimming.



Tom Comte

Tom Comte, Burlington, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Boone County board. He lives on 20 acres on Woolper Creek. His interest in the conservation district board was sparked by working with district and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff on wildlife habitat improvement projects on his property. Mr. Comte is retired from Northern

Kentucky University where he served as Dean of the College of Business before retiring in 2001. He holds a Doctorate in Management from the University of Missouri.

Mr. Comte has a background in manufacturing and strategic planning and taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York before coming to Kentucky. While in New York, he raised Holstien replacement stock for dairy herds. He is a native of California and served in the U. S. Navy for four years.

Mr. Comte and his wife, Chris, an artist and former computer science instructor, have two children. Jules is a police officer in Campbell County and Rachel works in marketing in Cincinnati. He and Chris are volunteers with the Licking River Watershed Watch and monitor Woolper Creek. Hiking, camping and traveling are the family's main hobbies.

Kentucky's Soil - It's Worth Protecting

It was late afternoon on Dec. 11, 2006. I was watching a KET program about the Great Depression (1929-1939), the Dust Bowl, and the formation of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 1933, the SCS was organized as a temporary agency under the Department of the Interior. The response was so great to restore all lands back to productive lands that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order in 1935 creating the SCS as a permanent agency under the Department of Agriculture.

The SCS' first job was to take aerial photographs of all the affected areas. All agencies worked together for the good of the nation to protect and restore all of our natural resources. Each state wanted local control of programs and conservation districts in each state were authorized by the federal government. In Kentucky, districts were formed along county boundaries (one county has two districts) under Kentucky Revised Statute 262. Five people were elected to represent the people of each district. This was changed in the 1970's to allow seven people to be elected to represent each county and develop local programs for local needs.

Later that day, after watching the KET special, I met with the other supervisors and staff of the Campbell County Conservation District to judge entries in the annual Conservation Writing and Art Contests. How fitting that our topic was "Kentucky's Soil - It's Worth Protecting."

The winning posters and essays will be on display at our district's awards banquet on Thurs., March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Campbell County High School. All winning students, their parents, teachers and other guests will attend. The sponsors of our state-wide contest are the Ky. Association of Conservation Districts, Ky. Farm Bureau Federation, Ky. Farm Bureau Insurance Company, Ky. Div. of Conservation, Ky. Div. of Forestry, Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Ky. Dept. Of Education, Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Ky. Dept. of Libraries and Archives, Ky. Division of Water, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Thank you to the sponsors, and teachers, who help us learn the lessons of the past to protect the future.

*Sanford Record
Land Use Committee Chairman
Campbell County Conservation District*

New NRCS Leadership Named for Kentucky

Michael D. Hubbs assumed his duties as state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky on November 26, 2006. Mr. Hubbs comes to Kentucky from the NRCS national headquarters in Washington, DC, where he served as NRCS' national agronomist and national nutrient management specialist since July 2004.



Michael D. Hubbs

He graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Sciences and earned a Master of Agriculture in Agronomy from Auburn University, Alabama. He began his career in 1977 with the former Soil Conservation Service, now NRCS, as a soil conservationist in Cleveland, Tennessee. He served in several positions in Tennessee, including area resource conservationist for middle Tennessee and state agronomist for Tennessee. He moved to Auburn, Alabama, to serve as an agronomist at the Soil Quality Institute from 1996 to 2004.

Mr. Hubbs has a variety of experience in agriculture and conservation, ranging from dairy, beef, poultry, and tobacco as well as corn, soybeans, wheat, grain crops, vegetables, cotton, and swine operations. Internationally, Mr. Hubbs served in Azerbaijan and Ukraine where he presented to and trained agricultural and academia leaders on no-till management systems and soil quality.

Mr. Hubbs is married and has one son. He is an active Sunday school teacher in his church and his avocations include hiking, weight lifting, and karate.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Mr. Hubbs to Kentucky.

The state conservationist position was held by the late David Sawyer from March 1997 until November 2006. Mr. Sawyer passed away January 17, 2007 after battling kidney disease for several years and cancer for the past 15 months.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Sawyer, a champion for conservation in Kentucky.

Northern Kentucky Horse Network sets meetings

A group of Northern Kentucky horse owners is asking fellow horse lovers to get together to network and to identify and address equine issues in the region during three kick-off meetings at the Cooperative Extension Service offices, Mon., Feb. 19, Tues., Feb. 27 and Thurs., Mar. 8.

