

Campbell County Conservation District

8351 E. Main Street, Suite 104
Alexandria, KY 41001-1214
859-635-9587 or 859-635-5666
FAX: 859-635-0496

Office hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

E-mail: campbellcd@fuse.net

Web Site:

<http://home.fuse.net/campbellcd>

The mission of the Campbell County Conservation District, in accordance with state statute, is to promote the best use of the land, water, and other natural resources within the district by encouraging the use of Best Management Practices. To further these efforts, the district provides assistance, information, and education throughout the county.

District Board Supervisors:

Larry Varney, Chairman;
Ron McCormick, Vice Chairman;
Ken McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer;
Gene Dobbs; Alan Ahrman (6 mos)
Linda Bray-Schafer (3 mos);
Dennis Walter; and Sanford Record.

District Staff:

Linda Grizzell, Administrative
Secretary;
Mary Kathryn Dickerson, District
Coordinator;
Jennifer Mason, Conservation Assistant;
Kristin Scott (thru Sept. 2010), John
Stork (beginning June 2011) Agriculture
Conservation Technician.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Ed L. Thompson Jr., District
Conservationist

Ky. Division of Conservation:

Linda Hunter, 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.



Campbell County Conservation District Annual Report

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Farmland protection work

The District continues to build on the work started through the 2005 Farmland Study for Campbell County. Board members and staff from the Campbell County Conservation District and their partners continue to work to implement recommendations from the study. Partners include: Campbell Conservancy, Campbell County Fiscal Court, Campbell County Planning Commission, Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, Campbell County Cattle Association, Campbell County Farm Bureau, Northern Kentucky Horse Network, Northern Kentucky University Center for Applied Ecology, and the Campbell County Economic Progress Authority. Campbell County Conservation District members on the Farmland Work Group include Dennis Walter, Linda Bray-Schafer, Ron McCormick, Alan Ahrman and former board member Helen Fehr, and staff Linda Grizzell, Jennifer Mason, and Mary Kathryn Dickerson.

The **Outreach Task Force**, chaired by Linda Bray-Schafer, launched its second annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour attracting more than 2,000 visitors. The bulk of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with 11 states and 94 cities represented. During the day they enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of seventeen Campbell County farm owners on Sat., July 17, 2010. The tour crisscrossed the county showcasing a greenhouse operation, three vineyards, museum, horse farms, 4-H project farm, honey bee farm, forestry and switchgrass, 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, wine, and learn from some of our best farmers about the farming process. The task force is planning next year's tour for July 23, 2011.

A Campbell County Proud Gift Basket is being developed as an additional marketing effort for county agricultural products, including local wines, farm produce and agri-tourism enterprises such as horse farms.

A Farm to Fork event is being planned for August 1, 2011. The event will be held at the Lazy K Ranch in Southern Campbell County. Guests include business, community and political leaders in the county. The event is being held to reconnect people to the land and the farmers who produce quality local food and wine.

The **Green Infrastructure Task Force**, chaired by Don Girton, has identified county farms by location and enterprise. The Campbell County Conservation District staff took leadership in providing technical and administrative support. The Campbell County PVA office made available their data base, GIS capabilities and expertise so the Conservation District could compile data and generate maps utilizing the PVA data base for parcels with agriculture evaluations. By utilizing the PVA system it was not necessary to develop a new database and ownership can be periodically updated as ownership changes. Lastly,

the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service provided invaluable assistance by bringing together, on at least four occasions, knowledgeable members of the agriculture community from throughout the county to help identify, categorize and map farm operations. This information was ultimately matched with the PVA database and a county map of farmland was generated. From this work, the long term goal is to be able to provide county comprehensive plan with information on the agricultural enterprises in the county, be more aggressive in ensuring reporting to the ag census, and develop a plan for farmland protection. Short term plans are to strengthen participation in the existing Kentucky Agricultural District Program, facilitate recognition of the role that farmers play in providing Liveable Communities, and look at the data to see how we can develop opportunities for increasing economic viability.

The District's easement committee is working to draft policies and procedures relating to conservation easements. The committee consists of board members Alan Ahrman, who chairs the committee; Ron McCormick; and Sanford Record. A supervisor will be appointed to fill Alan Ahrman's vacancy; Alan resigned January 1.

