



**Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts**  
*July - October 2009* **VOL. XXIII, NO. 3**

The Writing and Jim Claypool  
Conservation Art contests  
2009

**WATER!**  
Every Drop Counts

Water is the basis of all life on Earth. It nourishes us and all living things on the planet. It is necessary for people to understand the importance of clean water and why we need to conserve it. Without this understanding, it is easy to make decisions that will hurt our supply of water.

We all live in a watershed. Water runs across or under the land on its way to a stream, river or lake. The area it runs over is called a watershed. As the water moves through each watershed, it picks up pollutants and carries them on its journey. The way we care for our water affects everyone downstream from us. We all hope we have good neighbors upstream!

Water is the topic for the 2009 contests. The Conservation Writing Contest is designed for Kentucky students in grades 6-12, and the Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest is for students 1-5. In Campbell County the Art Contest is divided into two categories, Kindergarten through grade 2 and grades 3—5, allowing Kindergarten students to compete on the local level.

Local and state awards are presented. State awards include: First - \$250

check; Second - \$150 check; Third - \$50 check. Regional winners will receive a \$50 check and county level winners will receive a \$25 check. State and regional winners will receive a personalized plaque and certificate. Schools should forward their top three entries in each contest to their local conservation district by **Tues., Dec. 1, 2009**. A county winner is chosen by the Conservation District and forwarded to regional competition.

A contest brochure, rules, and teaching guide with activities aligned with Kentucky's Program of Studies can be found at [www.conservation.ky.gov](http://www.conservation.ky.gov) or contact your conservation district for a CD of the materials. Contact Sally Aaron in Boone and Kenton counties and Linda Grizzell in Campbell County (see listing on page two).

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See the Conservation Calendar for more cost share, grant, and scholarship opportunities!

### Campbell County

## Alternative agriculture cost share program

The Campbell County Conservation District has received funding through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share fund for a new program aimed at supporting alternative agriculture enterprises.

The program is limited to landowners in Campbell County with 10 or more acres involved in an agricultural enterprise not traditionally included in federal or state cost share programs. Examples include operations with equestrian, horticultural, forestry, agritourism, aquaculture, apiaries, and small farm animals.

There must be a natural resource management problem that is adversely affecting soil and/or water resources on the farm. Projects must include one or more Best Management Practice endorsed by the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority.

Applicants will be required to provide at least 25% of the cost of the project. A total of \$7,500 in grants funds is available.

The deadline for applications is **Fri., Jan. 22, 2010, 4:00 p.m.** For information or grant forms, contact the Campbell County Conservation District (see listing on page two).

# 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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Tom Comte, Vice Chairman  
Monty Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer  
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Staff: Sally Aaron, Admin. Secretary  
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Mark Jacobs, Conservation Technician  
Kristin Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician

#### 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  
(Continued on page 6)

**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.

### Conservation District Board meetings

Board meetings are open to the public and follow these schedules 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. Meetings are held in the Kells Room—Lower Level, Boone County Conservation District office, 6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington.

**Campbell County:** April - October, first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. November - March, first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the district office, 8351 East Main Street, Suite 104, Alexandria (across from the courthouse).

**Kenton County:** first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the first floor conference room of the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission, 2332 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY.

### Conservation District Office Hours

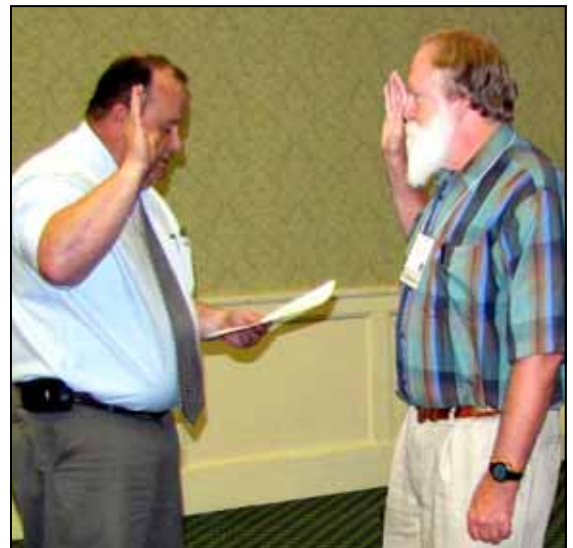
**Boone and Kenton counties:** 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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

