

Campbell County Conservation District Annual Report

July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019



Mission

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.

Board of Supervisors

2018

Ronald McCormick, Chair
Dennis Walter, Vice-Chair
C. Kenneth McCormick, Sec/Treasurer
Richard Simon
Peter Garrett
Donald Girton
Linda Bray-Schafer

2019

Ronald McCormick, Chair
Richard Simon Vice-Chair
C. Kenneth McCormick, Sec/Treasurer
Dr. William Landon
James Benton
Donald Girton (resigned)
Linda Bray-Schafer (resigned)

District Staff

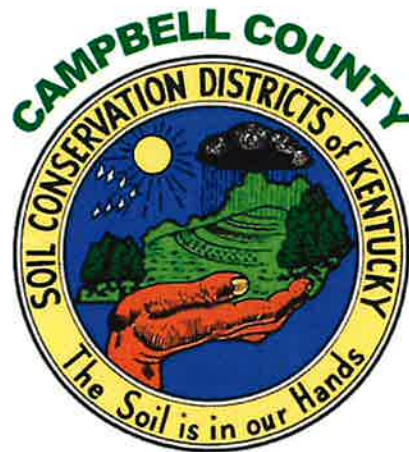
Amy Winkler, District Coordinator
Linda Grizzell, Administrative Secretary
Erin Powell, 2019 Summer Intern

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Ian Young, Natural Resource Manager
John Stork, Soil Conservationist

Ky. Division of Conservation:

Pam Williams, Environmental Scientist (2018)
Jim Roe, Environmental Scientist (2019)



Committees

Executive—Ron McCormick (Chair), Dennis Walter (Vice Chair-2018), Rick Simon (Vice Chair-2019), and Ken McCormick (Secretary/Treasurer)

Budget—Ken McCormick (Chair) and Dennis Walter (2018)

Legislative—Don Girton (Chair) and Peter Garrett (2018)

Education—Rick Simon (Chair), Ken McCormick, and Bill Landon

Farmland Work Group—Linda Bray-Schafer (Chair), Bill Landon (2019), Rick Simon, Jim Benton (2019), Ken McCormick, Don Girton, Dennis Walter (2018), and Peter Garrett (2018)

Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory— Ken McCormick (Chair), Rick Simon, and Don Girton

Land Use—Don Girton (Chair) and Jim Benton

Grants and Scholarship—Rick Simon (Chair), Ken McCormick, Don Girton, Linda Bray-Schafer, and Bill Landon

Public Relations and Marketing—Linda Bray-Schafer (Chair) and Don Girton

Cost Share—Rick Simon (Chair) and Jim Benton

Rental Equipment—Ron McCormick (Chair) and Ken McCormick

*Board Chair (Ron McCormick), District Coordinator (Amy Winkler), and Administrative Secretary (Linda Grizzell), provide support for all District committees and programs.

Representatives

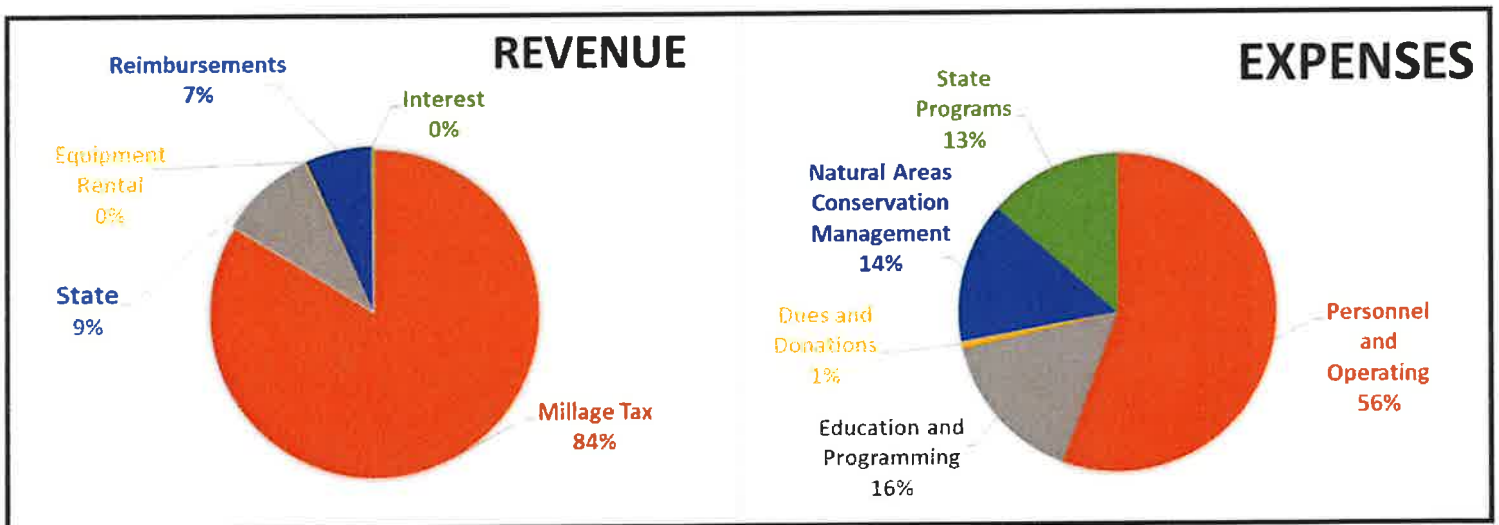
- **OKI Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC)** – Ken McCormick, representative
- **Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council** – Don Girton and Amy Winkler
- **Campbell County Economic Progress Authority** – Linda Bray-Schafer (appointed for four years)
- **Green Umbrella** – Linda Bray-Schafer and Amy Winkler
- **KACD Forestry Committee** – Don Girton

