



Board Supervisors

Seated Left: Vice Chairman Dennis Walter, Debbie Buckley, Linda Bray-Schafer, Chairman Ron McCormick
 Standing Left: Rick Simon, Secretary/Treasurer Ken McCormick, Peter Garrett



District Coordinator
Amy Winkler



Administrative Secretary
Linda Grizzell



Area Representative
Linda Hunter



Natural Resources
Conservation
Service Supervisory
Manager Ian Young



Agriculture Conservation Technician
John Stork

**Campbell County
 Conservation District**
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Office hours:
 Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 E-mail: campbelcd@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; Gretchen Vaughn (July-Sept); Linda Bray-Schafer; Rick Simon; Peter Garrett; and, Debbie Buckley (Nov-June).

District Staff:

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

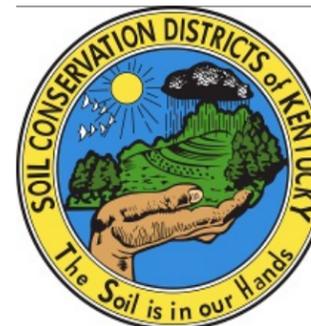
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Ian Young, Supervisory Natural Resource Manager; Kevin Bryan, Soil Conservation Planner

Ky. Division of Conservation:

Linda Hunter, Field Representative

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, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

The Campbell County Conservation District reviewed and revised their Long Range Plan during this fiscal year. They formed various committees to focus on several areas of work included in their 2015-16 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 2015-16 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

Budget Committee

This committee is comprised of Secretary/Treasurer Ken (committee chair), Vice Chair Dennis, and Administrative Secretary Linda Grizzell. This committee prepared the draft 2016-17 Annual Budget for the board's approval, reviewed the 2015-16 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 reviewed and signed the credit card statement, bank statements, and bank reconciliations. Dennis declared the District's 2015 tax rate to Campbell County Fiscal Court at their meeting on September 2, 2015. The committee also monitors 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.



Dennis declaring 2015 tax rate to Fiscal Court
 Photo provided by Campbell County Media Central

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

Legislative Committee

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

Farmland Work Group

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

Backroads Farm Tour- The seventh annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held on July 18, 2015. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 14 Campbell County farm owners. The tour attracted more than 1,064 visitors with 3,719 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with seven states and 64 cities represented. The tour showcased community-supported agriculture, vegetable and produce growers, four 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.



Dennis Walter addressing Farm Estate Transition Planning audience
Photo provided by Campbell County Media Central

Right to Farm: Farm Estate Transition Planning- On November 11, 2015, the Campbell County Conservation District's Farmland Work Group hosted a forum in their Right to Farm series; this one was on "Farm Estate Transition Planning." Speakers included David Morrison, Ohio State University; Dr. Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky; Pam Potter, Attorney for Potter Law Firm, and Donovan Hornsby, The Campbell Conservancy, Inc. Full videos of the forum are available in sections on the Conservation District YouTube.



Campbell County Conservation District Farmland Work Group Backroads Farm Tour

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The third environmental grant is the **Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program** to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 52 producers participated in the program. The program also assists the county animal shelter with costs for proper disposal of animals. A total of \$3,863.36 was awarded this fiscal year.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - Two applications from Campbell County were received and approved through the "managing poo" RCPP's (Regional Conservation Partnership Program). Funding for conservation practices under this program will come from two main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

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



Technical Assistance

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

Rental Equipment

Board member Ron McCormick houses and maintains

the District's **Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader**; Ken is a backup. It is available for rent to Campbell County farmers for \$25/day for spreading lime to improve productivity by increasing the soil pH. Before using the lime spreader farmers must attend a safety training program offered by the Campbell County Extension Service. The spreader was purchased as a cooperative effort of the Campbell County Farm Bureau, Campbell County Extension Service, Campbell County Cattle Association, and the Campbell County Conservation District. It was rented by seven farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$175.

Equipped to serve the community

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

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

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

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

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

District Office - The Campbell County Conservation District office is located in the Campbell County Courthouse in Alexandria through a lease with Campbell County Fiscal Court.

