

## Fleming County Annual Fifth Grade Field Day

By Pam Williams

For the past seventeen years Fleming County Conservation District has been educating all the fifth grade students on environmental issues, and this year was no different. On September 22 approximately 170 students from four elementary schools in Fleming County attended the environmental field day held at Fox Valley Recreational Lake. The sessions included water safety and conservation, forest fires, soils, wood magic, forestry, rain simulator, learn before you burn and wildlife. This year the program added a session on pollination, with a presentation from David Ratliff, a local honey producer and NRCS earth team volunteer, as well as highlighting the wildlife presentation given by Zachary Danks, NRCS wildlife liaison. Emery Clark III, chairman, said "Fleming County has always had participation in the national and state art and writing contests. Our student entries have represented the contest themes and our county well; last year we had a student that received honorable mention in the NACD poster contest. This year we wanted to provide as much hands on information for the contests as possible and incorporate special segments into the program with special emphasis on the contest themes. We feel it could give our students an advantage and a greater insight in preparing their entries for the NACD poster contest with the theme, 'Local Heroes-Your Hard Working Pollinators' and the Jim Claypool art and writing contest, 'The Wild Side of Kentucky.' We want our students to excel in environmental education, and this is just one more aspect of involving them in programs that give them the ability to see results first hand as well as hands-on learning."



The Fleming County Conservation District supervisors and staff are dedicated to providing assistance and education on protecting the natural resources in Fleming County. They understand that a sound foundation for achieving this goal begins with the youth. The district wants to incorporate as many environmental education programs into their curriculum as possible to further their goal by teaching with hands-on techniques a conscious appreciation and knowledge of environmental stewardship. Another key component of successfulness of their

educational programs is the Fleming County School District's faculty and staff who welcome the districts many programs into the school system, because without their acceptance and support it would be a difficult task to accomplish.

This is only one of a number of events held annually by the district for the Fleming County youth. The district supervisors and staff make every effort in making each event as educational and informative as the last. Finding updated educational resources, adopting new techniques, using of hands-on tools, and partnering with other agency professionals ensures that the programs keep the focus of the students so they leave with a respect and understanding of the importance of protecting the environment we all live in.

