



# Landscapes

## ***Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts*** *January - March 2009*

***VOL. XXIII, NO. 1***

Campbell County Cooperator of the Year

### **Bakers carry on farm tradition**

Lee Baker says that you can't find a better place to raise kids than on a farm. He should know. Lee is one of four children raised on the family farm in Grant's Lick. Lee, and his father, Allen, were named the 2009 Campbell



From left are: Ed Thompson Jr, NRCS District Conservationist; Alyssa Baker; Mrs. Allen (Judy) Baker; Ashley Baker, Lee Baker, and Mrs. Lee (Judy) Baker.

County Conservation District Cooperators of the Year. This district award is a part of the National Association of Conservation Districts' recognition program. Lee and Allen were nominated for the award by the Campbell County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service for their lifelong stewardship of the land in their care.

Farming is a tradition in the Baker family. Allen's grandfather, Nicholas Weckbach, started a dairy in Grant's Lick in 1907. His father, Leroy, farmed there, too. Allen said he has been farming since he was old enough to walk. While he was a teenager, he

drove a milk truck before and after school in addition to his chores on the farm. He also worked as a foundry foreman for Siemens in Norwood, Ohio, for 43 years.

Allen and Judy married in 1958. Judy was one of seven children the Schweitzers raised on a dairy farm on John's Hill Road in Cold Spring. The farm was purchased by Northern Kentucky University in 1967 for part of I-275 and university expansion. The Schweitzer's dairy was known for their registered Brown Swiss cattle and the dairy barn can still be seen close to the university. The Schweitzers moved to Ohio where Judy's brother still farms. Allen and Judy moved to his parent's farm after they married. They purchased the farm in 1982, and that same year built the silo and tobacco barn. They rented additional ground for corn for about 20 years until that farm was developed for houses. After milking for

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### **Apply for Cost Share by April 15**

The Kentucky Division of Conservation announced on March 10 that applications for the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program would be accepted March 16, 2009 through April 15, 2009.

The cost share program was started in 1994 by the Ky. General Assembly to help agricultural operations protect the soil and water resources of the Commonwealth. This program provides annual cost share funds to be administered by conservation districts with priority given to animal waste related problems and agricultural district participants where pollution problems have been identified.

Funding for this program comes from the Kentucky Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. Funding for practices will be approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the Kentucky Division of Conservation, located in Frankfort, based on an established statewide ranking system. The applications will be ranked according to the criteria established, which gives a high priority to addressing animal waste problems, landowners in Agricultural Districts and applicants who have their Agriculture Water Quality Plans on file with their county conservation district.

To apply, contact your county conservation district, listed on page two.

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# Landscapes

*Landscapes* is a 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 Energy and Environment Cabinet  
Department for Natural Resources  
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** – Please let us know if you have a change of address, or if you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, e-mail: [mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net](mailto:mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net), or call our offices. *Landscapes* is also available in color on our web sites. *Mary Kathryn Dickerson, Editor*

## Conservation District Board meetings

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

**Boone County:** third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. When a Federal holiday falls on the third Monday of the month, the meeting is generally moved to the fourth Monday.

**Campbell County:** April - October, first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., and November - March, first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**Kenton County:** first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

## Conservation District Office Hours

**Boone and Kenton counties:** 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

**Campbell County:** 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

## Conservation Districts welcome new board members

The November election brought changes to the Boone and Kenton County Conservation District boards. Those elected were:

- Boone County: Rose Bunger, Debra Franks, Rick Soper, and James B. Walton.
- Kenton County: Gailen Bridges, Margaret "Peggy" Kelly, Heather Mayfield, and Mackey McNeill.
- Campbell County: Alan Ahrman, Gene Dobbs, Ron McCormick, and Larry Varney.

Look for their profiles in the April-June issue of *Landscapes*.

## Conservation Equipment for Rent

Don't forget that the Conservation Districts have equipment for rent. Equipment includes a tree planter, native warm-season grass planter, lime spreader (Campbell County only), sprayers, tree planting bars, and other tree planting equipment. For more information call the conservation district offices or visit our web sites (see page 2 for contact information).

## With Sympathy -



The Conservation Districts extend their sympathy to the family of **Paul Kahmann** of Florence. Mr. Kahmann, 77, a former Boone County Conservation District board member, passed away Wed., Feb. 18, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Sarah. Mr. Kahmann was a builder and earlier in life, farmed. He served as an elected official of the Boone County Conservation District Board from Sept. 1979 - December 1990 and February 1992 - Dec. 2000. Mr. Kahmann served as chairman, vice chairman, and chair of the district's education committee for many of those years. He was very active in many functions of the board and will be remembered by his conservation family for his dedication to carrying out his duties to the people of Boone County.

