

**Campbell County
Conservation District
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E-mail: campbellcd@fuse.net
Web Site: www.campbellkyconservation.org

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 Chairman; Ken McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Bray-Schafer; Rick Simon; Peter Garrett; Debbie Buckley (July-September); and Don Girton (November-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 (July-February)

Ky. Division of Conservation:

Linda Hunter, Field Representative (July-January)
Pam Williams, Field Representative (February-June)

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, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

The Campbell County Conservation District reviews their Long Range Plan annually. The supervisors and staff continue to work on their various committees and focus on several areas of work included in their 2017-18 Annual Plan of Work.

Executive Committee

This committee is comprised of Board Chair Ron McCormick (also the committee chair), Vice Chair Dennis Walter, and Secretary/Treasurer Ken McCormick. Annual staff reviews were completed on time, memorandum of agreements were reviewed annually and edited as needed, and the entire board reviewed the 2017-18 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

Budget Committee

This committee is comprised of Secretary/Treasurer Ken (committee chair) and Vice Chair Dennis. This committee prepared the draft 2018-19 Annual Budget for the board's approval, reviewed the 2017-18 Annual Budget quarterly, presented any recommendations to the board, and monitored the receipt of compensating tax information from the Kentucky Department of Local Government. Invoices were approved at each meeting and Ken and Field Representative Linda Hunter or Pam Williams reviewed and signed the credit card statement, bank statements, and bank reconciliations. Pete declared the District's 2017 tax rate to Campbell County Fiscal Court at their meeting on September 6, 2017. The committee also monitored financial reporting deadlines entered on the District in Good Standing Report for state direct aid calculations. The District achieved a 100% rating and received bonus dollars as well as the calculated direct aid dollars.



The District's revenue is provided through a county tax on real property and funding from the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Financial

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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 Representatives Linda Hunter and Pam Williams. Pete monitored bills in the House or Senate as they related to the District or county landowners and presented recommendations to the Board.

Farmland Work Group

This committee consists of all the board members and partnering organizations consisting 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 and 2018.

Backroads Farm Tour- The 9th annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held on July 16, 2017. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 13 Campbell County farm owners. The tour

attracted more than 1,358 visitors with 3, 231 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with four states and 65 cities represented. The tour showcased community-supported agriculture, vegetable and produce growers, three vineyards, a museum, horse farms, and beef and grain 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 and wine, and learn from some of our best farmers about the farming process.

SAE Placement Program- The Supervised Agriculture Experience Program is a part of the agriculture education curriculum at the Campbell County High School. The Conservation District’s Farmland Work Group is partnering with the High School Ag Teachers to assist students in getting hands-on experience with Campbell County farmers. This was the second year of the program and coordinating the project with the Campbell County High School Ag teacher, Shelby Clifford. We had 8 agriculture professionals volunteer to be SAE sponsors. Students were required to complete 15 hours on site for the school year. Several students went beyond the minimum number of hours needed and continued to work with their SAE sponsors through summer.



2017 Backroads Farm Tour



Agricultural Districts - The District has a total of 17 consisting of 15,089 acres and 319 landowners.

Southern Campbell County Survey - In spring 2017, the Campbell County Conservation District sent surveys to approximately 2,200 landowners of southern Campbell County. This survey questioned feelings on agriculture and green space, as well as, people’s outlook on the lifestyle in southern Campbell County.

A public meeting was held to review the results of the

Campbell County Survey on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at the Campbell County High School Cafeteria. Dr. Lori Garkovich from the University of Kentucky presented the analysis and allowed time after the presentation for Q &A.

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Right To Farm Forum - In April the District held a “Local Ag: Success, Change, Economics” forum at the Campbell Co. Environmental Education Center. Representatives from Extension, StoneBrook Winery, Homegrown Cakes, and Hamlet Pigs Farm participated on the panel.

Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory Team

A joint advisory team for the Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area and St. Anne Woods and Wetlands, composed of members from the District, Conservancy, Fiscal Court, and county citizens researches and discusses issues affecting the Heritage properties. The District owns two properties acquired through Grants from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board; the state holds the conservation easements on them. District members include supervisors Ken (chair), Rick, Pete (also representing The Campbell Conservancy).

Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area

Hawthorne Crossing continues to be monitored and natural resources conserved. Invasive species eradication has been proposed for the future. A suitable parking area is being pursued to have the property open in the future for hiking, bird watching, nature study. The area will also be designated as a stop along the Licking River for canoeing and kayaking.



