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:**
Ron McCormick, Chairman; Dennis Walter, Vice Chair; Ken McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer; Gretchen Vaughn (July-Sept); Linda Bray-Schafer, Rick Simon, Peter Garrett, and Debbie Buckley (Nov-June).

**District Staff:**
Linda Grizzell, Administrative Secretary; Amy Winkler, District Coordinator
John Stork, contracted Agriculture Conservation Technician for Campbell County

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:**
Ian Young, Supervisory Natural Resource Manager; Kevin Bryan, Soil Conservation Planner

**Ky. Division of Conservation:**
Linda Hunter, Field Representative

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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.
The District’s revenue is provided through a county tax on real property and funding from the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Financial reports are available at the district office or can be viewed on the Kentucky Department for Local Government website under Special Purpose Government Entities.

**Legislative Committee**

This committee consists of supervisor Pete Garrett and Field Representative Linda Hunter. Pete monitored bills in the House or Senate as they related to the District or county landowners and presented recommendations to the Board. In July Linda Hunter presented resolutions for the board to consider at the Soil & Water Conservation Meeting at the KACD Convention. Pete is keeping abreast of the eastern-by-pass proposal being studied to relieve traffic on the Brent Spence Bridge. If passed, this proposal will take many acres of land and affect agricultural districts. Pete also brought HB 576 to the attention of the board. This bill related to agricultural and horticultural value for property tax assessments. This bill never left the Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

**Farmland Work Group**

This committee consists of all the board members and staff as well as the partnering organizations of the Campbell County Cattle Association, Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation, Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, the Northern Kentucky Horse Network, and the Campbell Conservancy, Inc. A few Campbell County citizens sit on the committee, too. Supervisor Dennis Walter is the chair. Their main objective is to carry out the elements as outlined in the Farmland Work Group Strategic Plan, developed in 2005 and updated in 2015.

**Backroads Farm Tour**

The seventh annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held on July 18, 2015. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 14 Campbell County farm owners. The tour attracted more than 1,064 visitors with 3,719 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with seven states and 64 cities represented. The tour showcased community-supported agriculture, vegetable and produce growers, fruit orchards, a museum, horse farms, and beef and grain farms. Visitors were directed along some of the county’s 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 third environmental grant is the Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 52 producers participated in the program. The program also assists the county animal shelter with costs for proper disposal of animals. A total of $3,863.36 was awarded this fiscal year.

**Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund**

Two applications from Campbell County were received and approved through the “managing ppo” RCPP’s (Regional Conservation Partnership Program). Funding for conservation practices under this program will come from two main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)**

The District has two representatives on the County Agricultural Development Council who may serve up to two-year terms. They are Randy Haas and Ron Steffen. The Council is responsible for setting guidelines for KY Agricultural Development Fund programs in Campbell County; the District administers the CAIP program. This fiscal year 28 producers were awarded a total of $60,083 from Kentucky Agricultural Development Phase I tobacco settlement funds. Projects were completed from ten available investment areas; Campbell County producers completed the large animal, forage and grain improvement, fencing and on-farm water, and farm infrastructure investment areas.

**Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance for the District is provided by John Stark, Kenton County Conservation District Manager through a memorandum of agreement with the Kenton County Conservation District, Ian Young-RNCR’s Supervisory Natural Resource Manager, and Kevin Bryan-RNCR Soil Conservation Planner. NRCS staff currently provides ongoing assistance for five contracts under the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills. These contracts cover 582 acres of land and are valued at $48,977. An additional nine EQIP applications were not funded valued at $50,000.

**Rental Equipment**

Board member Ron McCormick houses and maintains the District’s Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader. Ken is a backup. It is available 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. The spreader 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 $175.

**Equipped to serve the community**

The Campbell County Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, and Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Employee Association (KACDE). The employee association helps provide training and support for district employees. District Coordinator Amy Winkler is the KACDE Area 5 Representative.

**Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)**

The state convention was held at Bowling Green. Board members Rick Simon, Ron McCormick, and Ken McCormick, attended the meeting as well as staff members John Stork and Linda Grizzell. Ron McCormick, Rick Simon, Ron McCormick, Linda Bray-Schafer, John Stork, Amy Winkler, and Linda Grizzell attended the KACD Area 5 meeting in Owen County at the Owen County Cooperative Extension Service. Board members serve on statewide KACD committees, which meet annually via conference calls: Natural Resources, Rick Simon and Ron McCormick; and Education and Youth, Ken McCormick.

**The Conservation District participates in the 10-minute Supervisor Trainings provided by Division of Conservation Field Representative Linda Hunter during district board meetings.**

Board member Ken McCormick is the District’s representative on the Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council. Ken attended their annual dinner at the Plantation Club at Twin Oaks in Covington.

Board Member Linda Bray-Schafer is the District’s representative on the Campbell County Economic Progress Authority Board and Green Umbrella’s Regional Trails Alliance.