## Varney appointed to Ky. Soil and Water Commission

Larry Varney, Cold Spring, was appointed to serve on the Ky. Soil and Water Conservation Commission until July 2010, fulfilling the position held by Larry Jeffries, of Henry County, who passed away earlier this year.

The policies that govern the Ky. Division of Conservation are set by the non-partisan Ky. Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This Commission is made up of nine conservation district supervisors from across the state who are appointed by the secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet, with approval of the governor. The Commission also has the responsibility to assist local conservation districts in carrying out their responsibilities. Varney has served on the Campbell County Conservation District since January 1997 and currently serves as chairman of the district.



Kentucky Division of Conservation Director Stephen Coleman, left, administers the oath of office to Campbell County Conservation District chairman Larry Varney, right.

Photo courtesy of Ky. Division of Conservation

# Boone Conservation District Board Members

Four supervisors were elected to each Kentucky Conservation District last fall and newly elected members took office in January 2009. We will continue to profile newly elected board members in this and future issues of the newsletter.

**Debra W. Messer**, Verona, is a science instructor at Southwestern College. She is a graduate of Walton Verona High School and holds a Masters of Science in Plant Physiology from the University of Cincinnati. Debra studied Agronomy at the University of Kentucky and earned a B. S. in Biology from Center College.



*Debra W. Messer*

Debra says that growing up on a working cattle and tobacco farm in Verona has prepared her well for both her career and her service on the Boone County Conservation District board. She was first elected to the board in 2005, noting that she was encouraged by a former conservation district supervisor to seek election.

Debra said that some of the most important conservation issues facing Boone County are water quality and soil conservation in the face of increased land use changes. "The district should support land owners and managers in implementing best management practices on their land," Debra added.

She feels that it is the district's job to help educate the public and help landowners learn about conservation strategies to improve resource protection and efficiency on the farm.

Debra is a member of the Conservation District's education committee and is an active volunteer monitor for the Licking River Watershed Watch, monitoring two sites on Mud Lick Creek. She and her husband, Franklin, live near Verona and have six children, David, Joseph, Stephen, Dora, Hannah and Kristen.

**Rose Bunger**, Union, was elected to the Boone County Conservation District board in 2008 and assumed her duties in January 2009. This is her first term of service on the board. Rose is



*Rose Bunger*

retired from a 26-year career as a research associate with Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati. While there she worked on research projects to develop detergents free of phosphates. The "World Detergent Project" was aimed at

helping developing countries protect water quality as they started using more modern cleaning products. Rose is a graduate of Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati and completed classes at both the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.

Rose said that a priority for the conservation district should be working with agricultural landowners to protect and enhance the resources that contribute the high quality of life in Boone County. "People who care about their property should care about maintaining the quality of that resource," said Rose. "Boone County is an absolutely gorgeous place to live." Through her work on the conservation district board, Rose hopes to serve the community and make a difference in protecting our waterways and other natural resources.

Rose is chair of the Boone County Farmland Protection Committee. She and her husband, John, live on a farm in Union where they raise black Angus cattle. They have five children and seven grandchildren. Rose is a Master Gardener and is a member of the Kentucky League of Property Owners, Kentucky Cattle Association and the Northern Kentucky Cattle Association.

## Campbell Conservation District wins area award

The Campbell County Conservation District received the **Kentucky Area 5 Outstanding Conservation District Award** in July during the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts annual convention in Louisville. The award is based on the district's fulfillment of goals set for performance for the preceding fiscal year. Campbell County has won several area awards and the Kentucky Eastern Region Award in 2004. Also during the convention, **Michelle Simon of Alexandria** received a state-wide Natural Resources Scholarship from the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary. Michelle is the daughter of Rick and Alice Simon and is a student at the University of Kentucky majoring in Animal Sciences.