St. Anne Woods and Wetlands

A section of the St. Anne Wetlands (South Wetlands 1) on Anderson Lane on Melbourne, KY is open to the public from dawn to dusk each day. Kiosks developed by the St. Anne Wetlands Education Center will help guide you along the established trail. Research is encouraged at this site and visitors are asked to ensure that the research is undisturbed. The northern portion is open by appointment only. The Woods is located adjacent to the St. Anne Retreat Center. This area will be open to the public following the establishment of a public entrance and parking facility.

NKU CER- The Northern Kentucky University’s Center for Environmental Restoration has been approved to complete restoration and preservation work in the St. Anne Woods and Wetlands including invasive species removal. They are collecting wetland data and removing invasive species on the public wetland tract.

NKU REFS - The Conservation District has partnered with the Northern Kentucky University

Research and Education Field Station (NKU REFS). The field station is located next to the St. Anne Wetlands. Their focus is research, education, and community involvement. District coordinator, Amy Winkler, is on the steering committee as a representative for the Conservation District. They coordinate with Thomas More College Biology Field Station to offer a Talk n Walk series on different topics. NKU REFS series includes a brief background session at the Field Station and then touring the St. Anne property.



Earth Day was held at the field station where guided tours were held every 30 minutes.

Guided tour on Earth Day at St. Anne by NKU Field Station professors and students

Education Committee

Supervisor Don Girton was the chair of this committee as the replacement for the unexpired term of Debbie Buckley. Other members include supervisors Rick and Ken. The District holds an annual awards dinner to honor the winners from the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests, scholarship recipients, grant recipients, and either a master conservationist or cooperative of the year is honored. The topic for this year’s **art and writing contest** was *Water is Life: 100% Guaranteed*. In the Writing Contest, we had 92 entries from four schools and 869 entries from seven schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. From the Campbell County Conservation District, the K-5 art winners received the book All the Way to the Ocean and the writing winners and teachers received the book Watersheds: A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water. All winners received a t-shirt and a certificate of achievement; all teachers received a t-shirt.

In Campbell County, the art entries from grades K–2 are judged separately, and that winner received a \$25 check. From Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover, Representatives Joe Fischer, Kimberly Moser, Dennis Keene, and Senator Wil Schroder, students received Citations of Achievement.

Campbell had the Area 5 winner this year in the writing contest and her name is Lydia Naberhaus from Saint Thomas School.

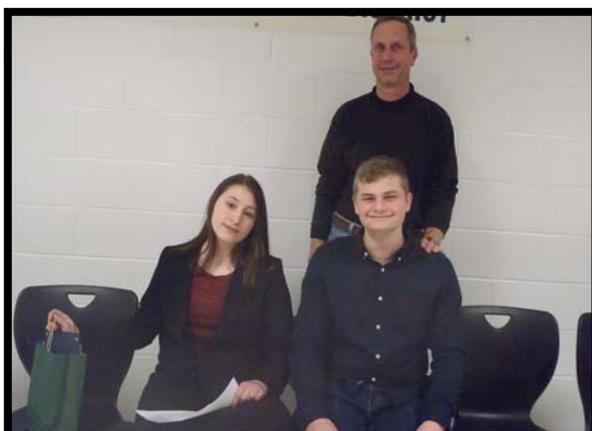
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K-2 Art Contest: Lucy Kennedy (teacher-Adam Schmidt), Kendyl Sandfoss (teacher-Cindy Feeback), Rita Wolfe (absent teacher-Sarah Richardson)



3-5 Art Contest: Emma Naylor (absent teacher-Julie Burkhardt), Grant Kevill (teacher-Katie Enzweiler), Abigail Myers (teacher-Steve Myers), Samantha Twehues (teacher-Jenny Dee), Kaylie Scales (teacher-Terri Brennan), Robbie Fields (teacher-Bonnie Marcus), and Maddie Steffen (absent teacher- Sarah Richardson)



Writing Contest: Lydia Naberhaus (absent teacher-Kelly Burkhardt), Daniel Myers (teacher-Steve Myers), absent Will White (teacher-Erin Gilday), and Sophie Osburg (teacher-Colleen Epperson)

Meg Crail from Campbell County Farm Bureau assisted with the art and writing judging.

Jenny Dee of Saint Philip School was the winner of the Teacher Incentive Award.