# Baker Farms

(Continued from page 1)

over 33 years, the Bakers converted from Holstein dairy cows to Black Angus and sold feeder steers and heifers. The Bakers raise cattle, corn and hay on their 52-acre farm. Until about five years ago, they raised tobacco. Allen said that using float beds to start plants was the biggest improvement in raising tobacco that he ever saw.

The Baker farm is one of the landmarks of the Grant's Lick community, easily recognized by the white fences along US 27. Having cattle on both sides of US 27 is a danger and a few years ago they decided to put up a sturdy, good-looking fence, but have had to move it twice due to the highway expansion.

Allen and Judy have been married for 51 years. Judy said that they have always worked together in everything. "If you like what you're doing, it's not really work," she added. They have four children, Lee of Butler, Barry of Grant's Lick, Cindy of Maysville and Debbie of Mentor. They also have seven grandchildren. The farm continues to be operated by Allen, Judy, and Barry, who also started a business he runs from home in addition to farming.

Lee said that like his dad, he started farming early in life. He got on the tractor when he was about nine years old and hasn't been off of one since. Lee went to Campbell County High School and attended Northern Kentucky University for a year where he studied general business administration. He went to work for Ameristop, and bought part ownership in the Ameristop in Falmouth. His mother helped out at the store for 11 years. Lee married his best-friend's sister Judy in 1987 and in 1989, they bought their 123-acre farm on Plum Creek Road. They have two children, Ashley and Alyssa.

After the flood of 1997 devastated the Ameristop in Falmouth, the family agreed that

Lee would turn to farming and the farm excavation business that he started in the mid 1990's.

Lee worked with Ed Thompson, District Conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, on a project at his dad's farm about nine years ago. Allen was installing a limited access ramp in a pond. These ramps allow livestock to drink from the pond without letting them walk in it. Allen said he had seen a limited access ramp on a farm near Berry and thought it was a good idea. "We fenced the pond to keep the cattle out and keep them from walking the banks down," Allen added. Allen has called on the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District for a number of projects on the farm over the years. "They were always a lot of help to us," Allen said.

It was about that time that Lee was starting to work on his own farm, developing a cow - calf operation. Ed said that the first thing they did was develop a conservation plan for Lee's farm. Over the years, they have used different conservation programs as tools to implement that plan. Those tools include USDA Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program (Ky. Cost Share).

"We had to start from scratch," Lee said. "The farm hadn't been in production for a number of years." Although Lee liked the idea of starting from the ground up, he emphasized that it would not have been

possible without his wife's support and her career off the farm as a technical consultant. Land prices, and availability, are obstacles to anyone wanting to get into farming or trying to expand. Lee rents an additional 90 acres for pasture and hay for his cow - calf operation. The farm has 30 acres of tillable ground and for the first few years they raised about 15 acres of tobacco. He may raise some again this year to help supplement the farm income. "It's like a savings account," Lee said. "You invest a lot of money and labor up front in hope of a good return."

Lee has developed 65 acres of pasture and improved them to an alfalfa and grass mix through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program of the federal Farm Bill. With help from a stewardship program of the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, he put in 4 1/2 acres of switch grass in 2007. Switch grass is a native warm-season grass that tolerates both heat and drought conditions and can be used to supplement feeding during the hot summer months. He was able to graze the pasture in 2008.

Lee started with three cows in 1997 and hopes to gradually increase the herd to 75 or 100. "In the next two years or so, I should be in a position to sell most of the calves," Lee added. He transports the cattle to Lexington, the closest market. Water sources were needed to facilitate a rotational grazing plan for the cattle as the only source of water on the farm was Willow Creek and its small tributaries. Rotational grazing allows pastures to be grazed for a period of time and rested between grazing. Grazing and clipping heights are managed according to NRCS specifications and livestock are rotated before trails or paths begin to develop.

Ponds and watering systems were installed with help from EQIP and the Ky. Cost Share program. Ponds, woods, and streams were fenced to keep cattle out. This required the installation of several stream crossings to help control animal traffic patterns. The stream crossing structures allow cattle to cross the



Switch grass field, Lee Baker farm

NRCS photo

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# EQIP, WHIP Program applications due April 15

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Landowners may apply for both programs at any time, however, applications received by April 15, 2009, will be evaluated and considered for this (federal fiscal year 2009) program year. Applications received after that date will be held until the next evaluation period.

