

**Campbell County
Conservation District
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The mission of the Campbell County Conservation District, in accordance with state statute, is to promote the best use of the land, water, and other natural resources within the district by encouraging the use of Best Management Practices. To further these efforts, the district provides assistance, information, and education throughout the county.

District Board Supervisors:

Ron McCormick, Chairman; Dennis Walter, Vice Chairman; Ken McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Bray-Schafer; Rick Simon; Peter Garrett; and, Debbie Buckley.

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, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

The Campbell County Conservation District review their Long Range Plan annually. The supervisors and staff continue to work on their various committees and focus on several areas of work included in their 2016-17 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 2016-17 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

Budget Committee

This committee is comprised of Secretary/Treasurer Ken (committee chair) and Vice Chair Dennis. This committee prepared the draft 2017-18 Annual Budget for the board’s approval, reviewed the 2016-17 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 2016 tax rate to Campbell County Fiscal Court at their meeting on August 17, 2016. The committee also monitors financial reporting deadlines entered on the District in Good Standing Report for state direct aid calculations.



Dennis declaring 2016 tax rate to Fiscal Court
Photo provided by Campbell County Media Central

The District achieved a 100% rating and received bonus dollars as well as the calculated direct aid dollars.

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

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reports are available at the district office or can be viewed on the Kentucky Department for Local Government website under Special Purpose Government Entities.

Legislative Committee

This committee consists of supervisor Pete Garrett and Field 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.

Farmland Work Group

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

Backroads Farm Tour- The seventh annual Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held on July 16, 2016. Visitors enjoyed the warmth and generous hospitality of 11 Campbell County farm owners. The tour attracted more than 1,117 visitors with 3,393 farm visits at all locations. Most of the visitors were from Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati with six states and 58 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.

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

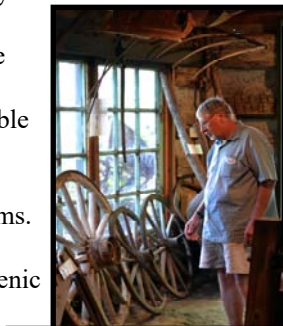
Group is partnering with the High School Ag Teachers to assist students in getting hands-on experience with Campbell County farmers. A placement program was created and implemented during the 2016-17 school year. We had 8 agriculture professionals volunteer to be SAE sponsors. Students were required to complete 12 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.



Campbell Co. High School Student, Ana Pohlgeers, gains experience in tagging calves from local farmer, Alan Ahrman, as part of the SAE Placement Program.

Agricultural Districts - We added three agricultural districts this fiscal year making a total of 17 consisting of 14,913.20 acres and 312 landowners.

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



Campbell County Conservation District Farmland Work Group Backroads Farm Tour



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A public meeting is planned to review the results of the Campbell County Survey on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Campbell County High School Cafeteria. Dr. Lori Garkovich from the University of Kentucky will present the analysis, and there will be time for questions afterward. People could contact the Conservation District office with any questions.

Supervisor Dennis Walter gave a presentation on the “state of agriculture in Campbell County” at a **mayor’s meeting** on October 25.

Hawthorne St. Anne Advisory Team

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

Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area

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

St. Anne Woods and Wetlands

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

Herbst Tour- In October the St. Anne Woods was a stop on the Camp Springs Herbst Tour. Forty-five visitors enjoyed taking a hike through the woods. Board members Ken McCormick and Rick Simon manned the booth. Staff member Amy Winkler also helped with the booth and assisted visitors. Milkweed seed balls were

provided by The Campbell Conservancy, Inc. for visitors to toss in a designated area to improve the habitat for the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.

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 have initiated boundary marking of the south Wetlands 1 and invasive species removal.



NKU REFS - The Conservation District has partnered with the Northern Kentucky University Research and Education Field Station (NKU REFS). The new field station is located next to the St. Anne Wetlands. Their focus is research, education, and community involvement.

Supervisors Ron McCormick, Ken McCormick, Peter Garrett, and Linda Bray-Schafer, along with staff Amy Winkler and John Stork attended their Grand Opening on May 19. District coordinator, Amy Winkler, is on the steering committee as a representative for the District.