At right are members of the Campbell County Conservation District board. Clockwise from top right are: Ken McCormick, Dennis Walter, Ron McCormick, Larry Varney, Alan Ahrman, Gene Dobbs and Sanford Record.



Photo by Mary Kathryn Dickerson

# Farm tour highlights county's heritage and future

The launch of the first annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour attracted more than five hundred guests. During the day they enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of sixteen Campbell County farm owners who opened the gates to their farms on Sat., July 18, 2009.

The tour crisscrossed the county showcasing greenhouse operations, a vineyard, museum, horse farms, 4-H project farm, honey bee farm, and beef, grain and tobacco farms. Visitors were directed along some of the county's most scenic back roads, while stops along the way offered the opportunity to purchase fresh produce, honey and wine and learn from some of our best farmers about the farming process.

The tour was self-guided, allowing visitors to travel in their own cars, at their own pace. Depending on their interests and how much time they had, they built their own itinerary. Brochures provided directions to the sixteen farms, all relating in some way to agriculture and the area's farming heritage.

"The public is recognizing family farmers as their resource for fresh, locally-grown food and they are seeking out these foods in grocery stores and at farmers markets", said Linda Bray-Schafer, event co-chair and Farmland Work Group member. "This demand offers growing economic opportunity for family farmers to thrive.



Kevin Neltner takes visitors on a tour of Neltner Farm and Greenhouses.  
*Photo by Larry Varney*

The Campbell County Farmland Work Group, the sponsor of the tour, was excited to share in this special day with local farmers. By supporting local agriculture, we're actually supporting ourselves."

The tour is a project of the Campbell County Farmland Work Group, which is committed to improving the economic viability of agriculture, developing local programs and policies to protect our

productive farmland and providing education for the public about the values of farmland. The Group was convened in 2003 by the Campbell County Conservation District to explore farmland protection options for the county.

"We seek to partner with communities, organizations, and individuals throughout our county to find innovative ways to guide development, reduce sprawl, and protect the inherent natural qualities of the region," said Mrs. Schafer. "To us that means helping to keep agriculture strong, building vibrant main streets and downtowns, protecting 'special places' and linking recreational resources."

"We are fortunate to live in a county with the advantages of a major league city at one end, and beautiful farms and forests at the other end only 20-minutes away. When each of these communities

supports the other, a high quality of life is the result," said Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery, "We intend to grow and prosper while preserving that balance."

Plan to join us next year to relax in the tranquility and beauty of this rural community. For information about the next tour, planned for July 2010, contact Linda Bray-Schafer through the Campbell County Conservation District, 859-635-9587.



Visitors to Sonlight Ridge Farm were treated to a presentation by the Myers family about their 4-H projects which include miniature horses, sheep, goats, hogs, and rabbits.

*Photo by Larry Varney*

# Biological Inventory for Hawthorne Crossing released

The Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area in Campbell County, comprised of 140 acres adjacent to the Licking River, was acquired in 2008 through the combined efforts of the Campbell County Conservation District, the Campbell Conservancy, and the Campbell County Fiscal Court. The Campbell County Conservation District received a grant through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund board to purchase 134.6 acres, and the Campbell Conservancy purchased the additional acreage.

