



Conservation Conversations

Spring 2010 - Issue No. Ten

*Energy and Environment Cabinet
Department for Natural Resources
Division of Conservation*



Stephen A. Coleman

Letter from the Director's Desk

As time seems to be passing quicker and quicker each day, I would like to take a moment to remind you about the 2010 KACD Convention July 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. This year you will see more of a crowd than usual. The reason is that KACD is joining with NRCS to host the "All Employees Meeting." This meeting will include all district employees, district supervisors and NRCS employees. Partnering with NRCS will allow KACD to have new and expanded programs at the convention. I look forward to this opportunity to work with NRCS in expanding the knowledge and leadership skills of those who will be attending this year.

Also, I want to encourage all conservation districts to participate in the many opportunities during the convention to be recognized for their efforts through the KACD Awards Program. During these difficult budget times, it is important for districts to showcase their accomplishments on the local and state levels. Awards given at the convention include the Outstanding Conservation District, Conservation District in Education, and Outstanding Cooperator of the Year. Take time to evaluate your programs and fill out the awards applications so you can have the opportunity to be recognized for the good work you do everyday for the Commonwealth.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the bills that I brought to your attention at the Area Meetings. All of these bills have some aspect that could affect conservation districts.

- HB 107 – This act would require local government entities, such as conservation districts, to safeguard personal records in a manner consistent with federal law relating to the protection and destruction of documents. This act was not discussed by the House committee to which it was assigned.
- HB 290 – This is the budget act. The House and Senate each passed their own version of the budget, but as of this writing, had not yet been able to agree on a combined budget. The governor will call a special session to pass the budget. Hopefully, both chambers will come to an agreement on a budget for the next two years.
- HB 308 – This act would create a Forest Health Board. It was passed by the House but not the Senate.
- HB 318 – This act would change some requirements for joining agricultural districts. It was passed by the House but not the Senate.
- HB 418 – This act would permit the Auditor of Public Accounts to investigate and examine all special districts and organizations, such as conservation districts, if they are funded, in whole or in part, with federal or state monies. It was passed by the House but not the Senate.
- HB 419 – This act would establish the Kentucky Land Stewardship and Conservation Fund and add a member to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Board. It was passed by the House but not the Senate.
- HB 433 – This act would change who was responsible for the clean up and maintenance of streams. It was passed by the House but not the Senate.
- HB 486 – This act would add sustainable agriculture to the current definition of agricultural operations. It was passed by both the House and the Senate and was signed by the governor on April 8.
- HCR 223 – This resolution would urge the United States Congress to fully fund the RC&D program. It was not discussed by the House committee to which it was assigned.
- SB 105 – This act would create the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission. The House and Senate each passed their own version of this bill, but were not able to come to an agreement in conference committee. Senate language was attached to House Bill 398 and was passed by both houses and signed by the governor into law.
- SB 197 – This act would clean up some of the confusing language in the Watershed Conservancy District act. This act was not discussed by the Senate committee to which it was assigned.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they do to protect the natural resources of our beautiful state. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the Division of Conservation at (502)-573-3080.

Caldwell County District Conservationist Returns from Iraq

Submitted by Connie Gray



Michael Clayton receives Meritorious Honor Award from the US Department of State for his service in Iraq.

The US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) announces that Michael Clayton, a district conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Princeton, Ky. has returned from a 16-month, voluntary assignment in Iraq where he helped rebuild that country's agricultural sector.

Clayton served as a USDA-PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) agricultural advisor on the Baghdad embedded-PRT South. While deployed, Clayton worked to rebuild the local poultry industry, enable more than 1,000 disadvantaged farmers and their families to get clean drinking water, establish a demonstration farm and nurture farmer cooperatives.

Upon returning from Iraq, Clayton received a meritorious honor award from the US Department of State for his efforts in Iraq.

According to John D. Brewer, FAS Administrator, "The efforts of people like Michael are crucial for helping to create stable, democratic, and economically viable societies in countries like Iraq. Whether their expertise is in forestry, soil and water conservation, food safety, agricultural extension and policy or veterinary services, volunteers like Michael are needed to contribute their specialized skills to help farmers, citizens, and the national and provincial government leaders of these two counties."





KACD Directors go to Washington D.C.

