

## Carter County Conservation District Hosts Agriculture and Home Field Day

Submitted by Pam Williams

The Carter County Conservation District in partnership with the Carter County Extension Service held their annual Agriculture and Home Field Day. The Suttles Family Farm just outside of Grayson was the host farm for the event in June. The farm, operated and managed by brothers Frank Jr. and Herbie Suttles and their families, was originally established in 1960 by their parents totaling 220 acres. Today the brothers operate and manage 305 acres consisting of 140 head of beef cattle, 18 acres of tobacco, 30 acres of hay, 27 acres of corn, and 11 acres of silage corn. The Suttles family is very proud of their family and farming heritage and has made major progress in producing agriculture products in an environmentally conscious manner with the assistance and guidance from the conservation district and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Suttles brothers realize the importance of cooperating with the conservation district and applying the guidance and program practices to their land in order to lessen the environmental impact of their farming practices and ultimately ensure the next generation will have an excellent opportunity to continue a profitable, environmentally sound farming tradition on the Suttles Family Farm.



Photo: (L-R) FSA CED Gera Ferguson, FSA PT Fran Reddicks and Senator Robin Webb

The field day drew more than 250 local guests that included Senator Robin Webb displaying her support for the agricultural industry. Participants had a variety of agriculture tours, information sessions and vendor stations to visit and a ribeye steak meal prepared by the Cattlemen's Association. Several of the tours included an overview of many practices the Suttles had installed with assistance from the district and NRCS. A special focus was provided on a pilot project available to a few landowners in some of the northeastern counties in

Kentucky known as Ohio River Basin Energy Trading Initiative. Tony Burnett, NRCS; Jamie Ponder, Division of Conservation; and Brian Bryant, Farmland Trust, gave an overview of the initiative and potential conservation practice resources available for farmland and farmers along the Ohio River Basin. In April 2014 The Suttles Family Farm was an approved participant for the installation of a heavy use area near their animal waste storage facility under the pilot project, and as an added project milestone this would be the first conservation practice for the pilot project completed in Kentucky. Guests also took part in haying and wrapping

demonstration provided by UK Forage Specialist Dr. David Ditsch, BQA chute side training and livestock insecticide information. Several equipment dealers, local partner agencies and organizations also set up displays to promote their programs and products. The evening was a huge success showcasing the districts assistance and benefits to landowners and the environment. The Carter County Conservation District knows this is a highly successful method of promoting conservation and conservation education in Carter County and plan to continue highlighting landowners success during the field day each year.