Partners

Campbell County Fiscal Court
 Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service
 Campbell County Planning and Zoning
 The Campbell Conservancy, Inc.
 Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Conservation Council
 Planning and Development Services (PDS)
 Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees

Kentucky Division of Conservation
 Northern Kentucky University
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Campbell County Cattle Association
 Northern Kentucky Horse Network
 Green Umbrella
 Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

Budget Review



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 prepared the draft 2019-20 Annual Budget for the Board's approval, reviewed the 2018-19 Annual Budget quarterly, presented any recommendations to the board, and monitored the receipt of compensating tax information from the Kentucky Department for Local Government. Invoices were approved at each meeting and Ken and the Field Representative reviewed and signed the credit card statement, bank statements, and bank



2018 Backroads Farm Tour

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 as well. 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 10th annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held on July 21, 2018. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 13

Campbell County farm owners. The tour attracted more than 1,150 visitors with 2,331 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with 5 states and 44 cities represented.



The tour showcased community-supported agriculture, vegetable and produce growers, 4 vineyards, horse farms, and cattle operations. 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

(Continued on page 4)

Legislative Committee

The committee monitored bills in the House and/or Senate as they related to the District or county

(Continued from page 3)

Teacher to assist students in getting hands-on experience with Campbell County farmers. This was the third year of the program and coordinating the project with the Campbell County High School Agriculture teacher, Shelby Clifford. We had 6 agriculture professionals volunteer to be SAE sponsors. Students were required to complete 20 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.



Hawthorne Crossing Reforestation Project



Farm to Fork - The District hosted their 4th Farm to Fork dinner in celebration of the 10th annual Backroads Farm Tour. The dinner was held on September 18, 2018 at the Neltner Farm. The keynote speaker was Warren Beeler, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. Representative Thomas Massie also attended and prepared a speech. The meal was locally sourced from Campbell County farmers and prepared by local chefs Tasha Hofstetter and Stephanie Zink (owner of Little Rock Farm). Desserts were provided by Andrea Dee with Homegrown Cakes. The event brought together Campbell County farmers, politicians, developers, and other local/state officials to share a meal that were grown and raised by Campbell County Farmers to show just how important farming is to the county.



2018 Farm To Fork

Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory

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.

Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area

Hawthorne Crossing continues to be monitored and natural resources conserved. The property is currently closed to the public. A suitable parking area is being pursued to have the property open in the future for hiking, bird watching, nature study.

Invasive clearing occurred over 12 acres of land in the spring of 2018. There were two areas selected based off of a study completed by NKU students that showed the percentages of Bush Honeysuckle throughout the property. Along with being identified at 50% or more invasive, we also looked at the soil type in these sections. The removal was completed mechanically, which allowed us to enhance wildlife habitat with brush piles. Grass seed was sowed to prevent soil loss. There will be two sprayings and a tree planting of the area in the next fiscal year. We are working with the Kentucky Division of Forestry on the selection of trees.

There was a log cabin that was settled on the property, but due to the liability of the cabin once the property is open the District Board voted to donate the usable logs to create another log cabin in Northern Kentucky.

St. Anne Woods and Wetlands

A section of the St. Anne Wetlands (South Wetlands) 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 North Wetlands is adjacent to the NKU REFS facility and is predominately used for research. This area is open to the public during events. 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

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



Earth Day at St. Anne Wetlands with NKU REFS

parking facility. Invasive removal was completed within the Woods section.