Submitted by Kimberly Richardson

Members of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Board of Directors made their annual pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. again this March to help host the Kentucky Congressional Breakfast. Each year Kentucky sends representatives from the KACD Board of Directors to attend the breakfast that many of the congressional staff members attend to thank them for their continued support of conservation in Kentucky.

KACD representatives this year were Jeff Rice (President), Dan Ellison (Vice-President), David Rowlett (Secretary-Treasurer), John Chism (Area 6 Director), and Ronald Brunty (Area 9 Director).

After the breakfast, the KACD Directors got back to work by meeting with each of Kentucky's nine congressmen, Senator Bunning's staff and Senator McConnell. The directors do an excellent job of relaying the message about Kentucky's partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and about how that partnership leverages the direct funding that is given to Kentucky each year many times over.

As always, Kentucky goes with several priorities for the lawmakers to look over. This year Kentucky asked the lawmakers to help continue funding the federal dollars for direct aid and the support for technical assistance and for new funds to help with the problems districts are now facing with dead animal removal.



Steve Coleman, KACD Directors and Tom Perrin with Senator Hal Rogers.



Congressional Staff Members at breakfast.



Tom Perrin, Kim Richardson, Steve Coleman and KACD Directors in front of the NACD Building.



Division of Conservation Maintaining Services and Trainings

Submitted by Pam Williams

The economic unrest continues to be felt within state government as well as on the local and federal levels. This year found the Division of Conservation and other state agencies making unprecedented cuts to their already lean budgets in an attempt to head off the current year's anticipated budget shortfall. With the anticipation of even tougher economic instability in the future, the Division of Conservation found itself having to tighten its belt, cut vital travel and develop strategies that would allow continued services to be provided to all 121 conservation districts.

Among the cuts the Division of Conservation had to make due to the state budget shortfall was field representative travel, one of the most vital tools that has a profound effect on county conservation districts. The cut meant that all field representative travel had to be reduced by half along with major reductions in the Frankfort staff's travel allowance as well. This dilemma posed a big question for Division of Conservation staff - how to maintain the services and training opportunities provided to conservation districts by the field representatives with continued efficiency while adhering to the travel limitations? After much discussion a strategic plan was developed to overcome the obstacle of reduced travel with some non-traditional meeting and training methods.

For field representatives the new methods included a teleconference with their districts one month and then travel to their districts' monthly board meetings the next month. This routine ensured that all conservation districts would continue to have their field representatives as a resource for assistance and advice, and maintained the information conduit from state level to local level. Teleconferencing has also been utilized as a meeting tool for district supervisors, the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and its committees. The teleconferences provide for the inclusion of all pertinent personnel from the Frankfort staff, KACD, NACD and NRCS ensuring up to date information is provided to answer questions on programs, budgets, legislation, audits and other topics. This meeting format has been utilized extensively by most all district and state personnel having a positive impact on service delivery while adhering to the travel restrictions. It has also become a very useful tool during district employees training session. District employees agree that the continuance of training opportunities provided by the field representatives with inclusion of the Frankfort staff via teleconferences has provided huge benefits in their day to day responsibilities.

The most recent non-traditional component was the introduction of district supervisors' 10-minute training sessions. These sessions were designed and developed to replace the area district supervisors training sessions held each spring and fall and would be incorporated into monthly district board meetings. Each session will deal with a particular area of supervisors' responsibilities, be moderated by their field representatives and last 10 minutes or less. The supervisors who have participated so far agree that tremendous benefits will be achieved from the one-on-one format and the time relevance of the training topics to the district functions.

We appreciate conservation district boards and their employees being willing to adjust their routines and accept these non-traditional methods of service and training and for understanding that one of the vital components to continued district success is maintaining a personal link with their field representative and the Frankfort staff. We will continue to make every effort possible to effectively deliver personal service to all conservation districts through these tough economic times.

Annual Area 8 District Employees' Meeting Held

Submitted by Pam Williams

The annual Area 8 district employees' training session was held Dec. 9, 2009 at the West Liberty Service Center in Morgan County. Those in attendance included Pam Williams, Kentucky Division of Conservation field representative; district employees, Marda Hopkins, Lawrence County; April Smith, Menifee County; Melodie Bush, Carter County; Jackie Queen, Greenup County; Carolyn Moore, Martin County; Sharon Thomas, Lewis County; Tammy Winkleman, Rowan County; Donna Leach, Morgan County; and Sharon Hunt and Tracy Eubanks, Fleming County.

