

# Campbell County Conservation District

## Annual Report

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020



### 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

#### 2019

Ronald McCormick, Chair  
Richard Simon, Vice-Chair  
C. Kenneth McCormick, Sec/Treasurer  
Dr. William Landon  
James Benton  
Susan Ortlieb-Turner

#### 2020

Richard Simon, Chair  
Dr. William Landon, Vice-Chair  
James Benton, Sec/Treasurer  
C. Kenneth McCormick  
Susan Ortlieb-Turner  
Ronald McCormick  
Gary Nelson

### District Staff

Amy Winkler, District Coordinator  
Linda Grizzell, Administrative Secretary  
Coy McCulley, Campbell County HS FFA Intern  
Erin Powell, 2019 Summer Intern  
Charles Halbrook, 2020 Summer Intern

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Ian Young, Supervisory District Conservationist  
John Stork, Soil Conservationist

### Ky. Division of Conservation:

Jim Roe, Environmental Scientist (2019)  
Kim Barton, Environmental Scientist (2020)



**Committees**

**Executive**—Ron McCormick (Chair-2019), Rick Simon (Vice Chair-2019-Chair 2020), Bill Landon (Vice Chair-2020), and Ken McCormick (Secretary/Treasurer 2019), Jim Benton (Secretary/Treasurer 2020)

**Budget**—Ken McCormick (Chair-2019) and Jim Benton (Chair-2020)

**Legislative**—Ron McCormick (Chair) and Bill Landon

**Education**—Rick Simon (Chair-2019), Ken McCormick, and Bill Landon (Chair-2020)

**Farmland Work Group**—Bill Landon (Chair) Rick Simon (2019), Jim Benton, Ken McCormick, Susan Ortlieb-Turner, Ron McCormick (2020), and Gary Nelson (2020)

**Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory**— Ken McCormick (Chair), Rick Simon (2019), Ron McCormick (2020) and Jim Benton

**Land Use**—Jim Benton (Chair)

**Public Relations and Marketing**—Susan Ortlieb-Turner (Chair)

**Technical & Financial Assistance**—Rick Simon (Chair-2019) and Jim Benton (Chair-2020) and Bill Landon

**Rental Equipment**—Ron McCormick (Chair) and Ken McCormick

\*Board Chair (Ron McCormick 2019 and Rick Simon 2020), District Coordinator (Amy Winkler), and Administrative Secretary (Linda Grizzell), provide support for all District committees and programs.

**Representatives**

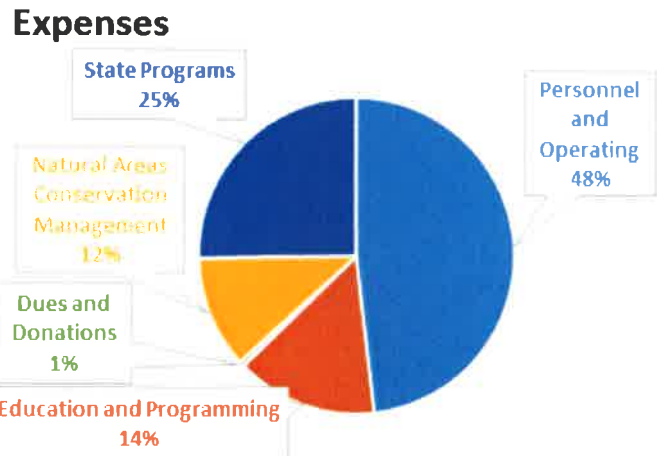
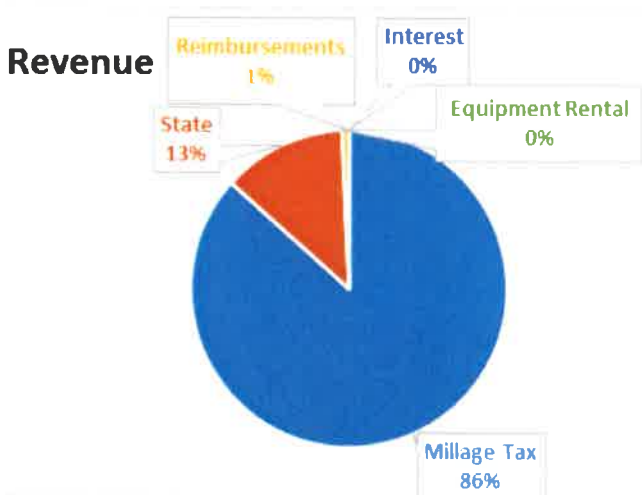
- **OKI Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC)** – Ken McCormick, representative
- **Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council** – Jim Benton and Amy Winkler
- **Green Umbrella** – Amy Winkler