A youth internship program was initiated by the District's Farmland Work Group through the Campbell County High School Future Farmers of America. Supervisors Ron McCormick and Alan Ahrman, Cooperative Extension Service Agent Don Sorrell, and Campbell County High School Agriculture Educator Sam Evans serve on the team. This fiscal year Sam chose an agri-science project to be completed by April 11. He asked the students to do a PowerPoint presentation on their farm project as well as taking pictures and using them in their presentations. Sam also wants to introduce animal science studies to his students. This youth program fulfills an educational component of the Farmland Work Group's five year strategic plan on education about farmland values.

Agricultural Districts - There are fourteen agricultural districts in Campbell County with a total of 12,125 acres and 253 landowners.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Grant – The Conservation District, in cooperation with the Campbell Conservancy and the Campbell County Fiscal Court, continues work on the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) Grant that helped purchase land along the Licking River. The property will be open in the future for hiking, bird watching, nature study, and access to the Licking River for canoeing and kayaking. Work will be undertaken to restore and protect native prairie and woods, as well as to preserve a log cabin home site. A joint advisory team for Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area is composed of members from the District, Conservancy, and Fiscal Court was formed to research and discuss issues affecting the properties to ensure that the vision for the properties and the conservation easement for the Heritage Tract are upheld. Board member Ken McCormick chairs the team. Other Board members on the team are Dennis Walter, Larry Varney, and Gene Dobbs, assisted by staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson.

During this fiscal year the District has completed the placement of approximately 90% of the boundary signs. Projects currently include access to the property and canoe launch and invasive species removal. A natural resources restoration project with Northern Kentucky University's Center for Applied Ecology was completed. The district is working with the U. S. Army 478th Engineer Battalion in Ft. Thomas to see if training opportunities can be provided for the unit while accomplishing needed work at the property.

Other volunteers and agencies are being enlisted to assist. The Campbell Conservancy is also working with the District to incorporate volunteers from the LEGACY organization and Boy Scouts for possible restoration work on the log cabin and/or other projects.

Technical Assistance –

Technical assistance is provided to Campbell County through Ed L. Thompson Jr., District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), our federal partner, and Kenton County Conservation District staff. In 2010 – 2011, they provided assistance to over 200 Campbell County landowners concerning conservation planning, rotational grazing systems, wildlife habitat improvement, forestry practices, animal waste control, nutrient management, storm water runoff, drainage, erosion and sediment control, and other conservation needs. The NRCS, Conservation District, and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and Kentucky Division of Forestry work together to assist landowners with programs under the federal Farm Bill. Landowners have several years to complete practices and are required to maintain the practices for up to 20 years, depending on the program requirements.

Ed Thompson NCRS District Conservationist accepted a new position with U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Outreach and Advocacy as the USDA 1890 Program Manager at Kentucky State University. He began his duties there in April 2010. Steve Ewalt is serving as the acting District Conservationist until the position is filled. Allen

Arthur, Soil Conservation Technician will continue to provide technical assistance to landowners.

Suzanne Rittinger was hired by NCRS as a summer intern in 2010. She is studying environmental science and geology with courses in civil engineering at Northern Kentucky University. Jennifer Zimmer, a student studying conservation and geology, joined the NRCS as a summer intern in June 2011.

Kristin Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician for 6 ½ years, has left the Conservation Districts to care for her family. John Stork joined the Conservation District staff in June 2011 as the new Agriculture Conservation Technician.

The staff also currently provides ongoing assistance for twenty (20) **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** contracts initiated since 2002. Landowners are required to maintain the practices for up to ten years. EQIP is a program of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of the 2002 Farm Bill. To date conservation practices valued at \$346,838.83 have been implemented on 2,354 contract acres. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, seven contracts have been obligated for \$156,182 on 1,048 acres. EQIP goals include the reduction of soil erosion and non-point source pollution, as well as promotion of at-risk species wildlife habitat conservation. An additional three applications totaling \$3,810 have been made for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning on 763 acres and two applications totaling \$54,054 have been made for Forestland Improvement. Two applications for Energy have been made, totaling \$4,116 on 80 acres. One Certified Organic application was received.

Three landowners are currently involved in the **Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)**, another program of the 2002 Farm Bill that will affect 36.8 acres of land and represent an investment of \$7,821.69. NRCS and District staff assists the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources with this program. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, five contracts have been obligated for \$45,231 on 100 acres.

Two landowners are currently implementing practices under the Conservation Security Program on 535 acres, representing a Farm Bill investment of \$5,422. Two applications have been made under the **Conservation Security Program** for \$ 999.00 to improve 108 acres of land.