Due to the state budget shortfall and the resulting travel restrictions, the Frankfort staff participated via conference call. Their participation in this way brought the use of a new technology to the employee training session allowing it to be more informative and beneficial to those in attendance than if the Frankfort staff had not participated at all.

These sessions are valuable training opportunities for conservation district employees and are designed to provide the latest information and guidance regarding district activities, promote in-depth discussions on program policies and foster personal interaction between conservation district employees.

This training session focused on the latest updates regarding legislative funding, state budgets, state cost share, audits, the USDA Farm Bill, Envirothon, office safety and security and district planning and reporting.



From left to right:

Front Row: Tammy Winkleman, Rowan County; Sharon Thomas, Lewis County; Pam Williams, DOC;
Sharon Hunt, Fleming County.

Back Row: Marda Hopkins, Lawrence County; Jackie Queen, Greenup County; April Smith, Menifee County;
Donna Leach, Morgan County; Tracy Eubanks, Fleming County; Carolyn Moore, Martin County.



Russell County-Branching Out

Submitted by Stephen Olt

With the increasing pressure of budget cuts, it has become more and more crucial that conservation districts make their presence known within local communities. Most of the citizens in a given place do not even know that these organizations exist, or what they do. Districts need to branch out and make connections with various groups, including children, in order to become more recognized in the community. Recognition is what is necessary to secure new funding and maintain conservation districts in each county.

The Russell County Conservation District is one district which is branching out in order to help others and ensure their existence. They have developed an extensive educational outreach program that is showing large signs of success. One initial program is the Earth Day Celebration. Each April the district, along with US Fish and Wildlife, host a community-wide program at the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. Many partnering organizations provide hands-on activities for learning purposes and give away various items including tree seedlings and bird houses. It has proven to be a great way to educate the entire community on new conservation ideas and to promote the district.

The district has also become very involved in educating youth about recycling. They currently serve as co-sponsors for the local PRIDE/Energy team at the Russell County Middle School. Together they host a county recycling day that has proven very effective. Citizens can bring in materials they wish to recycle and in return they are given a personal recycling container they can take home and use. Throughout the day many informative items are shared with the students and adults in order to make them more efficient recycling participants.

The Eco-Conservation Fourth Grade Field Day has probably shown the most promise of all of the district activities. Students who attend this event are allowed to rotate through various environmental stations to learn how to be more environmentally friendly. Activities which allow students to participate are very popular and seem to be the most informative.

Stepping out of the box is what really gains conservation districts the most recognition. Russell County Conservation District's "out of the box" activity would be the annual Catch-A-Smile and Reaching-For-Rainbow fishing derbies. These events are held for senior citizens and K-12 special needs students. They are allowed to spend time trout fishing on the Cumberland River, while being supervised and assisted by volunteers. Each participant receives a medallion and a t-shirt for taking part in the derby. They also leave with the memory of accomplishment and pride for each fish they catch.

The conservation district also offers several professional development workshops for teachers and school programs including Smokey the Bear, PRIDE, Biologist in Training, and Fish and Wildlife programs. They also award three annual scholarships to graduating seniors in the field of agriculture. If local conservation districts don't work hard to be recognized as vital parts of the community, they will eventually cease to exist. The Russell County Conservation District has taken a grip on this concept and found new and innovative ways to get their message of conservation out to the public. For them, education of the community looks to be the road to success.

For more information on RCCD programs, contact Jennifer Hardwick at the Russell Co. Conservation District at 270-343-3343.

Cost-Share Grant Awarded to Hopkins County Conservation District for Household Hazardous Waste Submitted by Connie Gray



The Hopkins County Conservation District has received a grant to implement a soil and water pollution prevention program. The purpose of this grant is to reduce non-point source pollution of surface or groundwater that is coming from household chemical use.

The \$7,500 cost-share award from the Kentucky Division of Conservation will allow the local district to provide information to schools, homeowners and others about ways to stop contamination of their natural resources.

