

Campbell County Conservation District

Annual Report

July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022



Mission

The Campbell County Conservation District partners with citizens and private landowners as well as other organizations to promote the sustainability of the land, water and other natural resources by encouraging the use of Best Management Practices. We do this by providing expertise, financial assistance, and by hosting educational programs.

Board of Supervisors

2021

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

2022

Richard Simon, Chair
Dr. William Landon, Vice-Chair
James Benton, Sec/Treasurer
C. Kevin McCormick
Susan Ortlieb-Turner
Jason Kilmer
Richard Carr

District Staff

Amy Winkler, District Coordinator (July 2021)
Patti Dischar, District Manager (November 21-June 22)
Linda Grizzell, Administrative Secretary
Sawyer Lorentz, 2021 Summer Intern
Mary Kate Perkins, 2022 Summer Intern

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Ian Young, Supervisory District Conservationist
John Stork, Soil Conservationist

Ky. Division of Conservation:

Kim Barton, Environmental Scientist



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts prohibit discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Committees

Executive—Rick Simon (Chair), Bill Landon (Vice Chair) and Jim Benton (Secretary/Treasurer)

Budget—Jim Benton (Chair) and Jason Kilmer

Legislative— Bill Landon (Chair-2021) and Jason Kilmer (Chair-2022)

Education— C. Kevin McCormick, (Chair-2022), Jim Benton, Susan Ortlieb-Turner, and Bill Landon (Chair-2021)

Farmland Work Group—Bill Landon (Chair), Jim Benton, C. Kevin McCormick (2021), Susan Ortlieb-Turner, Jason Kilmer (2021), Rick Carr (2021), C. Kevin McCormick (2021)

Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory— Jim Benton (Chair-2021), Bill Landon (2021), Rick Carr (2021), and C. Kevin McCormick (2022)

Land Use—Jim Benton (Chair), Rick Carr (2021), and C. Kevin McCormick (2022)

Public Relations and Marketing—Susan Ortlieb-Turner (Chair) and Jason Kilmer (2021)

Technical & Financial Assistance—Jim Benton (Chair), Bill Landon (2021), and Susan Ortlieb-Turner (2021)

*Board Chair (Rick Simon 2021), District Manager (Patti Dischar), and Administrative Secretary (Linda Grizzell), provide support for all District committees and programs.

Representatives

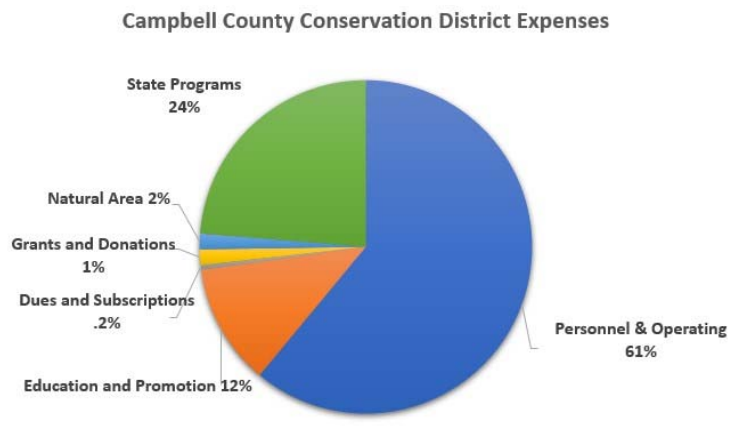
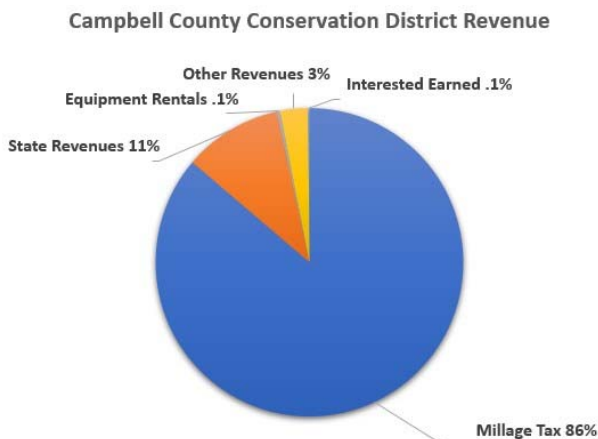
- **OKI Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC)** – Jim Benton
- **Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council** – Susan Ortlieb-Turner
- **Green Umbrella**– Patti Dischar