The District operates a **Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader** for rent to Campbell County farmers for \$25/day for spreading lime to improve productivity by increasing the soil pH. Before using the lime spreader, farmers must attend a safety training program, offered by the Campbell County Extension Service. It was purchased as a cooperative effort of the Campbell County Farm Bureau, Campbell County Extension Service, Campbell County Cattle Association, and the Campbell County Conservation District. It was rented by seven farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$300. It is housed and managed by board member Ron McCormick.

Agriculture Water Quality Act - A total of 592 landowners currently have a self-certification form filed with the District stating that they have developed and are implementing a water quality plan for their operation.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - This year \$16,481.02 was approved for two county producers through the Ky. Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund to help install Best Management Practices on his farm to resolve resource problems. Producers may be granted up to two years to complete their practices. This fiscal year the program paid \$20,000 to assist one county producer.

Dead Livestock Disposal Program - The District received a matching grant from the Kentucky Division of Conservation Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 42 producers participated in the program that assisted in the disposal of 21 cows, 21 horses, and one alpaca. The program also assists the county animal shelter with costs for proper disposal of pets.

Farm Dump Removal Grants – The Conservation District received a grant from the Kentucky Division of Conservation Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund to assist in cleaning up farm dumps. One application was approved and one producer has been awarded \$1,875 this fiscal year. Board members Gene Dobbs and Ron McCormick serve on this committee.

Alternative Agriculture Grant – The Conservation District received a grant from the Kentucky Division of Conservation Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund to assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill cost share programs in the control of sediment and erosion. Two applications were received and two producers were awarded \$7,500 this fiscal year.

Agriculture Development Fund - This is a program of the County Agriculture Development Council set up to administer funds from the Phase I tobacco settlement. Funds are available for model programs such as cattle genetics, cattle handling facilities, forages, fencing, agricultural diversification, and hay/grain storage facilities programs. The new state guidelines make all programs available to County applicants. This fiscal year Board members Dennis Walter and Alan Ahrman served as the district's representatives to this county board. The Conservation District administers the program in Campbell County. Supervisor Ken McCormick and staff Linda Grizzell attended an Agriculture Development Workshop training program in March at Fayette County. Alan attended the County Ag Development Council meeting in July. Dennis attended a KADF Forum in Maysville in May. The District voted to administer the program again for 2011.

Campbell County Ag Community Leaders' Meeting – The Campbell County Conservation District co-hosted a breakfast meeting in November at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center at A. J. Jolly Park. Speakers included representatives from the Northern Kentucky Vintners and Grape Growers Association, Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, Campbell County Farm Bureau, Northern Kentucky Horse Network, Campbell County Cattle Association, and the Conservation District. This annual event provides a forum for agricultural organizations and agencies to present issues of concern to state legislators and county officials. Conservation District board members who attended were Larry Varney, Dennis Walter, Ron McCormick, Alan Ahrman, Ken McCormick, Sanford Record, Gene Dobbs, and staff Linda Grizzell and Mary Kathryn Dickerson.

Campbell Conservancy - Dennis Walter is a board member of the Campbell Conservancy and District Coordinator Mary Kathryn Dickerson serves as an advisor. In August 2006, the Conservancy and Conservation District board approved an agreement through which the Conservation District provides administrative and technical services to the Conservancy for a nominal fee. The Conservation District also provides a space for meetings and storage of records. Members of the Conservancy are: Penny Hoskin, chair; Dr. Yvonne Meichtry; Dennis Walter; Joe Piller; Don Girton; Melissa Williams; David Peck; David Shaw; Adam Caswell; and Peter Garrett. Advisory Board members are Mary Kathryn Dickerson of the Campbell County Conservation District, DJ. Scully of the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, Robert Horine of Campbell County Fiscal Court, and Peter Klear of Campbell County Planning and Zoning.

Projects and Partners

The District supported many individuals, organizations, agencies, and projects throughout the year, including:

- Staff member Mary Kathryn Dickerson represents the District on Sanitation District #1's **Watershed Planning Council**.
- Staff member Mary Kathryn Dickerson represents the District on the **Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee**.

Education and Outreach

A booth was shared at the **Alexandria Fair and Horse Show** by the Campbell County Cattle Association, the Campbell County Beef Association, the Northern Kentucky Vintner and Grape Growers' Association, Campbell County Farmer's Market, Campbell County Extension Service, Northern Kentucky Beekeepers' Association, and the Campbell County Conservation District promoting their respective programs, wine, honey, and produce. The Conservation District Farmland Work Group gave away a Campbell County Proud Gift Basket as a prize from a drawing. Supervisors Gene Dobbs, Larry Varney, Alan Ahrman, Linda Bray-Schafer and staff Linda Grizzell helped to man the booth.