EQIP applications are evaluated and ranked using criteria set forth by local work groups to determine which applications provide the best environmental benefits and address the resource concerns of their local area. EQIP provides cost-share assistance to persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land. Cost-share rates vary by practice. All conservation practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. Applications selected for funding require an EQIP plan of operations. This plan will be developed with the landuser to identify appropriate conservation practices. EQIP practices in Kentucky include, but are not limited to: pipeline and watering facility, grassed waterway, diversion, forest stand improvement, and fencing.

WHIP provides landusers an opportunity to improve wildlife habitat. The program provides financial incentives for

installing eligible practices on land they own or control. The landuser must devote at least ten (10) acres to eligible wildlife practices. WHIP applications are evaluated and ranked to determine which applications provide the most beneficial habitats. In Kentucky, the primary focus of WHIP is to improve early successional and forestland habitats for declining species and other wildlife. Restoring remnant prairies, planting native grasses, shrubs, and trees,

implementing wildlife beneficial forest stand improvements, and creating shallow water areas are some of the eligible practices for the program. Excluding livestock from sensitive streams and woodlands is also an important focus under Kentucky's 2009 WHIP. Since WHIP focuses on improvement to wildlife cover, food plots are not eligible under the program.

Tom Perrin, NRCS State Conservationist said, "For Kentucky, our initial EQIP allocation is over \$9 million and the initial WHIP

allocation is over \$700,000. Allocations will be used to restore or improve habitats under WHIP and allow us to put EQIP conservation practices on the ground throughout the state." Additional information may be found at <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.

To apply for either program, contact Ed Thompson, NRCS District Conservationist, at 859-586-7903.



Watering facility

## Apply for Wetland Reserve Program by May 29

Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kentucky is accepting applications for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The next application ranking cutoff date is May 29, 2009. WRP applications are continually accepted and those applications received after the cutoff dates will be deferred until the next ranking cycle.

WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Since 1996, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided Kentucky landowners over \$24,000,000 to restore 16,000 acres of cropland, pastureland and other altered lands to their original wetland conditions.

The new language in the 2008 Farm Bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to pay as compensation for a WRP easement the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal or an area-wide market analysis or survey. The

amount paid is limited to a geographic cap or the landowner offer, whichever is less. Landowners can view the geographic rate cap, which establishes the maximum easement payment NRCS will pay for the corresponding county, and other program information, on the NRCS Kentucky Web page: <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>. Scroll down to Wetlands Reserve Program.

Landowners can enroll their land under a permanent easement option for a lump sum easement payment and up to 100 percent of the wetland restoration costs. Eligible lands include farmed wetlands, prior converted cropland, farmed wetland pasture, farmland that floods from rivers, farmland with somewhat poorly drained soils, and current or abandoned cropland with tile lines, drainage ditches, dikes or other similar alterations. See Ed Thompson, NRCS District Conservationist, to determine if your land qualifies. Contact Ed at the Burlington Field Office, 859-586-7903.

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# Baker Farms

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stream from pasture to pasture, but keeps them from lingering in the stream or walking along the banks.

With the small herd size and rotational grazing, manure is naturally spread around the farm. As the operation grows, so does the potential for agricultural waste issues and Lee saw the need for an animal waste management system. With help from the Ky. Cost Share program, he will install a cattle feeding area and stack pad to help make the best use of animal manure. This will allow him to collect and store the animal manure and apply it to the land, capturing nutrients and recycling them. Using animal manure to fertilize pastures and crops greatly reduces the need for costly commercial fertilizers.

The system so far has required over a mile and a quarter of fencing. Another mile and a half of fencing will be installed to complete the rotational grazing system. Fencing is used to help prevent livestock damage to the woods, and to prevent pollution of the streams by animal wastes.

About 20 acres of the farm is woods that borders a lake. The lake and woods will be fenced to keep livestock out, helping to keep the water clean for fishing and recreation. Ky. Division of Forestry's Ariel Sewell had encouraged Lee to protect the woods, which includes a fairly substantial stand of oak, and developed a Forest Stewardship Plan to help guide its management.

The original conservation plan has been revised several times to reflect changes in Lee's operation. "A comprehensive conservation plan that will reap long-term

benefits has to involve an exchange of ideas," Ed noted. "Lee is always open to new ideas and willing to discuss options." He added that "Lee is a very conscientious farmer. He takes a common sense approach to identify his objectives and then apply good, sound conservation principles."