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
 Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife

Budget Review



Executive Committee

This committee is comprised of Board Chair Rick Simon (Chair), Bill Landon (Vice Chair), and Jim Benton (Secretary/Treasurer). Annual staff reviews were completed on time, memorandum of agreements were reviewed annually and edited as needed, and the entire board reviewed the 2021-22 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

Budget Committee

This committee prepared the draft 2022-23 Annual Budget for the Board's approval, reviewed the 2021-22 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 Jim reviewed and signed the credit card statement, bank statements, and bank reconciliations. 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 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 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 through 2025.



Backroads Farm Tour- The 13th annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held virtually this year due to the COVID pandemic. Our partners at Campbell Media assisted us with videotaping our 10 farms who provided a description of their farms. The video was promoted on our website and social media platforms.

The committee partnered with The Campbell Conservancy Inc. and the Campbell County Extension Service on a **Farm Preservation Seminar** to educate our community on the protection and preservation of our land. We will continue this seminar series in the fall 2022. Guest speaker was Attorney Clint Quarles from the Ky Department of Agriculture.



Rental Equipment

The Conservation District has partnered with Southern States to assist with housing and managing rentals for the lime spreader. It is available for rent to Campbell County farmers for \$75/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 8 farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$750.00.

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.

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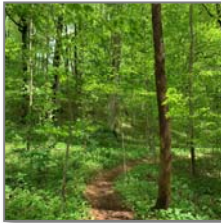
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Education Committee

The Hawthorne Crossing property is adjacent to the Licking River. Gaining public access to the property is a work in progress. The Conservation District is now a part of a regional initiative for the Licking River corridor to increase the recreational use of the river and gaining more access points.

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 Wetland 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.



Two pollinator habitats have been established within the St. Anne Uplands. The project was completed in the spring of 2022.

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 Manager, Patti Dischar, is on the steering committee as a representative for the Conservation District. The summer talk and walk series was able to be held this year.



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 “We All Need Water”. In the Writing Contest, we had 50 entries from three schools and 1,126 entries from four schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. Depending on the ranking, the First Place county winners in the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests will receive a check ranging from \$25 up to \$250 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. Grades 6-12 contest winners and all teachers received a Watersheds: A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water. Grade 3-5 winners received a Lakes and Ponds book. Grades K-2 winners received a Klutz My Clay Critters Jr. Craft Kit. All students received a certificate of achievement and all students and teachers received a t-shirt. In Campbell County, the art entries from grades K-2 are judged separately, and the County winner received an LCD writing 10-inch tablet doodle board.

Envirothon - The District registered three teams from Highlands High School to participate in the Envirothon Contest. The contest was in Lexington, Kentucky and our Envirothon team placed 5th at the state competition.



The committee promoted Soil Stewardship Week with Supervisor Jim Benton presenting the District’s goals and accomplishments to **Fiscal Court in May**.

The District is working towards increasing their involvement in environmental education. Educational programs were presented during Conservation Kids Camp and Newport High School’s summer school. The District partnered with Boone County Conservation District to sponsor ten campers from Campbell County. District Manager Patti Dischar and summer intern Mary Kate Perkins participated in the activities at the **Kid’s Camp at Potter’s Ranch** in Boone County



The District awarded Gavin Smith a \$175 scholarship to attend the **Camp Webb Conservation Camp** through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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Conservation Scholarships - The District awarded a \$1,000 scholarship each to Rusty Wolf and Weston Wolf. Campbell Media interviewed each candidate discussing their college careers and future goals. Their videos can be found on our website.



A **Mary Kathryn Dickerson Education Grant** application was approved for NKU REFS for adding electricity to their field station facility.