Vicki Presley, the county's environmental education specialist, hopes the grant will help educate citizens of Hopkins County about ordinary, every day practices that pollute the water and soil. So much of our water and soil pollution is caused by people who do it unintentionally. Such practices as using more fertilizer

and pesticides than actually needed or flushing medicines down the toilet will contaminate the soil and water. These are the types of things people don't know about.

Outreach efforts through this grant will include information and assistance with soil and water testing, presentations to schools about water pollution and speaking to garden clubs and civic organizations. The district will educate the public about pollution problems while conducting workshops on proper use, handling and disposal of household hazardous waste. The district is paying 75 percent of the cost for soil testing lawns. The district also bought water quality test kits and educational materials to be distributed to the local middle schools.

Shelby County Sponsors Local Cost Share Program Submitted by Johnna McHugh

The Shelby County Conservation District has developed a cost share and incentives program to help defray the costs for landowners who want to implement best management practices to protect soil and water quality on private land. This program is available in addition to the state and federal programs offered through the district, however, those practices already covered by a state or federal program are ineligible for these funds. This local cost-share program is providing funding to address local concerns that are not addressed by federal and state programs.

Seven practices are being offered:

1. Heave Use Areas
2. Sinkhole Protection and Repair
3. Cover Crops for Corn and Soybeans
4. Lime Spreading
5. Water Tanks for Livestock
6. Pasture and Hayland Seeding
7. Comprehensive Nutrient Management

With the exception of the cover crops and nutrient management practices, the district will cost share 50 percent of the cost up to \$1,000 once the landowners' receipts have been submitted and approved by the district board of supervisors.

The district pays \$10 per acre up to 100 acres for cover crop practices. For nutrient management practices, the district pays an incentive of \$10 per acre the first year, \$20 per acre the second year and \$50 per acre the third year for a maximum of 100 acres.

Practices for which the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has specifications (i.e., heavy use areas and livestock water tanks) must be built to NRCS design and specifications. The nutrient management practice requires a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to be completed by a certified nutrient management specialist, and the plan must follow the NRCS Standard for Nutrient Management Code 590.

The seeding program has been the most popular with 108 local farmers receiving funds in 2009. Overall, 302 practices were funded in 2009 resulting in over \$215,000 being paid to local farmers.

For more information about this program, please contact Ann Griffin, district administrative secretary, at 502-633-3640 or ann.griffin@ky.nacdnet.net.



Randal Rock and Kevin Skelton Examine a livestock water tank installed using local cost share.

Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contests Participation Growing

Submitted by Kim Richardson

Since 1944, Kentucky's teachers have presented conservation topics for the Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contests in their classrooms in conjunction with the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) and other partners. The students were then encouraged to create posters and essays to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics.

Each year thousands of students participate in these two contests. The KACD and the Kentucky Farm Bureau are pleased to see that there are more students every year taking advantage of the chance to learn more about conservation and their environment. This year's contest saw a 10 percent increase in participants. There were 43,885 art contest entries from 99 different counties and 16,534 essay contest entries from 94 counties.

This year's participants studied hard on the topic of "Water! Every Drop Counts." Their resources included an online study guide available at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Web site (www.kyfb.com) and the Division of Conservation's Web site (www.conservation.ky.gov). Kentucky Farm Bureau also provided compact discs containing the study guide to each of the 121 conservation districts to assist teachers in obtaining the information. This study guide included descriptions of water cycles; watersheds; water use on the farm, in the city, in the home and outside the home; green infrastructure and many other topics.

Once the kindergarten through twelfth grade students have completed their art or writing entries, they are judged on the county level by conservation district supervisors, local Farm Bureau members and even local county officials. A winner from each county is chosen for each contest. Those masterpieces are then judged by distinguished panel with various environmental backgrounds for area and state titles. State, area and county winners receive monetary awards sponsored by the Kentucky Farm Bureau. The local conservation districts may also provide awards to the winners.