Envirothon - The District had two teams from Highlands High School who participated in the Envirothon Contest. This makes the eighth year in a row that Highlands has participated in this program and we are very proud of the students and Envirothon Coach Colleen Epperson. The topic was “Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse Views”.

The awards dinner meal was catered by Jack’s Catering.

The committee promotes **Soil Stewardship Week** and Supervisor Pete Garrett gave a presentation to fiscal court on District events and accomplishments. Judge/ Executive

Steve Penderly signed the soil stewardship proclamation “*Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home*” at the Campbell County Fiscal Court meeting on May 2, 2018. The



(Left-Right) Rick, Ron, Amy, Ken, Linda G., and Linda B-S at KACD Convention

District won the state Soil Stewardship and Area 5 Outstanding District awards at the KACD State Convention in July.



Amy with student at St. Mary's demonstrating the Enviroscope model on soil erosion

In April Staff Amy Winkler gave an Enviroscope demonstration to 120 middle school students at St. Mary’s School for **Ag Awareness Day**.

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Land Use Committee

Members of the committee consist of supervisors Dennis (chair) and Pete Garrett.

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 Linda Grizzell provides the staff support for the Conservancy. Pete is also a Conservancy board member.

Grants and Scholarship Committee

Supervisors Rick Simon (chair), Ken, Debbie, and Don are members of this committee. Advisory committee members include; Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service agents Don Sorrell, Sarah Stolz, DJ. Scully, and Owen Prim; NRCS Manager Ian Young; and Helen Fehr.

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

Conservation Scholarships - Three \$1,000 scholarships each were awarded through the District to Lydia Schneider, Carly Karrick, and Deborah Myers.

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 Robbie Fields from St. Therese Elementary School in Southgate..

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.

District Grants - This fiscal year the District approved Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grant applications to the cities of Silver Grove, Highland Heights, Cold Spring, and Newport and the NKUCFC in the amount of \$600 each on a reimbursement basis upon completion. 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.

The **Campbell County Conservation District Mary Kathryn Dickerson Education Grant** was offered, but no applications were received this fiscal year.

Beginning Farmer Grant - The Campbell County Conservation District partners with the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, The Campbell Conservancy, Inc. and the Campbell County Farm Bureau to offer assistance to local beginning farmers. The Beginning Farmer Grant is the product of the Farm Start and Homesteading programs through the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service. This grant targets those individuals who have been farming less than five years. Landowners are eligible to be awarded up to \$1,500 per program year with a \$3,000 lifetime limit. This grant is awarded on a 50/50 cost-share basis. Only one applicant per household is eligible to receive funds. Funds distributed to the applicant shall be on a reimbursement basis upon completion of the project. Seven applications were approved this fiscal year.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

Supervisors Linda Bray-Schafer (chair) Debbie, and Don 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. Amy maintains the District's social media including our Facebook page (Campbell County Conservation District Kentucky), Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, and the District's website (www.campbellkyconservation.org). 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 two-page article in the spring and fall issues of *What's Happening*.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC) annual meeting was held in April at the Fernald Preserve in Hamilton, Ohio. Supervisors Ken, Ron, Don, and Linda B-S attended as well as staff Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler. It covered topics on Mitigation Banks and In-Lieu-Fees, Managing Soil and Water in Changing weather patterns, Managing Invasive Species in Forests, General Management of Private Forests, Funding Opportunities from OEPA and Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, Urban Agriculture, and Using Drones to Assess



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Natural Resources. Don gave the District report on our current projects and upcoming events.

In November, **OKI-RCC annual tour** was hosted by Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District. Board members Ron McCormick, Ken McCormick, Linda Bray-Schafer, and Rick Simon attended; staff member Linda Grizzell also attended. The tour consisted of stream restoration at the Marival/Broadview neighborhood in Mason, EcOhio Farm and wetlands, Valley Vineyards Winery, and ending at Fort Ancient Archaeological Park Museum.



Linda B-S at Valley Vineyards Winery on OKI Tour

Board members participated in the **Alexandria Fair & Horse Show** by purchasing a fair book advertisement and animals at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, and sponsoring the 4-H Forestry Award (a check for \$25). There were no forestry entries this fiscal year. Supervisor Rick Simon bid on the animals at the livestock sale.



Rick purchasing Rebekah Fouch's Grand Champion Lamb at 4-H/FFA Sale

Cost Share Committee

Supervisor Rick Simon is chair of this committee; others include Supervisor Pete Garrett and 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 encouraging participation in state and federal cost share programs. A total of 623 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 **environmental grants** 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 two landowners a total of \$2,500 each.