There will be no admission charge, but there will be free refreshments and horse-related door prizes. The mission of the newly formed Northern Kentucky Horse Network is "to enrich our horse industry and community, and to promote, protect and educate" horse owners and their neighbors.

The group grew out of an effort by the Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts and the Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Cooperative Extension Services and their partners to help horse farm owners better manage environmental issues. Seeing a myriad of growing issues facing horse owners in the region, the group decided to expand to address them.

Anna Zinkhon, owner of Misty Ridge Stables in Melbourne, has been involved from the start and was recently elected the group's president. "Northern Kentucky Horse Network is about sharing knowledge," she says. "We hope to attract everyone to the group who has an interest in horses."

While most horse organizations focus on a specific riding style or horse breed, the Northern Kentucky Horse Network is an umbrella organization to allow horse owners of all interests and ability levels to keep up with current equine issues, share information, work to reduce horse mistreatment, promote agri-tourism and encourage sound farm management, as well as socialize with other horse lovers.

"We welcome amateurs and professionals, horse hobbyists, local riding clubs, veterinarians, farriers, and businesses with an interest in equine education, promoting and protecting horses and the horse industry," says Linda Bray-Schafer of Grant's Lick, one of the founding members and secretary of the organization.

The board and officers come from the three Northern Kentucky counties, but the group plans to expand to include Pendleton, Grant, Owen, Carroll, Gallatin and Bracken counties. Other officers are Jennifer Warner, vice president, Idlewild; and David Rust, treasurer, Cold Spring. Board directors are: Judy Robin, Walton; Jason Burcham D. V. M., Burlington; Tracy Spenlau, Ryland Heights; Dana Toebben, Villa Hills; and Richard

Lockhart, Morning View.

For more information contact Anna Zinkhon, Phone: 859-781-5779 or E-mail: anna.zinkhon@fuse.net or Jennifer Warner, Phone 859-586-0199 or E-mail: jen@firstfarminn.com.

The meetings are set for:

Monday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.
Campbell County Environmental Education Center
1 mile east of US 27 on 824 or Race Track Road.
(part of A.J. Jolly Park)

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Kenton County Extension Service
10990 Marshall Road, Covington
(near the Kenton County Fairgrounds)

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Boone County Extension Service
6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington
(intersection of Camp Ernst Road and 18)

Call or E-mail your information to be included in the mailing and email lists:

Don Sorrell, Campbell County Extension Agent
3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076
E-mail: dsorrell@uky.edu Phone: 859-572-2600

Jerry Brown, Boone County Extension Agent
6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington, KY 41005
E-mail: gdbrown@uky.edu Phone: 859-586-6101

Dan Allen, Kenton County Extension Agent
10990 Marshall Road, Covington, KY 41015
E-mail: daniel.allen@uky.edu Phone: 859-356-3155



Need a Market for Your Food Products?

If you are a food producer looking for new markets, you will want to contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and fill out a short survey to get started. After you complete the survey, you will be added to a listing to receive free newsletters, opportunity updates, and more.

Contact Sara Williamson, 502-564-4983 or E-mail: sara.williamson@ky.gov. The survey can also be found on the KDA Web site at www.kyagr.com.

Cost Share Practices

(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

**Hurry! Don't be left behind!
Applications must be made by
Wed., February 28, 2007.**



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

Farmers must have an existing soil erosion or water quality problem on their property that needs to be corrected.

Farmers must have prepared a conservation plan, a compliance plan, a forest management or forest stewardship plan, or an agriculture water quality plan.

Priority will be given to animal waste related problems and agricultural district participants where pollution problems have been identified.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Applications compete on a statewide basis and are ranked according to how well the practice addresses statewide resource concerns.

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.

Cost share practices are granted based on available funds.

The Economic Value of Habitat

The Southeast Watershed Forum's most recent report, *From Open Spaces to Wild Places: the Economic Value of Habitat Protection to Your Community*, is now available. The 24-page report details the many varieties habitats and natural systems and their importance to our region. All of this is illustrated through several inspirational case studies of how individuals in the Southeast have been able to enhance growth and development in their community while conserving resources and protecting habitat.

This publication is a valuable resource on a local or regional scale for anyone, including watershed groups, local officials, planning agencies, resource agencies and land trusts, who is concerned with land-use practices and development policies in the Southeast. Copies of the report are available, free of charge, by contacting the Southeast Watershed Forum office at E-mail: kd@southeastwaterforum.org or by Phone: 615-627-1310. You may download individual chapters of the report from the website www.southeastwaterforum.org.