The State Winners in the Jim Claypool Art Contest:

First Place: Brayden Noah Mills, Bell County, Lone Jack School Center

Second Place: Jordan Zax, Jefferson County, Sacred Heart Model School

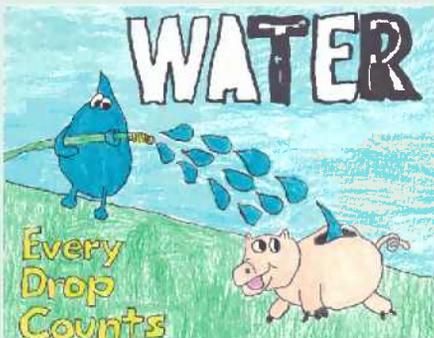
Third Place: Helena Kaelin, Campbell County, St. Catherine of Siena

The State Winners in the Conservation Writing Contest:

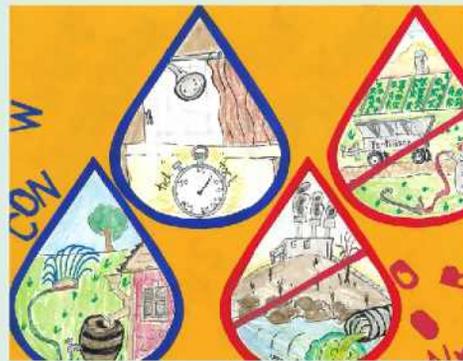
First Place: Jeremiah Ford, Leslie County, Leslie County High School

Second Place: Annette Dangerfield, Green County, Green County High School

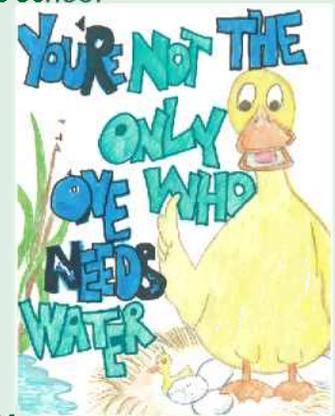
Third Place: Ben Brooks, Woodford County, Woodford County Middle School



First Place Poster



Second Place Poster



Third Place Poster



Garrard County Conservation Education Success

Submitted by Kimberly Bartley

After a decline in entries in the Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contest over the past few years, the Garrard County Conservation District was determined to increase participation last fall. On Oct. 15, 2009 the Conservation District hosted a luncheon for the educators in Garrard County.

Mr. David Rankin, chairman of the conservation district, began the program with a welcome followed by a brief description of some of the projects the district is currently involved in. With at least one representative from each school in the county present along with the superintendent of schools, the district had a feeling this was going to be a success.

As the guests enjoyed their lunch, various speakers shared information that could be used not only for this contest, but also for different opportunities for environmental education in their classrooms. Each attendee received a packet of information to take back and share with their fellow teachers including all of the material for the contest, a listing of programs offered by the conservation district, important contact names and numbers and environmental programs offered by other partners in the community. Everyone also had a chance to see an active Enviro-Scape and inquire about the conservation district's overall activities.

These efforts paid off with a substantial increase of entries from the previous year. Plans are already underway for the 2010 Educator Luncheon. The main goal is to make sure each educator in the community knows what the conservation district does and how the district can aid in their programs.



Garrard County teachers and conservation district staff enjoy luncheon.

Johnson County's Annual Awards Banquet

Submitted by Pam Williams

Johnson County Conservation District held its annual awards banquet on Thursday, April 9, 2010 at the Ramada Inn in Paintsville. Each year Chairman Greg Mead, Vice Chairman Robert O'Bryan, Treasurer Roger Murray, and board members Vessie Workman, Tom Keeth, Charlie Thomas and Jack Holbrook take great pride and enjoyment in honoring their local schools, students, landowners and partner agencies. Thanks to the district staff, Kristie Nellipowitz, Brandon Wallen, and Erica Taylor Reynolds for their work planning and coordinating this event.

This year's event drew a crowd of approximately 140. It began with a delicious three-course meal served by the Ramada Inn staff. After the meal, guests were entertained by Mr. Scott Braunstein from the "*House of Reptiles*." Both children and adults were fascinated with his presentation, the emphasis being the value of reptiles to our ecosystem. Mr. Braunstein amazed the children when he revealed his collection of live snakes, lizards and turtles. Their presence lent credibility to his message of why some reptiles make good pets and others do not. He stressed to the students and parents to do their research before getting a reptilian pet.

Next, the board of supervisors moved on to the presentation of awards. The Master Conservationist Award was presented to Alan Sublett. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors take great satisfaction in presenting this award annually to a deserving landowner and pride themselves in knowing that landowners continue to willingly work with the district and other agencies to develop and implement plans and practices to enhance their property with sound environmental stewardship in mind.