Education Committee

Supervisor Debbie Buckley is the chair of this committee. Other members include supervisors Rick and Ken. The District holds an annual awards dinner to honor the winners from the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests, scholarship recipients, grant recipients, and either a master conservationist or cooperative of the year is honored. The topic for this year’s **art and writing contest** was *Backyard Adventures; Exploring the Trees in Your Hometown*. In the Writing Contest, we had 135 entries from seven schools and 1,168 entries from seven schools in the Jim Claypool art contest. From the Campbell County Conservation District, the K-2 art winners received the book Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids and the 3-5 winners received the book The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown-Ups. The writing winners received the Fandex Family 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.

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Art Category- L-R: Representative Joe Fischer, Julie Burkhardt, Sr. Mary Bezold, Cindy Feeback, Courtney Osterhage, Senator Wil Schroder. Seated: Rocio Peirano, Jaylen Brewer (K-2 County Winner), Isabelle Combs, Preston Koeninger, Emmie Sheets, and Eleeah Jennings



Art Category - L-R: Representative Joe Fischer, Julie Burkhardt, Rachel Hammons, Terri Brennan, Susan Kahmann, Senator Wil Schroder. Seated: Rocio Peirano, Bella Hargett, Haylee Hogie, Kaylie Scales, Lucas Schroder



Writing Category - L-R: Representative Joe Fischer, Pam Hamons, Senator Wil Schroder. Seated: Luke Fillhardt, Syd Fillhardt, Jim Scola, and Bailey Jones

All teachers received a t-shirt. From Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover, Representatives Joe Fischer, Kimberly Moser, Dennis Keene, and Senator Wil Schroder, students received Citations of Achievement. Senator Schroder and Representative Fischer attended the dinner and handed out their citations.

Kayla Groneck from Highlands High School was the state winner in the writing contest.

Terri Brennan of Saint Thomas School was the winner of the Teacher Incentive Award.



2017 Highlands Envirothon Team L-R Adrian Mills, Max Johncox, Lauren Epperson, Alicia Ulibari, Ethan Mills, Mary Farris, David Patton, Garrett Harrison, Nick Cooley (Not Pictured: Chris Kirkwood)

Envirothon - The District had two teams from Highlands High School who participated in the Envirothon Contest. This makes the seventh year in a row that Highlands has participated in this program and we are very proud of the students and Envirothon Coach Colleen Epperson. The topic was “agricultural soil and water conservation stewardship”.

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



Supervisor Peter Garrett giving District and Soil Stewardship Presentation to Fiscal Court

The committee promotes **Soil Stewardship Week** and Supervisor Pete Garrett gave a presentation to fiscal court on District events and accomplishments. Judge/ Executive Steve Pendery signed the soil stewardship proclamation “Healthy Soils Are Full of Life” at the Campbell County Fiscal Court meeting on May 3.

Land Use Committee

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

The Campbell Conservancy and the District approved an agreement in August 2006 through which

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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 are members of this committee. Advisory committee members include; Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service agents Don Sorrell, Sarah Stolz, DJ. Scully, and Owen Prim; NRCS Manager Ian Young; and Helen Fehr.

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



Sam Bauer (Campbell County High School Senior) with Supervisors Linda Bray-Schafer & Debbie Buckley

Conservation Scholarships - Five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded through the District to Nicole Robertson, Sam Bauer, Lydia Schneider, Andrew Wehmeyer, and Conner Richardson.

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 Rachel Glaser from St. Catherine of Sienna 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.

District Grants - This fiscal year the District awarded Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement Grants to the Cities of Alexandria, Silver Grove, and Dayton for their proposed 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.



Supervisor Peter Garret presents Tree Planting Grants to Pam Proctor and Kim Wagner with the City of Alexandria (above) and John Tucker and Mary Loudon with the City of Silver Grove (right).