Through a partnership with the Cooperative Extension Service Agriculture Agents, the **Northern Kentucky Agritourism Network** was officially formed as a 501(c)3 organization and includes the counties of Campbell, Boone, Kenton, and Pendleton. Supervisor Dennis Walter is the president and Linda Bray-Schafer serves on the steering committee.

Tree Planting and Urban Forestry Enhancement - The Campbell County Conservation District has been giving matching grants for Tree Planting and Community Beautification since 1993 to help cities and communities establish programs or develop projects to protect and conserve our natural resources. The project must be accomplished on lands located in Campbell County that are owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by city, county, state, or federal government and must include funding or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to the grant request. This year four grants were awarded. The **City of Bellevue** received \$750 for their city-wide tree planting plan, the **Ft. Thomas Forest Conservancy** received \$750 for their model native garden phase II, the **City of Dayton** received \$750 for their Dayton Pike project, and the **Neighborhood Foundations** received \$750 for their

street tree program.

Education Grants - The Campbell County Conservation District has offered education grants since 1991 to assist schools in fostering learning about conservation and our environment. Grant applications are accepted from October through January each year. This year one grant was awarded: **Crossroads Elementary** received \$1,000 for their shade garden/outdoor classroom project.

Conservation Scholarships -

Lindsey Scaggs, Alexandra Lynn Rawlings, and Elizabeth Hoffman will receive \$1,000 scholarships for their academic year through the Campbell County Conservation District. **Lindsey Corryn Scaggs** is a senior at Highlands High School and plans on attending either Eastern Kentucky University or Murray State University choosing wildlife conservation as her field of study. **Alexandra Rawlings** is a freshman at the University of Louisville. Her field of study is biology with a cellular/physiology track. **Elizabeth Jane Hoffman** is a senior at Highlands High School. She plans on attending Northern Kentucky University. Her field of study is in environmental science and geology. Elizabeth (Beth) is also a member of one of the three Canon Envirothon Teams from Highlands High School.

- The Campbell County Conservation District supports the **Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary Scholarship** program through a donation of money. Items for the annual auction are donated by board members and partners.
- When applicable, the District sponsors a \$175 scholarship to attend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Camp Webb. This year the District had no scholarship winner. Scholarships are made possible by donations from local hunting and fishing clubs and sponsors, such as the Campbell County Conservation District.

Writing and Art Contests – "*Kentucky's Soil; All Hands In*" was the topic for this school year's Conservation Contests. The theme focused on ways to conserve Kentucky's soil and prevent erosion. In the Art Contest there were 721 entries from eight schools. This year in the Writing Contest there were 141 entries written from five schools. County and school winners received a certificate of achievement from the District. Also from the District, the art winners received a "[Tickle Me Plant Greenhouse Kit](#)" and the writing winners received a set of [Earth-Friendly Garden Knowledge Cards](#). K-5 teachers received a [Dig Your Hands in the Dirt](#) book and the 6-12 teachers received a set of [Earth-Friendly Garden Knowledge Cards](#) from the Conservation District. The K-2 art winner received a \$25 check from the District. The county art winner received a \$25 check from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. The winning writing student received a \$250 check from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation because she won first place in the state contest. Students also received Legislative Citations to honor their work from Senator Katie Stine and Representatives Joe Fischer and Tom McKee. Representative Fischer was present to award the citations to the students. The meal was catered from Jack's Catering of Melbourne, KY.

Mariann Smith, Grant's Lick Elementary, was the recipient of the District's **Teacher Incentive Award** for the Writing and Art Contests.

Board member Larry Varney attended the **Highlands High School** rain garden presentation in May. The school wanted to show the District a project that was completed with education grant funds and to express their appreciation.