**District Office**

The Campbell County Conservation District office is located in the Campbell County Courthouse in Alexandria through a lease with Campbell County Fiscal Court.
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District Grants - This fiscal year the District awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants to the Ft. Thomas Tree Commission, the City of Silver Grove, and the Taking Root Northern KY Action Team. The 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.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

Supervisors Linda Bray-Schafer (chair) and Debbie, and staff member Winkler make up this committee. Their focus is to promote all District programs and events via the District’s website, by increasing our presence on social media, or through other applicable means as recommended by the committee. The District created a new website in house this fiscal year and the address is www.campbellkyconservation.org. It was designed and is maintained by Amy. Amy also maintains the District’s Facebook page, which is also very popular and can be found by searching Campbell County Conservation District Kentucky. On YouTube you can see videos from our Right to Farm forums, our Backroads Farm Tours, and our annual awards dinners. These videos are provided through services by Campbell County Media Central.

The Campbell County Conservation District places a one-page article in the spring and fall issues of What’s Happening.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OK-RCC) annual meeting was held at the Sharon Centre in Sharon Woods. Board members Ron McCormick, Ken McCormick, Linda Bray-Schafer, and Rick Simon attended. Ken is chairman. Staff members Amy Winkler and Linda Grizzell also attended.

In August, Ken, Ron, Linda Bray-Schafer, and staff member Winkler attended the OKI-RCC annual tour hosted by Hamilton County SWCD. The tour consisted of Homegrown Song Farm, Findlay Market, Cheyvon Oil Refinery, and views of Turpin Farm and their “Prairie Turf” Project and the District’s 2015 “Ohio Conservation Teacher of the Year” Julie Christner were viewed from bus monitors on the way back to the office.

Board members participated in the Alexandria Fair & Horse Show by purchasing a fair book advertisement featuring “God Made A Farmer” 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 check for $25) at the Alexandria Fair and Horse Show. Board member Linda B-S attended the livestock show. There were no forestry entries at the fair for this fiscal year.

Supervisors John and Linda. One of the main duties of this committee is assisting landowners in complying with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and to encourage participation in state and federal cost share programs. A total of 617 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. The District offers three types of from the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund: Farm Dump Removal Grants assist landowners in cleaning up farm dumps. The District approved three applications this fiscal and awarded three landowners a total of $9,121. Non-Traditional Agriculture Grants assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill cost share programs to implement a control of sediment and erosion. One application was approved and two landowners were awarded a total of $2,993 this fiscal year.

(Continued from page 2)

In August, Ron, Linda Bray-Schafer, and staff member Winkler attended the OKI-RCC annual tour hosted by Hamilton County SWCD. The tour consisted of Homegrown Song Farm, Findlay Market, Cheyvon Oil Refinery, and views of Turpin Farm and their “Prairie Turf” Project and the District’s 2015 “Ohio Conservation Teacher of the Year” Julie Christner were viewed from bus monitors on the way back to the office.

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Cost Share Programs

Rick is chair of this committee; others include staff members John and Linda. One of the main duties of this committee is assisting landowners in complying with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and to encourage participation in state and federal cost share programs. A total of 617 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.

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(Continued on page 4)
Grants and Scholarship Committee

The Campbell Conservancy is a member of this committee. Advisory committee members include; the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service agents Don Sorell, Dave Koester, Sarah Stolz, DJ. Scully, and Owen Prim; Ian Young; and Helen Fehr.

The District sponsors a $175 scholarship to attend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ Camp Webb. This year the District awarded a scholarship to August West from St. Catherine of Siena Elementary School in Ft. Thomas.

Our Master Conservationist Award nominee for this fiscal year by NRCS Supervisory Natural Resource Manager Ian Young was Rick and Alice Simon of Skyview Acres Farm.

The meal for our awards dinner was catered by Tailored Catering of Alexandria.

The committee monitors the guidelines for all the District’s grants and scholarships and makes recommendations to the board for application approvals.

Conservation Scholarships - Five $1,000 scholarships were awarded through the District to Nicole Robertson, Lydia Schneider, Bailey Wirt, Randi Hensley, and Luke Trapp.

The District sponsors a $175 scholarship to attend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ Camp Webb. This year the District awarded a scholarship to August West from St. Catherine of Siena Elementary School in Ft. Thomas.

The District promotes the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program by sponsoring a $175 scholarship to send a Campbell County student to Forestry Leadership Camp in Jabez, KY. No student was awarded a scholarship this fiscal year.

The 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.

Land Use Committee

Members of the committee consist of supervisors Dennis (chair), Pete Garrett, and contracted conservation technician John Stork.

The Campbell Conservancy and the District approved an agreement in August 2006 through which the Conservation District provides administrative and technical services to the Conservancy for a nominal fee. The District also provides a space for meetings and storage of records. District Administrative Secretary Linds Grizzle provides the staff support for the Conservancy. Pete is also a Conservancy board member.

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