"We've come a long way, but we have a long way to go," Lee said. Lee is looking into several ways to market his farm products, including selling freezer beef as the operation grows. Lee is also talking with the children about their raising a vegetable garden and selling produce. "It's a good way for them to learn the value of hard work and money," Lee added. Values that are well-taught on a farm. Love of the land, love of family, and love of farming all show in the hard work and dedication of the Baker family.

*Mary Kathryn Dickerson*

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We hope you will take a few minutes to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of all natural resources, including soil, during the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Soil Stewardship Week, April 26 – May 3, 2009. The theme is "DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil." Correlating education materials were developed based on an exhibition created by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America and the Nutrients for Life Foundation.



forests, and other natural resources. Assistance is available to everyone in dealing with natural resources issues, including homeowners, businesses, schools, organizations, agencies, cities and local governments.

The Boone, Campbell and Kenton Conservation Districts are members of the National Association of Conservation Districts, which oversees the Stewardship Week program. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

Soil supports forests, wetlands, grasslands, tundra, and aquatic ecosystems. Soil makes up the outer layer of the earth's surface. It nourishes the plants we eat, the animals we use for food and fiber and the thriving underground kingdom of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, earthworms and other microbes that are critical to the planet's food web. Soil directly and indirectly affects agricultural production, water quality and climate. Thanks to the earth's soils, most of the rainfall hitting the planet is trapped and absorbed, watering plants and replenishing aquifers, rivers, lakes and streams.

Kentucky Conservation Districts are governmental subdivisions of the state, organized under Kentucky Revised Statute 262. They were established by a referendum of the citizens of each district and are responsible for protecting our soil, water and other natural resources. Conservation Districts make technical and financial help available to landowners to reduce soil erosion, prevent water pollution, and maintain and improve the quality and productivity of our farmlands,

"Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, the protection of soil from erosion and degradation has greatly increased through the work of conservation districts and our partners. These conservation groups assist landowners and the general public through education and technical assistance as to the importance of the soil and how to properly manage it," said NACD President Steve Robinson. "Soil is one of our precious natural resources that we must conserve for the next generation. All communities benefit when they have a better appreciation of soil and its connections to our every day life. Conservation districts are working with local communities to instill the appreciation for our natural resources across America."

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact your county conservation district, listed on page two. You can also visit [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.

# Dead Animal Removal Assistance Program to continue

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules that will prohibit the use of certain cattle origin materials in the food or feed of all animals was set to go into effect April 27, 2009. The rule was recently delayed for 60 days. Changes to the regulations provide additional protections against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, "mad cow disease"). FDA added a new section 589.2001 to the regulations which prohibits the use of high-risk cattle material in feed for all animal species. This section builds on the 1997 BSE feed regulation at 589.2000, which remains in effect but which applies only to feed for cattle and other ruminants. For more information, visit <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/bsetoc.html>

Conservation district officials met recently with representatives of Griffin Industries, the main dead livestock hauler in our area that performs removal services for the district's Dead Animal Removal Cost Share Program. Griffin intends to continue to pick up all cattle from private landowners as long as it is economically feasible. They are discussing changes in their operations to enable them to continue this service. The effect that private landowners may see for removal of dead cattle is a higher pick up fee. The Conservation Districts remain committed to providing cost share assistance for this service as long as it is available. The districts' current grants from the Ky. Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program expire on June 30, 2009 and they are applying for a new grant for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year.

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## Conservation Calendar

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and profitable way of increasing farm income. Guest speaker is Stephen Yates, Agritourism Director of the Ky. Dept. of Agriculture. Local farmers will share their experiences in developing and managing agritourism businesses. Contact 859-572-2600 for information.

**Greening Spaces, Wed., May 6. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Campbell Co. Cooperative Extension Service, 3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights. Learn how to Go Green at home, work, and school. Topics include air quality, health, tree care, invasive species, water quality, waste reduction, conservation, and environmental education. Registration required. Contact 859-572-2600 or [djscully@uky.edu](mailto:djscully@uky.edu)

**The Children and Nature Forum, May 18, 7 - 8 p.m., Northern Kentucky University.** Business, Education, and Psychology Building, Room 200. Opportunity for health specialists, parents, educators, and others concerned about children's health to learn about the benefits of connecting children with nature. Many physical, mental, and emotional benefits are recognized when children spend as little as thirty minutes in unstructured play outdoors. Learn more about the impacts of time outside for children facing ADHD, obesity, and diabetes. Contact Cecilia Baker at 859-572-1545 or [bakerc6@nku.edu](mailto:bakerc6@nku.edu).