Cooperator of the Year was Anna Zinkhon of Camp Springs. Anna was nominated for the award by the Campbell County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service for her hard work to improve the quality of her land in Campbell County. The land and animals, especially horses, have been her passion since she was a young girl. In the early 1990's she began researching boarding and riding stables and found that most of them were located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Boone County, Kentucky. The idea for Misty Ridge Farm was born and work began on making Anna's dream come true. Out of the 40-acres, there wasn't much flat land to work with, so they had to be creative in the design for the farm. The farm is divided into nine pastures where horses are turned out during the day, weather permitting, on a rotation. Pastures are rested from about December to April or May. She clips the pastures about twice a year to keep down weedy growth. A heavy-use lot was installed about five years ago to enable turning the horses out when the pastures aren't available. The lot was constructed with aggregate and filter fabric to facilitate removing manure according to University of Kentucky Extension Service recommendations. Anna said that over the years she has relied heavily on advice from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Extension Service as she developed the farm. Last year through the Campbell County Conservation District's

Alternative Agriculture Grant and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Anna completed portions of an animal trail and walkway along Owl Creek.

This fiscal year the **District Volunteer Award** was presented to **Don Girton** for his service to the Farmland Work Group. Don is chair of the work group's Green Infrastructure Task Force and completed the task of identifying agricultural activity in Campbell County. This data will then be used to prioritize what farmland is to be saved. The task force met their goals and objectives of the Farmland Work Group's strategic five-year plan. Farmland Work Group Chairman and supervisor Dennis Walter presented the award to Don at our Art and Writing Awards Dinner.

- The quarterly newsletter, *Landscapes*, reaches over 2,000 Campbell County farmers and other cooperators.
- **Highlands High School** of Ft. Thomas competed for the second time in the East Regional State *Envirothon* competition in April. Three teams were entered, but only two participated. The Senior Team "A" finished 14th out of 25. They were top 4 in soils (Elizabeth Hoffman) was the soil specialist. The underclassmen, Team "B" finished 12th; they were a team of 4, (2 freshmen, 2 sophomores). They placed 5th in Estuaries with a 94%. Both teams scored above 250 pts.
- Board member Larry Varney maintains a web site for the District, at <http://home.fuse.net/campbellcd>
- Board members participated in the **Alexandria Fair & Horse Show** by purchasing a fair book advertisement featuring "Buy Fresh Eat Local" supporting Campbell County farmers. They also purchased animals at the 4-H/ FFA Livestock Sale, in partnership with several other organizations, and sponsored the 4-H Forestry Award (a \$50 savings bond) at the Alexandria Fair and Horse Show. Board member Larry Varney presented the forestry award at the fair to **Jessika Beyer**.
- In February board member Larry Varney participated in **FFA practice judging** for their upcoming speech competition.
- **Big Bone Lick State Park Discovery Days** – Board members Sanford Record and Larry Varney worked at October's Big Bone Lick State Park Discovery Days. Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson organized the district booth at the three-day event. Over 350 students, teachers, and parent volunteers visited the Conservation District booth on Friday during the annual Salt Festival at Big Bone Lick State Park. Ashley Olwine, SD#1educator, joined the Conservation District at their booth and made presentations using their *Enviroscape* to discuss water pollution while district staff discussed historical water use. On Saturday and Sunday, the district booth had over 400 visitors who tested their knowledge of native and non-native plants.
- **Reforest Northern Kentucky** – Board Chairman Larry Varney attended Reforest NKY 2011 at A.J. Jolly Park in Campbell County in April.
- **Northern Kentucky University Earth Day** – The District participated in an event featuring staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson on the NKU speaker's panel with a presentation on conservation districts and farm studies from Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties. Approximately 12 people attended. The District also co-hosted an Earth Day booth on Friday, April 22.
- **Ft. Thomas Go Green Earth Day** – On April 16 board member Larry Varney participated in the event featuring farmland protection and Farmland Work Group activities; however, the event was shortened due to rain.
- The district supports the **NKU Environmental Education Alliance** and the **Environmental Education in No. Ky. Resource Guide** is available through the district office.
- **Bellevue Landslides** – Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson is working with residents in Bellevue on hillside slippage issues. The District sponsored a community meeting on June 22 at the Callahan Center in Bellevue. An overview of landslides and current research at the Kentucky Geological Survey was presented by Geologist Matt Crawford. Esther White, Project Grants Manager, University of Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, presented information about the program. Board members Gene Dobbs and Ron McCormick attended. Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson organized and conducted the meeting. The conservation district's goal is to connect people to the resources they need to help resolve these issues.