The District supports the **Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary Scholarship Program** through a donation of money.

Land Use Committee

Agricultural Districts - The District has a total of 17 consisting of 18,365 acres and 411 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 Conservancy for a nominal fee. The District also provides space for meetings and storage of records. District Administrative Secretary Linda Grizzell provides the staff support for the Conservancy.

The District 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. Site visits and payments will continue for one more year.

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. Patti maintains the District's social media including our Facebook page (Campbell County Conservation District Kentucky), Instagram, Twitter, and the District's website (www.campbellkyconservation.org). You can also find the link to our YouTube channel where 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 Conservation District received a grant from KY Division of Waster Management for composting. The Conservation District then partnered with UK Extension— Campbell County and Extension Agent DJ Scully to hold compost drive by events. Campbell County residents are eligible in signing up to receive a free **Earth Machine compost bin**. District manager and Extension Agent held a compost drive at Earth Day to hand out 100 compost bins.



A partnership with The Campbell Conservancy, Inc., Campbell County Fiscal Court, and UK Extension- Campbell County office has assisted with the creation of a **pollinator habitat at AJ Jolly Park**.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC)

annual business meeting was held in person in Boone County. The annual tour was hosted by Campbell County in October 2021. We began our tour at St. Anne Woods and Wetlands, second stop was Alan Ahrman's beef farm, lunch was at Seven Wells Winery, and we ended the tour at the Newport Aquarium.



The Board participates in the Alexandria Fair & Horse Show by purchasing a fair book advertisement, purchasing animals at the **4-H/FFA Livestock Sale**, and sponsoring the 4-H Forestry Award.

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The **KACD Area 5 Spring Meeting** was held at the Bracken County Extension Office. Supervisor Rick Simon and staff Patti Dischar and Linda Grizzell attended.

Campbell County hosted **Reforest NKY**. The planting event is normally planned for spring, but due to COVID and the site selected, the committee held a trunk a tree event in spring 2021 and a planting event in October at Sargeant Park in Dayton. Supervisor Rick Simon and his wife Alice participated.

In July supervisors Rick Simon and Rick Carr attended the **KACD Convention** at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort & Spa in Lexington, Kentucky. Supervisors Jason Kilmer and Kevin McCormick and staff Linda and Patti attended virtually.

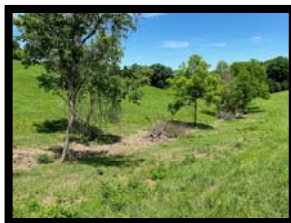
Supervisor Jim Benton represented the district at Fiscal Court's Citizen's Academy in October.



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. The District assists landowners in completing Agriculture Water Quality plans.

The District offers three types of environmental grants. Two are from the Kentucky Division of Conservation and the other one is funded by the Conservation District:



Farm Dump Removal Grants assist landowners in cleaning up farm dumps. The District approved one application this fiscal year.

The second environmental grant is the **Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program**

to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. Forty-eight producers participated in the program and was awarded a total of \$9,852.00 this fiscal year.

The third environmental grant is the **Non-Traditional Agriculture Grant** to assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional cost share programs to install practices for the control of sediment and erosion. The District provides funds for this program.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - One landowner was awarded \$3,975.08 for state cost share. Two applications were approved for funding.

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 current CAIP funding year began in spring 2021. Twenty landowners were awarded a total of 48,141.00 this fiscal year.

District Grants - This fiscal year the District awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants in the amount of \$462.00 to the City of Southgate Park & Tree Board, \$1,000.00 to the Northern KY Urban & Community Forestry Council, and \$1,840.00 to the Westside Citizens Coalition. 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.

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



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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. Seven applications were approved this fiscal year and one landowner was awarded \$195.00. Applications are available in the office and on our website. Applications are limited to one per household per fiscal year.

Local cost share: Cover Crop—This program was developed this fiscal year to protect areas prone to soil erosion. It is a 75/25 cost share with 75% of the project cost being reimbursed up to \$500.00. Applications are available in the office and on our website. Applications are limited to one per household per fiscal year.