As a part of the requirements of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, and in keeping with good conservation planning practices, Third Rock Consultants, LLC was contracted by the Campbell County Conservation District and the Campbell Conservancy to perform a biological inventory of the area. According to the report, the vegetative community assessment resulted in the identification of 17 distinct communities. The majority of these were dominated by early successional species that are commonly found in areas that have recently been disturbed by agricultural uses. The forested bottomlands are predominantly silver maple, hackberry, and box elder forests. These are all species that have wind-disseminated seeds, which allow early colonization. Exotics and native trees that can withstand thin soils and disturbed conditions, such as black locust and red cedar, dominate the

forested hillsides and ridges within the property. The dense understory of bush honeysuckle and Osage orange has resulted in low species diversity throughout the property as shade provided by these species reduces tree regeneration and native herbaceous plant growth. A variety of aquatic habitats exist due to the presence of the Licking River, the perennial stream Riffle Creek, several old farm ponds, and one wet meadow wetland. The fish community consisted of common species of fish, which may be an indication that the watershed is not in excellent condition. The wildlife noted were common species known to be tolerant of habitats with obvious man-induced influences, in this case, old pasture and farmland that have been colonized by exotic plant species.

Future plans for the property include implementing land restoration projects such as forest improvement, exotic species removal, and native plant establishment, as well as providing educational and recreational opportunities. This report will serve as baseline documentation for these management goals. Plans from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kentucky Division of Forestry, and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife will also become part of the final resource management plan for the property. The report is posted on the Conservation District web site at <http://home.fuse.net/campbellcd>.

## It pays to get help for timber sales

Is that a veneer log? Is that tree only good for firewood? What's that tree worth? Good questions that I hear all the time, but often hard to answer. The timber market is complicated. Each timber buyer has different markets that can dramatically affect the price they can pay for your timber. To add to the confusion, these complicated markets are constantly changing. What can a landowner do? Get help.

One option for landowners is to utilize the services of consulting forester. A consulting forester is a privately employed professional forester with a minimum of a B.S. degree in forestry from an accredited college or university. Landowners should look for consultants with memberships in professional organizations such as the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) and the Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters (KACF.) Members are held to the highest professional and ethical standards, working to ensure that their client's interests are protected. Depending on the service provided, consultants are paid on an hourly/daily rate or a percentage of a timber sale.

When considering a timber sale, a good consultant can pay huge dividends. A good consulting forester knows each

potential buyer's strengths and weaknesses, and current situation. A particular timber buyer may have an exceptional market for a particular tree species. With this information and good working relationships with these buyers, consulting foresters are able to ensure top dollar for your timber sale. Consultants can more than pay for themselves in higher prices that you can receive for your timber.

In today's economic climate, landowners must do everything possible to protect their financial positions. Often overlooked, timber resource can be a valuable asset during these tough times. To find out more about consulting foresters in Kentucky please visit the Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters website at <http://www.kacf.org/>

*Ron Meyer, Member  
Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters*

**Editor's Note:** The Kentucky Division of Forestry employs professional foresters who provide forestry services to landowners. State foresters are limited by state policies as to the amount and kinds of services they can offer. State foresters are not allowed to become directly involved in private timber sales. They are also prohibited from giving private landowners a monetary appraisal of timber.

# Laws of the Land

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

## Loans available for conservation equipment

The Kentucky Equipment Revolving Loan Program can help local landowners purchase earth-moving and specialized conservation equipment. The program provides low-interest loans to Kentucky's conservation districts through the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Kentucky Division of Conservation (KYDOC). Conservation districts may enter into a lease agreement with local farmers and contractors to help them purchase equipment. Loans are made to the District. The KYDOC retains title to each piece of equipment until the loan has been amortized in full, plus interest. The equipment must be used for the application of conservation and best management practices, and must be made available to individuals through rental agreements at the county level. Types of equipment that are eligible under the loan program are: dozers, crawler tractors, front-end loaders, excavators, backhoes, tile machines, draglines, no-till pasture renovators, no-till drills, animal waste pumping and application systems, specialized spray applicators, grass seeders, straw blowers, heavy duty bush and bog harrows, root rakes, tree planters, ditchers, and clearing blades. Equipment must be new or have less than 500 hours working time with the dealer willing to warranty the equipment as new. The equipment must be insured for the duration of the loan. The current interest rate for loans is 4% and the payment schedule runs between 36 and 60 months.