**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 Waterways Alliance  
 Licking River Watershed Initiative  
 Kentucky Woodland Owners Association  
 American Farmland Trust

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  
 The Hillside Trust  
 Kentucky Land Trusts Coalition  
 NKY Urban & Community Forestry Council

**Budget Review**



## Executive Committee

This committee is comprised of Board Chair Ron McCormick (chair for 2019), Rick Simon (chair for 2020) Vice Chairs Rick Simon for 2019, and Bill Landon for 2020, and Secretary/Treasurer Ken McCormick for 2019 and Jim Benton for 2020. Annual staff reviews were completed on time, memorandum of agreements were reviewed annually and edited as needed, and the entire board reviewed the 2019-20 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

Local Government website under Special Purpose Government Entities.

## Legislative Committee

The committee monitored bills in the House and/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

## Budget Committee

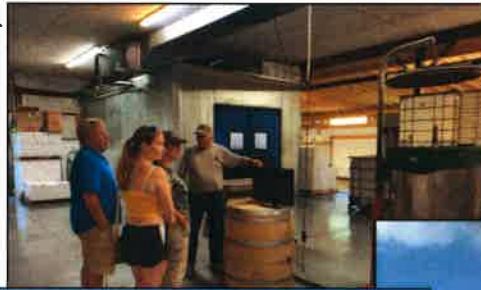
This committee prepared the draft 2020-21 Annual Budget for the Board's approval, reviewed the 2019-20 Annual Budget quarterly, presented recommendations to the board, and monitored the receipt of compensating tax information from the Kentucky Department for Local Government.

Invoices were approved at each meeting and Secretary/Treasurers Ken and Jim reviewed and signed the credit card statement, bank statements, and bank reconciliations.

Ron McCormick declared the District's 2019 tax rate to Campbell County Fiscal Court at their meeting on September 4, 2019. 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 reports are available at the district office or can be viewed on the Kentucky Department for

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.



2019 Backroads Farm Tour



Backroads Farm Tour- The 11th annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

was held on July 20, 2019. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 12 Campbell County farm owners. The tour attracted more than 1,061 visitors with 1,976 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with 7 states and 64 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.

In February supervisors Ron, Ken, Jim, Susan and staff Amy,



Linda and Intern Coy took an interesting tour of Eden Shale Farm in Owenton, KY. Beef

Network Industry Coordinator Dan Miller first gave us a little history of the farm and how it is currently managed by the Kentucky Beef Network, which is an arm of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. We carpooled to each area and Dan explained their various watering and feeding area operations.

### 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. Two herbicide treatments, one in the fall and one in the spring, took place prior to planting. There were approximately 6,300 tree seedlings planted mechanically and by hand. The trees ranged from 7 different species and were purchased from the KY Division of Forestry.



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 Upland Woods are 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. Steps have been taken to create pollinator habitat in two locations

within the Upland Woods.

CCCD held its first Little Explorers program where we explored the St. Anne Wetlands with our guest speaker



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Maddie Heredia from the KY Nature Preserves and Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. Families were able to take water samples from the Wetland to determine pH and searched for macroinvertebrates to determine the water quality.

**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. Invasive removal of Lesser Celandine took place in the North Wetlands; part of the removal was in collaboration with research studies.

We partner with **Green Umbrella** and NKU at the District's property at St. Anne Woods & Wetlands by participating in the Great Outdoor Weekend held each year in September. The students at the NKU Research & Educational Field Station hold various activities such as turtle races and give guided tours on the St. Anne trails.



### 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 *Things That Fly!*. In the Writing Contest, we had 152 entries from four schools and 798 entries from five schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. Contest winners and teachers received a RESTCLOUD insect and butterfly habitat cage



terrarium pop-up, a How to Raise Monarch Butterflies book, and a t-shirt. In Campbell County, the art entries from grades K-2 are judged separately, and that winner received a \$25 check. Students also received Citations of Achievement from Representatives Joe Fischer and Kimberly Moser, and Senator Wil Schroder. We had to cancel our annual dinner this year due to the pandemic and all awards were mailed to the teachers and students.