Local cost share: Heavy Use Area - This program was also developed this fiscal year. It is a 75/25 cost share with 75% of the project cost being reimbursed up to \$1,500.00. Applications are available in the office and on our website. Applications are limited to one per household per fiscal year.

Local cost share: Waste Water Disposal - In recent years Campbell County has seen increases in population, development, and economic growth. Unfortunately, the County has also seen increases in water pollution. This Waste Water Disposal cost-share program is a financial incentive for landowners to dispose of effluent properly by providing funds for code-compliant plumbing installation/modifications of both supply- and drain/vent- pipes to carry wastewater into existing sewer/septic systems. Leach line repair will also be considered. A project may be funded up to \$2,500 and applicants must provide at least 25% of the total cost of the project. Campbell County residents are eligible to receive financial assistance only one time per location address. One application was approved for funding this fiscal year.

Technical assistance for the District is provided by, Ian Young-NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, John Stork-NRCS Soil Conservationist, and additional staff now available through the Kentucky Division of Conservation. For Campbell County, NRCS had 2 new EQIP contacts funded this year on 146.2 Acres totaling \$58,144.

Rental Equipment

Through a memorandum of agreement, Southern States houses and maintains the District’s **Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader**. It is available for rent to Campbell County farmers for \$75/day for spreading lime to improve productivity by increasing the soil pH. Before using the lime spreader farmers must view a training video or 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 eight farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$750.00.

Other Events

Supervisors Rick Simon and Jim Benton toured the **Rumpke Recycling Plant** in September.

Supervisor Susan Ortlieb-Turner attended the Trees in Our Community annual meeting hosted by the **Northern KY Urban & Community Forestry Council**.

The district was busy this fiscal year **renovating the back office** expanding the conference room area and other office space.

Campbell County District Manager

The district hired a new District Manager , Patti Dischar, in November replacing District Coordinator Amy Winkler. Growing up in Campbell County Patti saw firsthand from her parents a good work ethic and using her talents to be a good steward to the community. Patti married her husband, John Dischar, 33 years ago and moved to California, Kentucky where they raised 5 children who were involved in farming, 4-H, and learning about preserving the land. Patti is excited to begin her work with the conservation district and getting involved with all the ways we can preserve the soil, water and natural resources in Campbell County Kentucky!



Campbell County Conservation District Intern



Our 2022 Summer intern was Mary Kate Perkins. She will be a senior at Morehead State University majoring in Agribusiness and Agronomy.

Outside of CCCD, she is the youth director at Persimmon Grove Baptist Church, and helps to run a 60-acre farm of Katahdin sheep in California, KY.

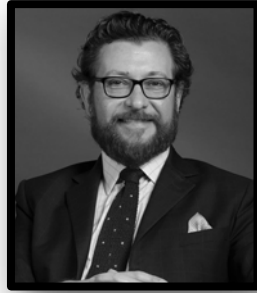
From a young age, an appreciation for farmers has been instilled in her. With that appreciation, she knew she wanted to one day be involved in the farming community, helping farmers anyway she could.

Here at the Campbell County Conservation District she is looking forward to learning more about conservation work, as well as the cost-share programs that the district offers. By the end of her time here at the district, she would like to raise awareness of what the district offers and get involved in helping out local farmers.

Campbell County Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff



Chairman
Rick Simon



Vice Chairman
Bill Landon



Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Benton



Supervisor
Jason Kilmer



Supervisor
Rick Carr



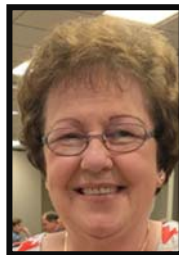
Supervisor
Susan Ortlieb-Turner



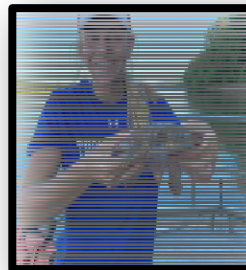
Supervisor
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District Manager
Patti Dischar



Administrative Secretary
Linda Grizzell



2021 Summer Intern
Sawyer Lorentz



2022 Summer Intern
Mary Kate Perkins

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