Envirothon Teams Register by Feb. 28

Envirothon is a competitive, problem-solving, natural resources experience for students in grades 9 through 12. The event is competitive, but education is the bottom line. With the support of natural resource professionals, students are trained in the ways that real life environmental problems are solved.

Teams of five students are tested on their knowledge of Kentucky's natural resources at five "in the field" test stations. Each station covers a separate topic addressing soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and a current environmental issue. The current issue for this year is alternative renewable energy. Through hands-on experiments, analysis, and use of critical thinking skills, the teams answer a set of questions at each station.

The *Envirothon* is sponsored nationally by Canon, with state winners progressing to national competition at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York, this summer. Prizes, including the national prize of \$25,000 in scholarships, are awarded at all levels of competition. The East Regional Ky. competition will be Sat., April 21 at Eastern Kentucky University and the state competition will be May 15 - 16 at the Ky. Leadership Center in Jabez.

The local Conservation Districts offer both financial and instructional assistance for school teams. School teams must be registered with their conservation district by **Feb. 28, 2007**. Call now to review the materials for the contest.

Reward Offered for Outstanding Conservation Teachers!

Nominations will be accepted until **May 1, 2007**, for the Conservation Education Teacher of the Year. There have been two Kentucky state winners from Northern Kentucky in the past 12 years, so don't wait to be nominated, turn yourself in! The contest is open to all full-time educators of grades K - 12 who have implemented innovative soil and water conservation activities for reaching students and other audiences.

The contest is sponsored locally by your county Conservation District, in cooperation with the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Both elementary (K-6) and secondary (7-12) teachers are honored at the county and state levels. The county winner is submitted to state competition and the state winner is submitted for consideration in the regional and national contests.

For more information or to submit your application, contact your county conservation district. Contact information is listed on page two of this newsletter.

Be a Part of Conservation's Power Stewardship Week April 29 - May 6

Stewardship Week is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored the national 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. By doing this we can achieve material and spiritual growth in our own lives, and leave a rich legacy for future generations.

Everyone wants to help improve the world. But 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.

Stewardship Week helps remind 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. This year the focus is on Conservation's Power: conservation at home; renewable and non-renewable resources; solar, wind, alternative fuel sources; and the energy saved by no-till farming methods. For more information, contact NACD at 202-547-6223, or visit www.nacdnet.org.

Conservation Calendar

Thurs., Feb. 22, March 8 & 22, and April 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Horse College, Durr Extension Center, Kenton County. Designed for anyone who owns or is involved with horses. Classes, taught by University of Kentucky Equine Specialist Dr. Robert Coleman, include: feeding; health care; hoof care; conformation; management of the recreation horse. Call the Kenton Co. Extension Center to register, Phone: 859-365-3155.

Thurs., Feb. 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Your Place in a Growing Community: Beyond Landscaping. Kenton County Library, Erlanger. Presented by the Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts. See article on page one of this newsletter.

Sat., Feb. 24, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Licking River Watershed Watch Conference. Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. Topics include a review of monitoring data and Growth Readiness. Contact Tim Guilfoyle at Phone 859-426-1978 or E-mail: tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org.

A Woodland Management Seminar for Landowners Saturday, March 3, 2007, at Sharon Woods Centre from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This seminar will cover the threat of Emerald Ash Borer, Owner Liability, Protecting the Environment and Natural Resources During Timber Harvest, Chain Saw Safety,

Using a Service Forester vs. a Consultant, Habitat Diversity, How to become a Certified Tree Farmer , and CAUV vs. Ohio Forestry Tax Law. Cost - \$17.00. Includes all materials and lunch. For more information and registration, call 513-772-7645.

Fri., March 9, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Sat., March 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Community Development Through Urban Forestry, Southgate Community Center, Southgate, KY. Second Annual Statewide Park and Tree Board Seminar. Learn about ordinance development, networking opportunities, and how to be more effective in achieving your goals. Sat. sessions include Trees as a Tool for Community Development and Finding Volunteers. Free. Contact Joyce F. Hamberg, Phone: 859-344-3338; or E-mail: joyce.hamburg@thomasmore.edu.

Thurs., March 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Your Place in a Growing Community. Kenton County Library, Erlanger. Presented by the Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts. See article on page one of this newsletter.

Mon., March 26, Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute Annual Symposium. Marriott's Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington. Contact James Kipp, Phone 859-257-1832 or E-mail: kipp@uky.edu.

**Boone, Campbell & Kenton Counties
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