**Kentucky Forest Leadership Program, June 1 - 5, Jabez, Ky. Apply by May 15.** Weeklong program concentrates on forest management and related subjects including soil science, forest measurements, entomology, fire management, surveying, wildlife habitat assessment, water quality evaluation, wood products. Open to students entering junior or senior year of high school. Fee of \$275 includes program, room and board at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center in Jabez (near Somerset). Scholarships may be available. Contact Douglas McLaren at 859-257-2703 or e-mail: [dmclaren@uky.edu](mailto:dmclaren@uky.edu).

**For the Common Good: Public Land Management, Thurs., May 21, 1 - 4 p.m.** Location to be announced. Sponsored by the Boone County Conservation District. Topics include forestry and land management tools and techniques, especially for those who work for agencies and organizations that have public lands in their trust. Private landowners are also welcome. Contact the Boone County Conservation District for more information. 859-586-7903.

**Hunter Education Class, Wed. & Thurs., May 20 & 21, 6:30 - 10 p.m., and Sat., May 23, 8 a.m. to completion.** Moonlite Hunting and Fishing Club, 3655 Possum Path, Burlington. Call 859-586-9307 for information. If you plan to hunt in Ky. and were born after Jan. 1, 1975, you must attend a Hunter Education Course. All courses are free, with cost covered by the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Classes are lead by certified Hunter Education Instructors, and designed to help you become a safe, ethical, and responsible hunter. Courses include classroom and shooting instruction with different firearms and archery. For a complete list of all classes scheduled visit [www.fw.ky.gov](http://www.fw.ky.gov). For questions about local classes, call 859-428-2954.

**Thomas More College Summer Science Camp for High School Students, July 12 - 17. Applications Due May 29.** The TMC Biology Field Station is offering a week-long camp to students interested in exploring science. The camp is a unique opportunity for students to interact with college faculty and students while spending the week in the field conducting hands-on research in aquatic biology, astronomy, and chemistry. Activities include collecting organisms, observing the night skies, testing the water quality of our local streams, including the Ohio River, kayaking the Licking River and touring behind-the-scenes at the Newport Aquarium. For more information, including application materials, please see the website: [www.thomasmore.edu/fieldstation](http://www.thomasmore.edu/fieldstation).

**Wetland Reserve Program applications due May 29.** See article on page four.

# Laws of the Land

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*News about legislation and programs that may affect you.*

## Beaver damage assistance available

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) has initiated a statewide program designed to provide assistance for landowners experiencing beaver damage. The program will allow for trained WS personnel to perform trapping of resident beavers and dam removal activities on selected sites. The program will be operated throughout the state and is currently funded with a portion of the WS Federal Allocation. Once a request for beaver damage management assistance is received by WS, the project will be assigned to the appropriate WS employee and prioritized accordingly. Conflicts resulting in potential threats to human health and safety will be given higher priority. The WS employee will then perform a site investigation to determine the best possible management practice(s) for that specific situation. Damage management activities will be initiated following the assessment, as time and resources allow. The landowner will be required to sign a WS Form 12A or 12C prior to the initiation of any official WS activity. This document provides WS the authority to perform wildlife damage management activities on each specific property. Contact Wildlife Services at 502-582-5536.

*Source - Natural Resources Conservation Service*

## Recent fatalities related to burning debris - Fire season is Feb. 15 - April 30

Earlier this month, two fatalities resulting from escaped debris fires were reported in western Kentucky, thus reminding us about the dangers of wildfires and the importance of safe burning practices. Wildfires occur throughout the year in our state; however, a significant number happen in March and April due to debris burning. These debris fires often spread out of control and lead to wildfires that have the potential to consume hundreds of acres, destroy property and threaten lives. Because most wildfires are caused by human activities, the number of wildfires and losses can be reduced if residents take more precautions. To reduce the risk of wildfire, the Kentucky Division of Forestry recommends the following guidelines for safe debris burning:

- Clear a safe zone that is wide enough to prevent the escape of fire.
- Keep a supply of water and a rake or shovel readily accessible.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out and never leave a fire unattended.
- Burn only when the wind is calm and the humidity level is high.
- Extinguish fire completely if conditions become windy.
- Keep brush piles small to allow quick control of the fire if necessary.
- Locate brush piles an adequate distance from structures and utilities.
- Obey all outdoor burning laws including forest fire laws, air pollution and open burning regulations, and local ordinances.
- Understand that you are liable if your fire escapes.