**Envirothon** - The District registered two teams from Highlands High School to participate in the Envirothon Contest. This would have made this school's tenth year in a row to participate in the contest. The contest was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Teacher and Envirothon Leader Colleen Epperson completed an educational video on the contest that we posted on our Facebook page and included in our quarterly eNewsletter.

The committee promotes **Soil Stewardship Week** but no presentation was given this year to Fiscal Court due to the pandemic, though we continued to promote Soil Stewardship on social media.

CCCD is working towards increasing their involvement in environmental education. District Coordinator, Amy Winkler is an **environmental education facilitator** for workshops for Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, and Project Wild. In July CCCD had its first Project Learning Tree Workshop where educators learned the activities and other resources that are available to them!. Progress has also been made to create lesson plans and provide other resources to the formal educators of the county.



The committee monitors the guidelines for the District's Education Grant and scholarships and makes

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

recommendations to the board for application approvals.



**Conservation Scholarships** - Two \$1,000 scholarships each were awarded through the District to Madeline Queen, and Rusty Wolf. A

requirement to provide a short video regarding their field of study and a little bit about themselves in general in included in the District's application guidelines.. These videos were posted on our Facebook page as well as included it in our quarterly eNewsletter.

The District sponsors a \$175 scholarship to attend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' **Camp Webb**. This year the Camp was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The District promotes the **Kentucky Forest Leadership Program** by sponsoring a \$175 scholarship to send a Campbell County student to the Forestry Leadership Camp in Jabez, This camp was also cancelled due to the pandemic.

A **Mary Kathryn Dickerson Education Grant** application was approved for Highlands High School for an outdoor learning space. Their completion date is February 2021.



In December District Coordinator Amy Winkler represented the District to accept a grant from the **Mayerson Student**

**Philanthropy Project.** The Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project is an initiative of NKU and the Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation in Cincinnati, and it is managed by NKU's Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. We thank Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, students of ENV 220, and the Straws Foundation for their support of our CCCD programs and the opportunity to participate. Supervisor Bill Landon also attended the ceremony.

The District supports the **Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary Scholarship Program** through a donation of money. Items for the annual auction at the KACD Convention are donated by board members and partners.



CCCD partnered with Boone Co. Conservation District, Kenton Co. Conservation District, Northern Kentucky University, and ORSANCO to hold **The Good, the Bad,**

and the **Managed Algae Workshop**. Attendees were able to bring in their pond scum and gain more education on how to determine what is growing in their ponds as well as the best way to manage ponds.

In August the District hosted a **Hillside Slippage and Our Community** program about landslide characterization and approaches to hazard assessment and risk reduction. Dr. Matt Crawford, Engineering Geologist, PhD KY Geological Survey University of KY, was the guest speaker and his presentation was designed to help people better understand the issues and possible approaches to resolve them.



### Land Use Committee

**Agricultural Districts** - The District has a total of 17 consisting of 16,261 acres and 346 landowners.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

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.

In December Jim attended a **HEMP Summit** at the Louisville Exposition Center. He learned of the many uses from the production of hemp and the difficult challenges that farmers face in harvesting it.

In February Jim attended the **Forest Health Conference in Lexington, at the UK Woodford Reserve Campus** and learned that the future of our trees looks pretty dim. There are a host of diseases and insects killing our trees. The forest health group is looking at cross-bred resistant trees that may or may not be resistant to diseases or insects.

CCCD had one landowner approved in 2018 to receive funds from the Electric Power Research Institute through the **Forestry in the Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Project**. The first payment of \$4,383.30 was awarded to the landowner this fiscal year. Payments will continue once a year for the next four years.

### 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 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 not held this year due to the pandemic. It is to be included on the annual tour program

during the fall of 2020 and Campbell County is to be the host of the tour.



The **OKI-RCC Annual Tour** was held in September and hosted by Butler County. Supervisors Ron, Ken, and Jim and staff Amy and Linda attended. What a great day it was from visiting urban gardens,

pollinator habitats, and several natural areas including the Miami University Ecology Research Center and Farm.

The Board participates 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. There were no forestry entries this fiscal year. Rick Simon bid on the animals at the livestock sale and purchased a 4-H goat in the amount of \$996.00.