The awards for the Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contest were presented next. Johnson County had a total of 530 entries in both the art and writing contests. The students are honored for their efforts with awards given at the school, county, area and state levels. The board realizes that the local schools are a major factor in the continued promotion of the contest, so they give recognition to each school for their continued sponsorship and promotion. Also honored this year was the Johnson Central FFA Chapter for its support, assistance and dedication in assisting the district each year with tree giveaways, field days, etc. The district and district staff greatly appreciate each student that participates in the FFA Chapter.

The Johnson County Conservation District would like to thank its staff, partner agencies, landowners and schools for their participation, promotion and dedication in advancing the district's goals of environmental education and land stewardship.



Chairman Greg Mead presents Master Conservationist Award to Alan Sublett.



Scott Braunstein from The House of Reptiles.

Breathitt County Conservation District has great success in Art and Writing Contest

Submitted by Anthony Mullins

During the end of 2009, Breathitt County Schools were working hard on conservation education. It was the time of year for the Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contest. The contest each year is sponsored by the Kentucky Division of Conservation and Kentucky Farm Bureau. The Breathitt County Conservation District had great success during this year's contest with 256 essays and 714 posters entered for judging. The theme this year was *Water! Every Drop Counts* and students were educated on how important our water is to our livelihood and how we need to protect it. All the students that participated will be recognized by the conservation district at their annual awards banquet. Each year the district averages over 300 people at

their awards ceremony and hopefully this year it will grow even more. The Breathitt County Conservation District knows that the success of the contest falls back to the dedicated teachers that take the time to share this educational endeavor with their students and they would like to thank them for all their efforts.



Butler County Conservation District Hosts Reception to Honor Art and Writing Contest Winners

Submitted by Shana Drake

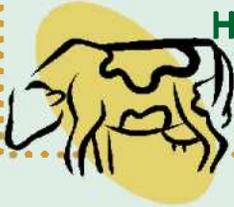
On Monday, March 1, 2010 the Butler County Conservation District held a reception at the Butler County office to honor Butler County's 2009 Conservation Art and Writing Contest winners for their accomplishments.

The 2009 Conservation Writing winner was Sierra Fields. The 2009 Conservation Art winner was Calesta Childress. Both students were awarded \$50, a certificate and a t-shirt.

Approximately 40 people were in attendance for the reception including the Superintendent of Butler County Schools, Scott Howard; Butler County Judge Executive, David Fields; Second District Magistrate, Roger McKinney and Agriculture Extension Agent, Gregory Drake II. Those in attendance enjoyed refreshments sponsored by the conservation district.

The conservation district would like to thank all those who participated in the contests in 2009 and encourage participation in the future.

WATER!
Every Drop Counts



Henry County Producer Receives National Recognition

Submitted by Greta Steverson
District Conservationist for Henry County

Brad Hargrove recently received national recognition for his efforts in the National Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative program. He was selected to speak at the fourth National Grazing Lands Conference held in Reno, NV in December 2009.

Brad's presentation, *Grazing Green in the Bluegrass State*, spotlighted conservation practices he has implemented on his farm in Henry County through the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) program.

Attendees learned about Brad's livestock watering systems, rotational grazing management plan, herd health management and his cattle handling facilities. Highlights from an educational field day held at Brad's farm were also shown.



Brad Hargrove planting Gamagrass.

While at the conference, Brad also had the opportunity to hear other special guest speakers such as Kit Pharo of Pharo Cattle Company and Dave White, chief of USDA-NRCS from Washington D.C.

Attending the conference with Brad were his wife Debbie; Greta Steverson, NRCS district conservationist, and Sid Brantly, NRCS grazing specialist.

For more information about Grazing Lands, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/glci/>.

Floyd County Holds Winter Awards Luncheon

Submitted By Anthony Mullins

The Floyd County Conservation District held a winter awards luncheon to show its appreciation for all the hard work individuals and businesses do to help aid in conservation efforts in Floyd County.

The 2009 Cooperator of the Year for Floyd County was Amy Harmon and her family. They were recognized for their involvement in district programs and the installation of best management practices on their farm.

Also at this year's luncheon J.A. Oldfield and Son Inc. was bestowed the 2009 Special Recognition award. This business has continually shown support to the Floyd County Conservation district and offered its services to the people of Floyd County.