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

Beginning Farmer Grant - The Campbell County Conservation District is partnering with the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, The Campbell Conservancy, Inc. and the Campbell County Farm Bureau to offer a new grant for 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 will target 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 will be 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. Application process is scheduled for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

Supervisors Linda Bray-Schafer (chair) and Debbie, make up this committee. Their focus is to promote all District programs and events via the District's website, by increasing our presence on social media, or through other applicable means as recommended by the committee. Amy maintains the District's Facebook page (Campbell County Conservation District Kentucky) 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 at the Sharon Centre in

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Sharon Woods. Board members Ron McCormick and Ken McCormick and staff members Amy Winkler and Linda Grizzell attended. Ken is chairman of the OKI-RCC.

In August, Supervisor Ken McCormick and staff Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler attended the **OKI-RCC annual tour** hosted by the Kenton County Conservation District. The tour consisted of a brief introduction and local history at the Kenton County Court House in Independence, and a tour of the Morning View Heritage Land.

Supervisor Rick Simon represented the Conservation District while purchasing Kelly Copenbaker's Reserve Champion Goat (Deborah Myers for Kelly-below) and Jeremiah Wilbers' Goat (right).



Board members participated in the **Alexandria Fair & Horse Show** by purchasing a fair book advertisement and animals at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, and sponsoring the 4-H Forestry Award (a check for \$25).

Supervisor Ken McCormick presented the Forestry award to winner Alexis Ford. Supervisor Rick Simon bid on the animals at the livestock sale.



Rick Simon and Amy Winkler (left) during October 2016 Make a Difference Day. Signage for the Mary Kathryn Dickerson Grove presented during the dedication



Mary Kathryn Dickerson Grove Dedication—Taking Root completed a forest restoration project known as the Mary Kathryn Dickerson Grove and was dedicated at Tower Park in Fort Thomas on June 20. Funding came from The Campbell County Conservation District through a forestry grant and another grant received from Duke Energy. The City of Ft. Thomas provided the site and will help maintain the trees. The actual planting

occurred within an easement in Tower Park that is maintained by NKU's Center for Environmental Restoration. Rick Simon and Amy Winkler attended the 2016 Make A Difference Day to assist in planting trees for the grove. Biologist Tara Sturgill, Jessica Spencer, and Lorna Harrell comprised the project team.

Cost Share Committee

Supervisors Rick Simon (chair) and Pete Garrett are members of this committee. One of their main duties 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 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 one application this fiscal and awarded one landowner a total of \$2,500.

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 this fiscal year and awarded one landowner a total of \$2,175.

The third environmental grant is the **Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program** to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 31 producers participated in the program. The program also assists the county animal shelter with costs for proper disposal of animals. A total of \$3,513.36 was awarded this fiscal year.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund - Two producers from Campbell County were awarded a total of \$10,875 through the "managing poo" RCPP's (Regional Conservation Partnership Program). Funding for conservation practices under this program come from two main sources, State Cost Share and the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

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

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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 District administers the CAIP program. A CAIP application was approved by the County Agricultural Development Council and forwarded to the state for GOAP approval for program year 2017. A sub-committee consisting of board supervisors Linda Bray-Schafer and Rick, staff Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler, and Extension Ag Agent Don Sorrell met and submitted suggestions to the GOAP for 2018 KADF programs.

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. Applications are available in the office and on our website.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance for the District is provided by John Stork, Kenton County Conservation District Manager through a memorandum of agreement with the Kenton County Conservation District, Ian Young-NRCS Supervisory Natural Resource Manager, and Kevin Bryan-NRCS Soil Conservation Planner. NRCS staff currently provides ongoing assistance for four contracts under the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills. These contracts cover 500 acres of land and are valued at \$54,306. An additional five 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 five farmers this fiscal year and brought in revenue of \$125.

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 and Ron McCormick attended the meeting as well as staff members John Stork, Amy Winkler, and Linda Grizzell. Ron McCormick, Rick Simon, Ken McCormick, Linda Bray-Schafer, Debbie Buckley, Dennis Walter, and staff members Linda Grizzell and Amy Winkler attended the KACD Area 5 meeting in Pendleton County at the Pendleton County Farm Bureau office. Board members serve on statewide KACD committees, which meet annually via conference calls: Natural Resources, Rick Simon; and Education /Youth and Forestry, Ken.

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**. Rick Simon 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.



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



NRCS Supervisory
Manager Ian Young



NRCS Soil Conservation
Planner Kevin Bryan



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