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District Grants - This fiscal year the District awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants to the Ft. Thomas Tree Commission, the City of Silver Grove, and the Taking Root Northern KY Action Team. The District has been giving matching grants for Tree Planting and Community Beautification since 1993 to help cities and communities establish programs or develop projects to protect and conserve our natural resources. The project must be accomplished on lands located in Campbell County that are owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by city, county, state, or federal government and must include funding or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to the grant request.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

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

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



Supervisor Ron McCormick at composting site at Findlay Market on OKI-RCC Annual Tour. Photo by Amy Winkler

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

In August, Ken, Ron, Linda Bray-Schafer, and staff Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler attended the **OKI-RCC annual tour** hosted by Hamilton County SWCD. The tour consisted of Homeadow Song Farm, Findlay Market, Chevron Oil Refinery, and videos of Turpin Farm and their "Prairie Turf" Project and the District's 2015 "Ohio Conservation Teacher of the Year" Julie Christner were viewed from bus monitors on the way back to the office.

Board members participated in the **Alexandria Fair & Horse Show** by purchasing a fair book advertisement featuring "God Made A Farmer" supporting Campbell County farmers. They also purchased animals at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, in partnership with several other organizations, and sponsored the 4-H Forestry Award (a check for \$25) at the Alexandria Fair and Horse Show. Board member Linda B-S attended the livestock show. There were no forestry entries at the fair for this fiscal year.



Supervisor Linda Bray-Schafer (holding award banner) at the Alexandria 4-H and FFA 2015 Livestock Show. Photo provided by Owen Prim

Cost Share Programs

Rick is chair of this committee; others include staff members John and Linda. One of the main duties of this committee is assisting landowners in complying with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and to encourage participation in state and federal cost share programs. A total of 617 landowners currently have a self-certification form filed with the District stating that they have developed and are implementing a water quality plan for their operation.

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 three landowners a total of \$9,121.

Non-Traditional Agriculture Grants assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill cost share programs to install practices for the control of sediment and erosion. One application was approved and two landowners were awarded a total of \$2,993 this fiscal year.

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Dennis addressing the Local Buyer Grower Connection audience. Photo provided by Campbell County Media Central

Right to Farm: Local Buyer Grower Connection- Our forum on March 14, 2016 was a step in facilitating great new local connections. We wanted to encourage buyers to source local, and we want our local growers to be able to grow their farm business right here at home. Effective discussions were held during the meeting and connections were made between the buyers and growers, but nothing in whole sale at this time.

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. A placement program was created; it will hopefully be implemented next fiscal year.

Agricultural Districts - There are fourteen agricultural districts in Campbell County with a total of 12,171 acres and 249 landowners.

In April board member Dennis gave a presentation to the **Community Leaders Action Group (CLAG)**. He covered topics that included the purpose and mission statement of the Farmland Work Group, the cost of services study performed by the District, farm business in the County, and other activities and events the committee is doing to promote the value of farming and educating the public on where their food is grown.

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 now 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), and staff Amy Winkler.

Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area

The Final Resource Management Plan was completed and submitted to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. Hawthorne Crossing will continue to be monitored in the future and corrective action taken as necessary. Efforts to preserve a log cabin home site continue and 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 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.



Supervisors (left to right) Rick Simon, Ken McCormick, and Linda Bray-Schafer man the display during the Herbst Tour at St. Anne Woods and Wetlands



During the Herbst Tour visitors tossed milkweed seed balls donated by the Campbell Conservancy

Herbst Tour- In October the St. Anne Woods was a stop on the Camp Springs Herbst Tour. Fifty-five visitors enjoyed taking a hike through the woods. Board members Ken McCormick, Rick Simon, and Linda Bray-Schafer manned the booth. Staff

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member Amy Winkler also helped with the booth and assisted visitors. Milkweed seed balls were provided by The Campbell Conservancy for visitors to toss in a designated area to improve the habitat for the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.

Biological Inventory- The biological inventory for St. Anne Woods and Wetlands was completed and is on file in the Campbell County Conservation District office.

NKU CER- The Northern Kentucky University's Center of Environmental Restoration has been approved to complete restoration and preservation work in the St. Anne Woods and Wetlands including invasive species removal.