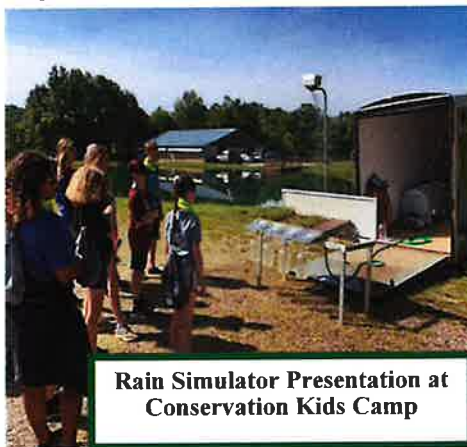
NKU CER- The Northern Kentucky University's

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. A new parking area was installed by NKU CER to better access the open 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.

Education Committee

The District holds an annual education awards dinner to honor the winners from the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests, scholarship recipients, education grant recipients. The topic for this year's **art and writing contest** was *DIGGIN' IT!*. In the Writing Contest, we had 94 entries from six schools and 1,218 entries from three schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. Contest winners and teachers received a Creativity for Kids Plant a Pizza Garden and a t-shirt. Contest winners also receive a certificate of achievement. In Campbell County, the art entries from grades K-2 are judged separately, and that winner received a \$25 check.



Rain Simulator Presentation at Conservation Kids Camp

From Representatives Joe Fischer, Kimberly Moser, Dennis Keene, and Senator Wil Schroder, students received Citations of Achievement.

Erin Gilday of Saint Therese 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 ninth 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 this year was "*Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and technology to feed the world*"

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

The committee promotes **Soil Stewardship Week** and Supervisor Don Girton gave a presentation to fiscal court on District events and accomplishments. Judge/Executive Steve Pendery signed the soil stewardship proclamation "*Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*" at the Campbell County Fiscal Court meeting on May 1, 2019.

CCCD is working towards increasing their involvement in environmental education. District Coordinator, Amy Winkler, became an environmental education facilitator during this fiscal year. She is now able to facilitate workshops for the Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, and Project Wild.

Progress has also been made to create lesson plans and provide other resources to the formal educators of the county.

The Boone County Conservation District invited Amy and our Summer Intern, Erin Powell, to conduct a soil lesson during their annual **Conservation Kids Camp**.

The pair demonstrated soil erosion and best management practices with the rain simulator provided by NRCS.

Land Use Committee

Agricultural Districts - The District has a total of 17 consisting of 15,865 acres and 344 landowners.

The Campbell Conservancy and the District approved an agreement in August 2006 through which the Conservation District provides administrative and technical services to the

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

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

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, Deborah Myers, and Rusty Wolf. One \$500 scholarship was awarded to Kevin Black. A requirement to provide a short video regarding their field of study and a little bit about themselves in general was added to the District's application guidelines.

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 Tyler Williams from Grants Lick Elementary School.

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. Noah Wormald from Highlands High School was our first student ever to be sponsored to this program.

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 awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants in the amount of \$600 each to the cities of Silver Grove, Highland Heights,

and Cold Spring, ReNewport ,and the NKUCFC for the completion of their projects. 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.

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. This fiscal year three farmers were awarded funds totaling \$2,725.00. A **Youth Agricultural Incentives Program** was added to this grant program to include student-age youth. In September, Supervisor Rick Simon participated in the scoring of 15 beginner and 5 youth applications for the next program year. Youth may receive up to \$500 on a 50/50 reimbursement cost share basis.



2019 Scholarship recipients: L-R Rusty Wolf, Lydia Schneider, Supervisor Bill Landon, and Kevin Black

Public Relations and Marketing 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



City of Cold Spring was awarded a grant to plant 4 native trees

(Continued on page 8)



(above) L-R Art K-2, Representative Joe Fischer, Teacher Adam Schmidt, Teacher Cindy Feedback, Maliya Daniels, and K-2 Winner Emery Koeninger

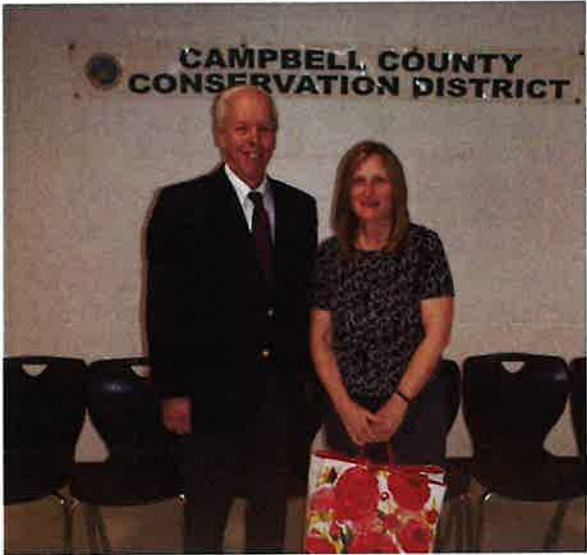
(below) Writing Winner Madeline Mason & KFB Director Todd Flairty