The District held its second annual **Cooperator's Dinner**. The dinner was held on November 14, 2019, at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center. The dinner recognized the 2019 Farm Tour hosts, 2018-2019 SAE Sponsors, 2019 Tree Planting grant recipients, 2019 Beginning Farmer grant recipients, Young Farmer of the Year, Master Conservationist, and Cooperator of the Year. The 2019 Young Farmer of the Year was Chad Bezold. The Master Conservationist was Randy Haas. The 2019 Cooperator of the Year was Alan Ahrman.

In November Jim attended the "Trees in Our Community Forum" sponsored by the **NKY Urban and Community Forestry Council** at their annual dinner. Jim learned of the many challenges that the cities face in trying to clean the air from pollution and in managing their waste.

In July supervisor Rick Simon and staff Amy Winkler, Erin Powell, and Linda Grizzell attended the **KACD Convention** at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington, KY. An educational tour of the Bluegrass Stockyards and Keeneland Race Course were enjoyed on Sunday afternoon.



Interesting speakers were heard and breakout sessions for both staff and supervisors were held throughout the convention.

CCCD hosted the **KACD Area 5 Spring Meeting** in March at the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service in Highland Heights with approximately 75 people in attendance. All Board members and staff attended. Important presentations were given from the DOC, NRCS, and KACD such as the new 75/25 position.

In March administrative secretary Linda was presented the **2019 Outstanding Volunteer award from Campbell County Extension Service** Ag Agent Don Sorrell for her work in partnering with

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



programs with the Extension Service. Supervisor Rick Simon and District Coordinator Amy Winkler also attended.

CCCD partnerd with Campbell Co. Extension, Campbell Co. Fiscal Court, and several cities within the county to organize the **Campbell County Trail Passport**. The trail passport highlights the many different trails within the county in

order to promote the community to get outside and #hikeCampbellCountyKY.



### Technical & Financial Assistance 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 one application this fiscal year.

**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. One application was approved and two landowners were awarded a total of \$3,896.00 this fiscal year .

The third environmental grant is the **Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program** to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 44 producers participated in the program. A total of 8,347.52 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) and one landowner was awarded \$4,500.00. Funding for conservation practices under this program come from two main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Three additional landowners were awarded a total of \$18,837.29 for state cost share completions not associated with RCPP.

### 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. A total of \$55,726 .00 was awarded to 24 applicants this fiscal year.



### Local cost share: Backyard Conservation -

The Campbell County Conservation District’s 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. Four applications were approved this fiscal year and one landowner was awarded \$500.



Applications are available in the office and on our website. Applications are limited to one per household per fiscal year.

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 8)

**District Grants** - This fiscal year the District awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants in the amount of \$1,000 to the City of Alexandria for their Park Restoration project, and \$1,488 to Campbell County Fiscal Court for their Penderly Park Tree Planting project. 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 one farmer was awarded funds totaling \$1,000.00. A **Youth Agricultural Incentives Program** was added to this grant program to include student-age youth. Youth may receive up to \$500 on a 50/50 reimbursement cost share basis. The District awarded one youth \$500.00 for this program.

**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 Supervisory District Conservationist, 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 690 acres of land and are valued at \$71,350.00. Four new applications were preapproved for funding and four applications were not funded.

### 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 15 farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$425.00.

### Campbell County Conservation District Interns



This year we have had the pleasure of have three different interns.

Our 2019 summer intern was Erin Powell, 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 needs assessment of best management practice usage by landowners in Campbell County.



The Conservation District then partnered with the Campbell County High School Ag Education Capstone and Intern Program and hosted High School senior Coy McCulley. He was a part of the Campbell County High School FFA Chapter. Coy enjoyed the outdoors; including hunting, fishing, and boating. Our time with Coy was cut short due

to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Lastly, our 2020 summer intern started with the District on June 1, 2020. Charles Halbrook just finished his Bachelors in History at Northern Kentucky University. He enjoys being outside, getting his hands dirty, and exploring nature. His hope is to educate, research, or promote environmental history and the problems that we face as a society today. He will continue to work through August 2020.



## Celebrating 75 Years!

In 1945, a group of Campbell County farmers interested in soil and water conservation took the initial steps required to form a Conservation District in the county. Campbell County Conservation District was chartered in February, 1946, with Robert Bach, Jesse Brauley, Paul Fehr, Albert Schneider, and Fred Trapp serving as the first Board of Supervisors. In the ensuing years, 43 other people have served as supervisors with 18 of them serving ten years or more.