Loan applications are to be made through the local conservation district. Contact your conservation district for information. See listings on page 2.

## Taking a stand for land - conservation easement credit ends Dec. 31

As part of the reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 2008, Congress extended until December 31, 2009 the tax law that helps protect clean water, natural areas and working family farms and ranches. The law enhances the federal tax benefits for landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements. These agreements can provide a win-win solution for protecting natural resources important to our community while keeping land in productive private ownership.

Congress is taking action to make the incentive permanent. The recently-introduced Conservation Easement Incentive Act, H.R. 1831, and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 812, will make this valuable conservation tool permanent.

Under previous law, modest income landowners were only able to deduct a small portion of the value of their donation. Now, a conservation donor can deduct up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30%), and, if most of their income is from farming, ranching or forestry, they can deduct all of their income. Even more important is that they can carry-forward the remaining value of their donation for up to 16 years (up from six). This enhanced incentive has helped land trusts across the country conserve 535,000 more acres in 2006 and 2007, than in the two years prior to its enactment. The House Land Conservation Caucus is gathering signatures on a new letter urging House Leadership to prioritize making the easement incentive permanent this year.

You can call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to contact your Representative or Senator about this bill. To find out more [visit http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/federal](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/federal) or contact Sean Robertson at 202-638-4725, ext. 319, or e-mail [policy@lta.org](mailto:policy@lta.org).

## Farm loans available

The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the **Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program**. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. The **Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)** is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, agriculture facilities, to secure permanent working capital and to make a down payment on real estate or invest in a partnership or LLC. KAFC participates with a local lender to provide financing. Through the BFLP, KAFC will finance up to \$250,000 (not to exceed 50% of the project costs) in participation with a local lender. Finance rates vary but may be as low as 2 - 3 %. According to KAFC officials, lenders that may normally not be willing to take on a riskier loan with a beginning farmer are now more comfortable because of the shared risk.

For more information on the programs offered by the KAFC, contact Bill McCloskey, Director of Financial Services, at (502) 564-4627 or visit the KAFC webpage at [kafc.ky.gov](http://kafc.ky.gov).

# Conservation Calendar

(Continued from page 8)

materials including: materials to enhance an outdoor learning area; trees, perennial plants, and seeds when directly related to a program of conservation study (native plants preferred); developing trails and trail guidebooks; conservation-related library materials; reference books; water monitoring equipment; soils testing equipment.

For information or grant forms, contact your county conservation district (see listing on page two).

**Scholarships, Boone County. Deadline for applications, Fri., Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m.** The W. Robert Ellis Scholarship is offered for students who are residents of Boone County and enrolled in a four-year program of study in conservation. For information or forms, contact the Boone County Conservation District (see listing on page two).

**Scholarship, Campbell County. Deadline for applications, Fri., Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m.** The conservation district offers several scholarships for students who are residents of Campbell County and are enrolled, or will enroll in the fall of 2010, in a four-year program of study in conservation. For information or forms, contact the Campbell Co. Conservation District (see listing on page two).

**Tree Planting and Urban Forestry Enhancement Grant, Campbell County Conservation District. Deadline for applications, Fri., Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m.** Grant to help cities and communities establish programs or develop projects to protect and conserve our natural resources while enhancing the aesthetic value of the natural environment. For information or grant forms, contact the Campbell County Conservation District (see listing on page two).

**Farm Dump Cost Share Program. Deadline for Kenton and Boone County landowners, Fri. Jan. 29, 4 p.m.** Applications are being accepted for a cost-share program to provide assistance to landowners in cleaning up dumps on their farms. To participate in this program, the farm must be located in Boone or Kenton counties. For an application or information, contact the Boone or Kenton Conservation Districts (see listing on page two).