In addition to following safe burning practices, the division reminds all citizens that Kentucky law designates Feb. 15 through April 30 as spring forest fire hazard season. During this time, it is illegal to burn anything within 150 feet of any woodland or brush land between the daylight hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The law is intended to prevent forest fires by allowing outdoor burning only during the time when conditions are less likely to cause a wildfire to spread. Citizens should also contact their local fire department to find out about burning restrictions and ordinances in their area. For more information about fire hazard seasons, outdoor burning laws and safe burning practices, contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry at 1-800-866-0555 or visit the division's Web site at <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/>. Information regarding open burning regulations, allowable materials to burn, and legal disposal methods can be obtained by contacting the Division for Air Quality at 1-888-BURN-LAW and the Division of Waste Management at 1-888-NO-DUMPS.

*Source - Kentucky Division of Forestry*

## Agriculture Development Fund Changes Announced

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board announced in March that changes have been made to broaden access to agriculture diversification funds and enhance accountability. The most notable changes are related to what are currently called the county model cost-share programs, which are designed to provide farmers with cost-share funding to allow them to improve and diversify their current production practices. The county model cost-share programs will now be offered as investment areas under the umbrella of the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP). This will offer a more streamlined approach to applying for funds for both the program administrators and the local farmers. Since all programs will be offered in counties that adopt this program, there will be broader access for all farmers, regardless of their focus enterprise. In addition to the current investment areas, CAIP will include a new investment area called "On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production". This investment area will be a tool to help farmers increase energy efficiency in their current production practices, while ultimately increasing net farm income through realized cost savings. Policy changes will be disseminated directly to the chairs of the County Agricultural Development Councils, the cooperative extension service, and county program administrators. Information will also be available and discussed at a series of regional workshops to be held in April and May throughout the Commonwealth. For questions about these policy changes, contact the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy at 502-564-4627.

*Source - Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy*

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

**Address Service Requested**



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## Conservation Calendar

**Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program, application deadline April 15, 2009.** See article on page one.

**EQIP and WHIP Program Applications Due April 15.** See article on page four.

**Wildlife Management and Hunt Leasing Program, Thurs., April 16, 7 p.m.** Campbell Co. Environmental Education Center, A. J. Jolly Park. Program will address how to manage nuisance wildlife such as deer and turkey that are destroying your crops. This program will also introduce you to the opportunities associated with hunt leasing as a way to increase farm revenue while managing wildlife. Guest speaker is Dr. Tom Barnes, UK Wildlife Specialist. Contact the Campbell Co. Extension Center, 859-572-2600, for information.

**Goat Nutrition, Health, Grazing Field Day, Sat., April 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Red Gate Farm, Verona. Sponsored by No. Ky. Goat Producers, Grant and Kenton Co. Extension Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Red Gate Farm. Pre-register by calling Kenton Co. Extension at 859-356-3155 or visit [www.kentoncountyextension.com](http://www.kentoncountyextension.com)

**Saint Anne Convent Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration. Sat., April 25, 10 a.m.** Saint Anne Convent, 1000 Saint Anne Drive, Melbourne. Volunteers are needed to plant tree seedlings on a recently preserved conservation area. The first

100 to register and participate may receive a free event t-shirt and gift certificate for an ice cream at the Silver Grove Dari Bar. Plan to get dirty and bring a shovel, if possible. Park at Saint Anne Convent. Please Register. Contact DJ Scully, Campbell Co. Extension Service, 859-572-2600.

**Spring Clean Up in Boone County, April 27—May 3, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,** Boone County Public Works, Maplewood Drive, Burlington and Union Pool, Old Union Road, Union. Bring your junk for FREE disposal! CANNOT take batteries, liquid waste, hazardous waste, paint or anything from businesses. Can only take four tires per load. Please call 334-3151 for more information. For city cleanups, call the City of Florence at 647-5416 and the City of Walton at 485-4383.

**Farm Oil Recycling, Sat., May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Must register by April 28 to participate.** Campbell Co. Transportation Center, 1175 Race Track Road. Open to Campbell Co. residents only with a minimum of 5 gallons of oil to recycle. Containers will not be returned. Sponsored by Campbell Co. Extension Service and Campbell Co. Fiscal Court. Contact 859-572-2600 with your name, address, telephone number and the amount of oil you will bring.

**Agri-Tourism - Monday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.** Campbell Co. Environmental Education Center, A. J. Jolly Park. Program will introduce farmers to the idea that marketing to the general public through tourism can be a very productive

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