The Floyd County Conservation District wants to recognize this family and business along with everyone it has had the privilege of working with this past year. The district considers it an honor to serve the people of Floyd County and looks forward to doing it for many years to come.



Tony Grub, District Technician, presents Cooperator of the Year Award to Amy Harmon.



Tony Grub, District Technician, presents Special Recognition Award to Charlotte Oldfield.



Rockcastle County Farmer Receives Master Conservationist Award

Submitted by David Keltner

Stephen Hines, a Rockcastle County farmer, received the Master Conservationist Award for 2009 from the Rockcastle County Conservation District. To be considered for this award, a landowner must have completed at least 90 percent of the best management practices associated with his or her conservation plan.

Stephen and his wife Julie both work for the US Postal Service and farm 130 acres in the Brodhead community. They have participated in both the USDA and Kentucky cost share programs to assist in the installation of best management practices on their farm. Three hundred and sixty feet of pipe and three watering tanks have been installed for the purpose of rotating beef cattle between different pasture fields.

The issue of eroding stream banks has been addressed by installing 510 linear feet of stream bank stabilization, including eight rock vanes. A stream crossing and 4700 feet of fence have been installed along the creek to limit cattle access. He has also added one heavy use area for the purpose of reducing the amount of runoff from his cattle feeding operation.

The Rockcastle County Conservation District honors one landowner every year who takes the necessary steps to conserve and protect their natural resources. The recipient of this award receives a master conservationist sign to post on his farm, a certificate signed by the governor and a coat with his name and the words master conservationist written on it.

Jackson County Farmer Receives Master Conservationist Award

Submitted by David Keltner

Bob Hornsby, a farmer in Jackson County, received the 2009 Master Conservationist Award from the Jackson County Conservation District as recognition for his continued success using prescribed grazing. Prescribed grazing is the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals managed with the intent to achieve a planned objective.

When Mr. Hornsby decided to stop growing tobacco he knew he had to replace that income somehow. He learned about the prescribed grazing program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He began using practice in 2000 and has been very pleased with the results.

Mr. Hornsby farms 208 acres in Jackson County. He raises Black Angus cattle on land that is rolling to somewhat steep. He has applied intensive pasture rotation to his entire farm with

most fields partitioned off in 20 to 30 acre paddocks. He has received cost share funds to install four water tanks from the federal government. Bob says the cattle are used to moving between the different pasture fields and are now comparatively gentler. After rotation, the field is clipped and gone over with a chain drag which allows for more even re-growth and scattering of the manure. Scattering of the manure piles decreases his need for fertilizer and soil erosion is lessened due to fewer overgrazed fields. There are fewer weeds and more clover in his pasture field than before. He has also benefited from a higher dollar return per acre than before by increasing the carrying capacity on his farm. To be eligible for this award a landowner must complete 90 percent of the best management practices set forth in his conservation plan.



Mercer County Supervisor Retires After 34 Years of Service

Submitted by Kimberly Bartley

Mr. Garland Yankey



Mr. Garland Yankey joined the Mercer County Conservation District Board in 1975. Little did he know that he would stay for 34 years and serve as Chairman for 23 of those years. He stated, "I have seen so many good things during my time on the Board and I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything. Things have changed so much since I was actively farming and the conservation districts are such a good thing for farmers and folks who don't know anything about conservation and I am glad I could be a part of that."

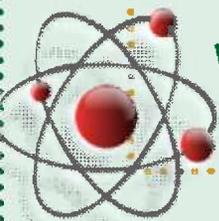
Garland has had many experiences in his lifetime. He and his wife Frances married in December 1947 and he was stationed in Germany during World War II. After the army he attended UK but he knew he wanted to farm. In 1956 he was finally able to purchase some land where he milked and raised tobacco. He also hauled and purchased cattle for other farmers.

Garland, Frances and son, Dwight, enjoyed the farm life. They were able to raise their family and make a good living. Their son later passed away at the age of 35 of a massive heart attack. Garland and Frances sold their farm in 2003 and moved to town.