Education Committee

Supervisor Ken is the chair of this committee. Other members include supervisors Rick, Debbie, and staff Linda Grizzell. 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 *The Wild Side of Kentucky*. In the Writing Contest, we had 149 entries from five schools and 809 entries from seven schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. From the Campbell County Conservation District, the art winners received the books Rabbits, Squirrels, and Chipmunks and Birds, Nests, and Eggs. The writing winners received the book Birds of Kentucky Field Guide. All winners received a t-shirt and a certificate of achievement. In Campbell County, the art entries from grades K-2 are judged separately, and that winner received a \$25 check. All teachers received a t-shirt and the book Birds of Kentucky Field Guide. Students also received Legislative Citations from Representatives Joe Fischer, Thomas Kerr, Dennis Keene, and Senator Wil Schroder.



Grades K-2 Art Contest Winners: L-R Adrian Schwarz/teacher Sister Mary Bezold; Camryn Markus/teacher Bonnie Markus; and Delilah Owens (county winner)/teacher Sarah Richardson. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger

Sarah Richardson of Crossroads Elementary was the winner of the Teacher Incentive Award.



Grades 3-5 Art Contest Winners: L-R Luke Fillhardt/teacher Patricia Allen; Alice Pence; Emma Krebs/teacher Bonnie Markus; Ryann Crowley/teacher Sarah Richardson; Payton Schmidt/teacher Lisa Reynolds; Jose' Tellez (county winner)/teacher Tom Weber. Absent teacher Karly Meyer. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger



Conservation Writing Contest Winners: L-R Justin Reckner/teacher Lisa Reynolds for Matt Grosser; Vinny Miglio/teacher Judy Pieper; and Annalee Brewer (county winner)/teacher Colleen Epperson. Absent Maria Broering/teacher Erin Gilday, teacher Matt Grosser, and Syd Fillhardt teacher Elizabeth Vandewater. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger

Envirothon - The District had two teams from Highlands High School who participated in the Envirothon Contest, one of which won 8th in the state competition. The topic was on invasive species.

The **Campbell County Conservation District Mary Kathryn Dickerson Education Grant** is offered each year, but we had no applications for this fiscal year.



Envirothon Team Members: L-R Colleen Epperson (coach), Mrs. Blankenship, Alicia Ulibarri, Michaela Brown, Garrett Harrison, Shane Partin, Nick Cooley, Lauren Epperson, Natalie Neace, Ethan Mills, Eric Vennemann, Brooks Brown. Photo provided by Colleen Epperson

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The Simon Family and staff John Stork. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger

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

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



Supervisor Debbie Buckley giving District and Soil Stewardship Presentation to Fiscal Court. Photo provided by Campbell County Media Central

The committee promotes **Soil Stewardship Week** and Debbie gave a presentation to fiscal court on District events and accomplishments. Judge/Executive Steve Penderly signed the soil stewardship proclamation "We All Need Trees" at the Campbell County Fiscal Court meeting on April 6, 2016.

Big Bone Lick State Park Discovery Days - Staff Amy Winkler worked the school-day Campbell-Boone-Kenton District booth at October's Big Bone Lick State Park Discovery Days and Salt Festival. Kenton County Staff John Stork (contracted by Campbell) and Boone County staff worked the booth also. The theme was focused on "wildlife" to coincide with the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contest theme. Approximately 200-300 visits from students, faculty, and parents visited the booth on Friday.

Land Use Committee

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

The **Campbell Conservancy** and the District approved an agreement in August 2006 through which the Conservation District provides administrative and technical services to the Conservancy for a nominal fee. The District also provides a space for meetings and storage of records. District Administrative Secretary 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, and Debbie, and staff John Stork are members of this committee. Advisory committee members included; the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service agents Don Sorrell, Dave Koester, Sarah Stolz, DJ. Scully, and Owen Prim; Ian Young; and Helen Fehr.



Scholarship Recipients: L-R Luke Allen Trapp, Lydia Ann Schneider, Bailey M. Wert, Randi Nicole Hensley, and Nicole Marie Robertson. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger

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

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

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

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

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



Tree Planting Grant Recipients - L-R Supervisor Pete Garrett, Tara Sturgill and Lorna Harrell with Taking Root, John Tucker with the City of Silver Grove, and Meg Casper Hudson with Fort Thomas Tree Commission. Photo by Laura Sullenbarger

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