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), deadline for applications Jan. 29, 2010.** CSP provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural and forestry producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land, and encourages producers to voluntarily implement more conservation practices and

improve, maintain and manage existing ones. Lands accepted into CSP include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial private forestland—a new land use for the program—and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Individual landowners/operators, legal entities, corporations and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for CSP assistance. The application period runs from Oct. 1, 2009 through January 29, 2010. For more information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, the interim final rule, and to submit comments please visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/new\\_csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp) or visit your local NRCS field office. Contact NRCS in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties by calling 859-586-7903.

## Home Front

(Continued from page 2)

Districts launch new Web site - <http://www.nkcd.org>  
Finding the Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts on the Web is easier, thanks to Kenton County Conservation District chairman, Marc Hult. Marc set up a new Web site that enables you to click on the links to the individual county sites. Just go to <http://www.nkcd.org>.

### Congratulations!

- Several Conservation District staff members were honored for their years of service at the 2009 Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts convention this summer. Those receiving service awards were: **Mary Kathryn Dickerson**—20 years; **Sally Aaron**—10 years; **Kristin Scott**—5 years.
- **Mark Jacobs**, who also works for the Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts, is the executive director of Wildlife Conservation Kentucky Inc. He received an award from the Environmental Quality Commission this year for his work to restore native vegetation at Split Rock Conservation Park. The EQC is a seven-member citizen board established under state law to facilitate resolution of and monitor environmental issues and advise the governor and other state officials on environmental matters.

## Save money - rent it!

Rent the equipment that you need to install conservation practices, but may not use that often, from your conservation district and save some money.

- Lime Spreader (Campbell Co. only)
- Tree planter

- No-till native warm season grass planter
- Tree planting bars and bags
- Planting shovels
- Honeysuckle popper
- 5-gallon sprayer
- 25-gallon ATV sprayer
- Broadcast sling seeder for native grasses

Contact your Conservation District listed on page two.

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

**Address Service Requested**



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## Conservation Calendar

**Junk Cleanup – Campbell County, Nov. 6 – 8, 8:00 am—6:00 pm.** Drop off locations: Pendery Park in Melbourne, the Campbell County Police Station in Alexandria, and the Campbell County Transportation Center on Racetrack Rd. Bags of litter and general debris at all three locations. No liquids. The Campbell Co. Transportation Center site will accept appliances, scrap metal, car batteries, propane tanks, and tires (four per vehicle). Call Campbell County Solid Waste Coordinator David Plummer at 859-547-1802.

**Revitalizing the Small Family Farm in a Stressed Economy - Kentucky Small, Limited Resource, Minority Farmer Conference, Nov. 17 – 19.** Kentucky State Univ., Frankfort. Field tours include Ky. State Univ. aquaculture facility, Maine Chance Research Farm, and Triple J. Horse Farm. Registration fee \$50.00 Call 502-597-5905 or email [louie.rivers@ksu.edu](mailto:louie.rivers@ksu.edu)

**Scholarship, Bluegrass Soil and Water Conservation Society, Deadline for applications, Thurs., Nov. 19.** Two \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate agriculture or natural resources students enrolled in a college or university in the Ky. Bluegrass Chapter region (includes Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties). For information, contact Danny Hughes [Danny.Hughes@ky.usda.gov](mailto:Danny.Hughes@ky.usda.gov) or at 606-306-7398.

Applications are also available on the conservation districts' web sites at <http://www.nkcd.org>.

**Water – Every Drop Counts: 2009 Conservation Writing and Art Contest. Deadline for entries, Dec. 1, 2009.** The Conservation Writing Contest is designed for Kentucky students in grades 6-12, and the Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest is for students 1-5. See article on page one. Contact your conservation district for more information (see listing on page two).

**Alternative Agriculture Cost Share Program , Applications due Fri., Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m.** Limited to landowners in Campbell County with 10 or more acres involved in an agricultural enterprise not traditionally included in federal or state cost share programs. See article on page one or contact the Campbell County Conservation District (see listing on page two).

**Education Grants. Deadline for applications, Fri., Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m. Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts.** Grants to help schools and educational institutions develop conservation education projects. Grant funds may be used for a variety of projects and

*(Continued on page 7)*