"I have learned so much and been able to enjoy meeting so many people across the state and traveled to the National Convention several times. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years on the board". In his opinion, one of the best things that happened during his tenure on the Board was the district getting on the millage tax. He encourages every district to do the same to support themselves and provide vital services to the farming community. Now at 86 Garland says it is finally time to retire. He spends his time going to football and basketball games, playing rook, and enjoying his 2 grand-kids.

The Mercer County Conservation District hosted a retirement party on January 23. Although the Board was saddened by his retirement, Garland said it was time to "pass the torch". The Board thanks Garland for good times, his wealth of knowledge and for staying with them for so long – Garland has touched Mercer County and left his mark on conservation.





Wonders of Physics Traveling Show Visits Western Kentucky

Submitted by Debbie Hinton

The Wonders of Physics Traveling Show was in western Kentucky during January 2010. The purpose of the hour-long show was to promote science, technology, engineering and math education to K-12 students.

Students learned about motion, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism and light. Murray State University and the Calloway County Conservation District worked together to bring the show to the region.

The Wonders of Physics Traveling Show appeared at Calloway County Middle School, Murray Middle School, Murray Elementary, the three Calloway Elementary schools, Graves County High School, Marshall County elementary, middle and high schools and the LBL Planetarium.

The Calloway County Conservation District feels this program was very well received in the region.



Wonders of Physics 2010 with Ella Braden from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.



Soil Quality Field Day Sponsored by Boone County Conservation District

Submitted by Linda Hunter

On March 20, 2010, the Boone County Conservation District sponsored a soil quality field day at Farm Haven in Union, Ky. The farm is owned and operated by Bruce and Stuart Ferguson. The theme of the field day was, "What is soil quality and why is it important to me, my land, and the resources in my community?" The workshop was attended by people from neighboring counties as well as Boone County.

Ed Thompson, NRCS district conservationist for Boone, Campbell, Grant and Kenton Counties was the primary speaker. Other speakers included John Graham, NRCS state soil quality coordinator and Sid Brantly, NRCS state grazing specialist.

Topics of discussion included improving crop production, managing soil organic matter, sediment and nutrient loads in surface water, storm water management and wildlife habitat.

The farm has served the local community as the site for many educational demonstrations, including maple syrup making. It also has a petting zoo and corn maze open to the public during the year. Bruce Ferguson is a former Boone County Conservation District board member and past Boone County Judge Executive.



Marion County Students Build Birdhouses

And Learn a Little about Conservation Along the Way

By Kimberly Bartley

Every year in November the Marion County Conservation District and NRCS go to a local classroom to teach fifth graders a little bit about conservation and building birdhouses. District Conservationist Herb Davis starts all of the birdhouses from scratch. The students then put them together learning about the blue bird habitat along the way.

More than 90 students at West Marion Elementary participated. The day's events also included a presentation about soil conservation and protecting our natural resources. The children also viewed pictures of conservation practices that are currently under construction in Marion County and learned about their importance.

The Marion County Conservation District and NRCS strive to educate the younger generation on the importance of the community's natural resources and wildlife habitat. This is the fifth year they have sponsored this program and they hope it will continue to be a success.

Great
@Job!



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2010 Conservation District Quarterly Calendar



KACD State Envirothon Contest (20th & 21st)

KACD Board of Directors Meeting – 11th at 9:30 AM

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting – 17th at 9:00 AM

REPORTS

UFIR Budget Report to Dept. for Local Government by the 1st

Equipment Loan Payments – due 5th to district

Equipment Loan Payments and Report – due 10th to division

State Cost Share Monthly Status – due 15th



Kentucky Forestry Camp

Extensions for State Cost Share Practices for six additional months

REPORTS

Equipment Loan Payments – due 5th to district

Equipment Loan Payments and Report – due 10th to division

State Cost Share Monthly Status – due 15th



Writing and Art Contest Material Published on Division Web Site

KACD STATE CONVENTION—18, 19, and 20—Hyatt Hotel, Lexington

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting – 18th

REPORTS

Equipment Loan Payments – due 5th to district

Equipment Loan Payments and Report – due 10th to division

State Cost Share Monthly Status – due 15th



Filing Deadline November General Election for Supervisors – Aug. 10th

NACD Southeast Regional Meeting –

REPORTS

Equipment Loan Payments – due 5th to district

Equipment Loan Payments and Report – due 10th to division

State Cost Share Monthly Status – due 15th