- Board member Larry Varney attended the annual Campbell County Future Farmers of America Banquet in May.
- Board member Larry Varney attended the first Campbell County Beef Association Annual Meeting in March.
- Board member Larry Varney attended Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council Annual fall dinner in October.
- Board member Larry Varney attended Green Energy Showcase at the Gateway Community & Technical College in October.
- Board member Larry Varney attended a Water Quality Trading joint workshop with Ohio Farm Bureau in Sardinia, Ohio in October.
- Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson attended the **Southeast/Kentucky Invasive Species Conference** in Lexington in May. The knowledge she acquired can hopefully be practiced on the removal of honeysuckle at Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area, the property acquired by the District through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board.
- **Floodplain, Streams & Wetlands Compliance Workshop** –Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson and Kristin Scott attended this workshop about the 401 Water Quality Certification, 404 U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Permits and Floodplain, Stream construction programs to gain a general overview of regulatory compliance issues.
- **Kentucky Wetland and Stream Restoration Institute** – Mary Kathryn Dickerson attended this weeklong institute in September through a partial scholarship from the Institute.
- **Security and Privacy Act Training – All District staff completed USDA training in basic Security and Privacy Act** compliance.
- Staff Mary Kathryn Dickerson was awarded an **Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana regional public service award** in May. Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Penderly nominated her for her outstanding public service for Northern Kentucky.

District Operations and Involvement

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) –The state convention was held at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington in July. Board members Dennis Walter, Ken McCormick, Ron McCormick, Sanford Record, Gene Dobbs, Larry Varney, Alan Ahrman, and staff member Linda Grizzell attended the meeting. The District participates in the 10-minute trainings provided by Division of Conservation Field Representative Linda Hunter.

Ron McCormick, Ken McCormick, Gene Dobbs, Larry Varney, Sanford Record, Linda Bray-Schafer, Mary Kathryn Dickerson, and Linda Grizzell attended the KACD Area 5 meeting in Owen County.

Board members serve on statewide KACD committees, which meet annually: Public Information, Sanford Record; Research and Natural Resources, Larry Varney; and Education, Ken McCormick.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) – Board members Dennis Walter and Larry Varney attended the NACD convention in Nashville.

Legislative Action - Dennis Walter serves as the district's legislative liaison.

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC) The annual meeting was held at the OKI Regional office in April. Board members Sanford Record, Ron McCormick, Larry Varney, Ken McCormick, Gene Dobbs, and Linda Bray-Schafer attended. Larry Varney participated on the planning committee for the meeting. Larry Varney is treasurer and the District holds the OKI funds. A conservation tour is hosted each year by a member of the **OKI-RCC**. Those attending the tour in Boone County in September were board members Larry

Varney, Ken McCormick, and Sanford Record, and staff Linda Grizzell, Kristin Scott, and Mary Kathryn Dickerson. Next year's tour is being planned in Butler County. Board member Larry Varney is also on the OKI Regional Planning Forum that meets quarterly. OKI is committed to helping local government in the region implement well-defined land use and transportation strategies and enhance and conserve environmental resources.

The **Executive Committee** of the Campbell County Conservation District meets as needed with those of the Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts. The boards work together on conservation programs and employee policy, making changes as needed.

Standing Committees of the District are:

Land Use Committee – Gene Dobbs, Chairman; Ken McCormick; Larry Varney, and, Sanford Record. Advisory Committee: DJ. Scully, Don Sorrell, and Dave Koester, Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service; Ed Thompson, NRCS District Conservationist; and, Kristin Scott, Campbell County Conservation District staff. Gene Dobbs is the Agriculture Water Quality Act contact in the event a landowner is cited for violations under the Bad Actor clause of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA).

Conservation Education and Public Information Committee – Alan Ahrman, Chairman (Ron McCormick named chair after Alan's resignation); Dennis Walter, and Ron McCormick, Larry Varney. Advisory Committee: DJ. Scully and Owen Prim of the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service and Helen Fehr, former district board member.

Soil & Water Conservation Commission – Chairman Larry Varney was appointed to serve on the Ky Soil & Water Conservation Commission effective July 1, 2010. Larry attended all the SWCC meetings throughout the year.

District Funding - District revenue is provided through a county tax on real property and funding from the Kentucky Division of Conservation. A complete financial report is available at the district office.

The Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts hosted their second **Joint Agency meeting** to discuss ways our agencies can better serve clients in our three counties. Representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, the Kentucky Division of Air, the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry attended. Board members Larry Varney and Ron McCormick, and staff Linda Grizzell, Jennifer Mason and Mary Kathryn Dickerson attended.

District Property - In December the District purchased 2.456 acres of land in Southern Campbell County. Future plans for the land have not been confirmed.