(below) Representative Joe Fischer with 3-5 Art Teacher Lynda Myers



(above) L-R Writing, KFB Todd Flairty, Rep Joe Fischer, Teacher Karen Fischer, Teacher Colleen Epperson, Teacher Kyle Comley, Maura Eckerle, Madeline Mason, Luke Fillhardt



(Continued from page 6)

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 Boone County Enrichment Center. Supervisors Ken, Ron, Don, Bill, Rick, and Linda B-S attended as well as staff Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler. It covered topics on Trees and Stormwater Working with Communities to develop urban forestry plans with stormwater in mind, Army Corps dam and reservoir management for flooding, Green Umbrella Foodshed Atlas of Cincinnati, Landslides above and below Columbia Parkway, Rain Garden Maintenance, Leveraging Clean Water Act requirements for Community Benefits, and Intersection of land use planning and water resources. Amy gave the District report on our current projects and upcoming events.

In August, OKI-RCC annual tour was hosted by Boone County Conservation District. Board members Ron McCormick, Ken McCormick, Don Girton, Linda Bray-Schafer, and Rick Simon attended; staff members Amy Winkler and Linda Grizzell also attended. The tour consisted of stream restoration projects at the Camp Ernst YMCA and the Piner property, exploring the Boone County Environmental and Nature Center, visiting the Big Bone Salt Lick State Park and the Rabbit Hash Historic District, and discussing the future restoration plans for the Conservancy Park in Belleview Bottoms.

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 in the amount of \$25 for the Forestry Award was presented to Toby Duebber by Don Girton. Rick Simon bid on the animals at the livestock sale and purchased the 4-H 2018 Reserve Champion Market Lamb and the 2018 Reserve Champion Market Goat for a total of \$786.50.

The District held its first annual **Cooperator's Dinner**. The dinner was held on November , 2018. The dinner recognized the 2018 Farm Tour host, 2017-2018 SAE Sponsors, 2018 Tree Planting grant recipients, 2018 Beginning Farmer grant recipients, Young Farmer of the Year, and Cooperator of the Year. The 2018 Young Farmer of the Year was Andrea Dec. The 2018 Cooperator of the Year was Ronald Steffen.



2018 Cooperator Dinner

Cost Share Committee

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 630 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 two applications this fiscal and awarded two landowners a total of \$2,500 each and a third one for \$581.

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 landowner was awarded \$611.

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 \$4,724.33 was awarded this fiscal year.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - 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

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Seven state cost share applications are pending completion.



Tom Curry's CAIP project: Infrastructure Investment Area to complete a storage area for his farm

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

Harold Dawn and Larry Schadler 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. The District received \$61,290 to be used for the 2019 CAIP program year. A total of \$2,500 has been awarded to one applicant 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 for the District is provided by Zachary Traylor, Kenton County Conservation District Manager through a memorandum of agreement with the Kenton County Conservation District, Ian Young-NRCS Natural Resource Manager, John Stork-NRCS Soil Conservationist, and additional staff now available through the Kentucky Division of Conservation. NRCS staff

currently provides ongoing assistance for five contracts under the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills. These contracts cover over 600 acres of land and are valued at \$64,189.00 One additional application was not funded in 2019.

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 four farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$100.

Conservation District Intern

The Campbell County Conservation District hired an intern for the summer of 2019. Her name was Erin Powell and she was entering her junior year at Ball State University studying Natural Resource and Environmental Management. She worked three days a week from May 20th to August 13th. Some of her duties included assisting with trail maintenance, helping with various office work, writing a weekly blog about her experiences and common environmental issues, preparing for and helping with the Farm Tour, completing an independent project, and other tasks as needed. Her independent project was a

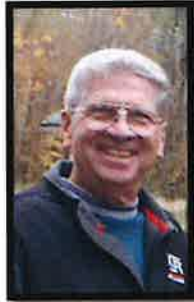


2019 Summer Intern: Erin Powell



needs assessment of best management practice usage by landowners in Campbell County.

Campbell County Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff



Chairman
Ron McCormick



Vice Chairman
Rick Simon



Secretary/Treasurer
Ken McCormick



Supervisor
Jim Benton



Supervisor
Bill Landon



District Coordinator
Amy Winkler



Administrative Secretary
Linda Grizzell



2019 Summer Intern
Erin Powell

**8350 E. Main Street,
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.
Tues. and Thurs., 8 a.m.—12 p.m.
E-mail: campbelld@fuse.net
Web Site:
www.campbellkyconservation.org