Early work to reduce soil erosion concentrated on improving farming practices. Conservation farm plans were developed, terraces and diversion ditches were constructed to slow down water and protect soil, and farm ponds were built to provide water for livestock. To encourage farmers to participate in the conservation programs, several field days were held in the early 1950's to demonstrate sound conservation practices. Kentucky set up the State Equipment Revolving Loan Fund program to help local operators purchase bulldozers and other earth moving equipment to install conservation measures. Now, farmers are encouraged to practice no-till farming to help with soil erosion and to keep the soil healthy.

The District has encouraged participation in the NACD Stewardship Week, sold tree and wildlife cover seed packets, held pond clinics and forestry field days, sponsored students to attend forestry leadership camp, hosted a booth at the Alexandria Fair, purchased 4-H and FFA animal projects at the Alexandria Fair, sponsored the 4-H Forestry Award at the Fair, and participated and manned exhibits at malls and public functions. A supervisor from the board has served as Area Director of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) and several supervisors have served on state association committees. In the 1970's, a very active Junior Conservation Board proved to be a valuable asset in the District's work. The District was instrumental in forming the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC). Conservation Districts of nine counties in the tristate region comprise the Council. It provides an opportunity for the Districts to share ideas and concerns and work together to protect and manage the region's natural resources.

Education has always been a major focus of the District. In 1989, together with Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts, the position of Conservation District Coordinator was established to help promote conservation education and the work of the conservation districts. This move has been a valuable asset, evidenced by awards received for KACD Outstanding Conservation District for Conservation Education, KACD Teacher of the Year, and other awards from the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and Environmental Quality Commission. In May 2015 the

District split from Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts and hired their own District Coordinator. Education efforts have expanded to include our District Coordinator as a KAEE (KY Association of Environmental Education) Facilitator for Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree. For the past ten years, the District has sponsored one or more Envirothon teams from Highlands High School. Each year the District, in conjunction with the Kentucky Farm Bureau and KACD, sponsors a Jim Claypool art and conservation writing contest based on an environmental topic. The county's public, private, and home schools participate each year.

To help educate people on where their food comes from, our first Backroads Farm Tour was held in July 2009 and continues annually on the third Saturday in July. Our hosts open their farms to the public to talk about their farm operations and explain the economic impact farming has on the community. Our Farm to Fork events have been a great success as well, and we have held four of those; the first one was at the Northern Kentucky University in August 2007.



Three of the original founding members of the Conservation District Board of supervisors were, from left: Bob Bach, Paul Fehr, and Al Schneider. The other members were Fred Trapp and Jesse Brauley. This photo was taken in 1977.

The District offers college scholarships to qualified students pursuing education in the fields of natural resources conservation, agriculture, biology, or related areas. Conservation Education Grants are offered to all schools in the county. This

has resulted in outdoor study areas which include gardens and weather stations and a variety of innovative conservation projects. Tree Planting and Urban Community Beautification Grants are offered annually for projects on public lands and are used primarily for tree plantings in city parks and roadway sites. As times have changed, so has the focus of the Conservation District. While agriculture related services are still an important part of our work, time is also spent providing assistance to those involved in commercial and residential development and planning and zoning commissions. In recent years the District added a Backyard Conservation Grant for possible projects such as rain barrels, Monarch waystations, raised garden beds, certified backyard wildlife habitat, invasive plant removal, rain gardens, composting, native grass and tree planting, and others.

These accomplishments, and others too numerous to mention, would not have been possible without technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and technical assistance now provided from our Division of Conservation field representatives.

Traveling the back roads of Campbell County today, a person might wonder what these Kentucky hills would look like if some very dedicated people had not had the foresight and determination to form a Conservation District in Campbell County. Thanks to all who have served in any capacity.

## Campbell County Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff



Chairman  
Rick Simon



Vice Chairman  
Bill Landon



Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim Benton



Supervisor  
Ken McCormick



Supervisor  
Ron McCormick



Supervisor  
Susan Ortlieb-Turner



Supervisor  
Gary Nelson



District Coordinator  
Amy Winkler



Administrative Secretary  
Linda Grizzell



2019 CCHS FFA Intern  
Coy McCulley

**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: [campbellcd@fuse.net](mailto:campbellcd@fuse.net)  
Web Site:  
[www.campbellkyconservation.org](http://www.campbellkyconservation.org)



2019 Summer Intern  
Erin Powell



2020 Summer Intern  
Charles Halbrook