Non-Traditional Agriculture Grants assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill cost share programs to install practices for the control of sediment and erosion. No new applications were received this fiscal year; one is pending completion.

The third environmental grant is the **Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program** to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 57 producers participated in the program. The program also assists the county animal shelter with costs for proper disposal of animals. A total of \$4,425.86 was awarded this fiscal year.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - One producer from Campbell County was awarded a total of \$14,726.25. One application is pending completion through the "managing poo" RCPP's (Regional Conservation Partnership Program). Funding for conservation practices under this program come from two main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).



State Cost Share Practice Completed this fiscal year

Staff members Amy Winkler, Linda Grizzell, and contracted staff John Stork provide support on all the board committees.



CAIP Farm Infrastructure practice completed this fiscal year

County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) - The District has two representatives on the County Agricultural Development Council who may serve up to two two-year terms. They are Randy Haas and Ron

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Steffen. The Council is responsible for setting guidelines for KY Agricultural Development Fund programs in Campbell County; the District administers the CAIP program. This program is offered every two years to Campbell County producers. A total of \$37,647 was awarded to 18 applicants this fiscal year.

Local cost share: Backyard Conservation - The Campbell County Conservation District's new Backyard Conservation Local Cost-Share Program is an incentive program intended to assist with landowner's costs while implementing conservation

practices that benefit soil and water quality and wildlife habitat. This program is open to all landowners to apply, but preference will



be for those landowners who are not eligible for other state and federal cost share programs. The goal of this program is to help landowners be good stewards of the land by providing financial assistance for the implementation of conservation practices in their own backyards. Possible projects for funding, but not limited to: rain barrels, monarch waystation, raised garden beds, certified backyard wildlife habitat (National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.org), invasive plant removal, rain gardens, and composting. Two applications were approved this fiscal year and one landowner was awarded \$200. Applications are available in the office and on our website.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance for the District is provided by John Stork, Kenton County Conservation District Manager through a memorandum of agreement with the Kenton County Conservation District, Ian Young-NRCS Supervisory Natural Resource Manager, and Kevin Bryan-NRCS Soil Conservation Planner. NRCS staff currently provides ongoing assistance for 6 contracts under the 2014 Farm Bill. These contracts cover over 670 acres of land and are valued at \$77,300. An additional 6 applications were not funded in 2018.

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 one farmer this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$25.

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 the Crowne Plaza in Louisville. Board members Rick, Ron, Ken, and Linda B-S attended as well as staff members Amy Winkler, and Linda Grizzell. Ron, Rick, Ken, Linda B-S, Don, Pete, and staff members Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler attended the KACD Area 5 meeting at the Trimble County Extension Service in Bedford, KY. Board members serve on statewide KACD committees, which meet annually usually via conference calls. Don serves on the Forestry Committee.

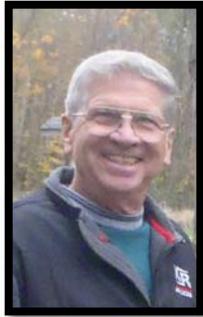
The Conservation District participates in the **10-minute Supervisor Trainings** provided by Division of Conservation Field Representatives Linda Hunter and Pam Williams during district board meetings.

Board member Ken McCormick is the District's representative on the **Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council**. He attended their annual dinner at the Plantation Club at Twin Oaks in Covington. **Reforest 2018** was held in Campbell County at the SD1 site in Alexandria in April. Don and staff District Coordinator Amy attended.

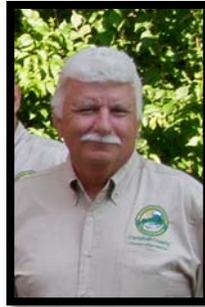
Board Member Linda Bray-Schafer is the District's representative on the **Campbell County Economic Progress Authority Board** and **Green Umbrella's Regional Trails Alliance**.

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.





Chairman
Ron McCormick



Vice Chairman
Dennis Walter



Secretary/Treasurer
Ken McCormick



Supervisor
Pete Garrett



Supervisor
Rick Simon



Supervisor
Linda Bray-Schafer



Supervisor
Don Girton

Campbell County Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff



District Coordinator
Amy Winkler



Administrative Secretary
Linda Grizzell



Agriculture Conservation Technician
John Stork



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Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Supervisory Manager Ian
Young