

Conservation for Agriculture



Farmers receive technical and financial assistance through local, state and federal programs administered by the Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

These programs not only help farmers solve soil erosion and water quality issues on their farms, but help them restore, enhance, and protect the natural resources in their care.

Due to the variety of soils and terrain, each farm presents unique natural resource management challenges and opportunities. A variety of conservation measures are used to help landowners improve soil quality, protect water resources, and enhance biodiversity while providing the agricultural production that is needed to help feed and clothe our nation.



Cost Share Programs available:

Farmers and other landowners can receive technical and often financial assistance to reduce soil erosion, prevent water pollution, and maintain and improve farmlands and forests.

- **Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program** - for installation of Best Management Practices to solve natural resource issues
- **Dead Farm Animal Removal Assistance Program**
- **Farm Dump Removal Assistance Program**
- **Non-Traditional Cost Share Grant** - for agricultural landowners who are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill or state cost share programs.



Conservation At Work



Campbell County Farmland Work Group

The Conservation District and partners completed a Farmland Study for Campbell County in 2005. The project included a Cost of Community Services Study, Agriculture Industry Profile and survey of county farmers and youth. This led to a strategic plan which included four main areas: Prioritize what farmland should be saved; Continue to educate the public about the values of farmland; Pilot a PDR program; Improve the economic viability of agriculture.

The Farmland Work Group started the annual Backroads Farm Tour in 2009 to bring people to the county's farms to learn first-hand about agricultural production. The tour is held on the third Saturday of July each year. The group has also sponsored four Farm-to-Fork dinners to showcase the variety of products available in Campbell County. Through the efforts of the Farmland Work Group and partners, the new Campbell County Comprehensive Plan includes two Goals and Objectives that support agriculture: Economic Development and Employment - *Support the continued economic viability of Campbell County's working farms and agricultural enterprises;* and Community Character Preservation - *Provide a viable and continuing strategy for preserving quality farmland.*

Survey Shows Continued Support for Campbell Co. Agriculture

In the spring of 2017 the Campbell County Conservation District mailed surveys to land owners in southern Campbell County. The purpose of the survey was to assess the landowners' attitudes and preferences with respect to land uses and future development patterns.

The survey was similar to one completed in November 2004 on the future of farming in Campbell County as well as the survey completed in south Kenton County community in 2014 and 2016. This was part of a study by the American Farmland Trust that outlined a profile of agriculture in Campbell County. While the response to the most recent survey nearly doubled the 2004 survey, the response suggests public opinion continues to strongly favor preserving Campbell County's farms and open space.

In the recent survey mailed, 91.2% believe it is important to keep agriculture a viable part of the southern Campbell County economy and 88.1% believe it is important to maintain the rural character of southern Campbell County. 89% of the participants are residents of southern Campbell County and 95% own land in the southern portion of the county. Almost 70% of the respondents own between 10 and 100 acres, with 67% listing subsistence farming for family's own use as well as residential and conservation/preservation as the primary uses of their land.

USDA Farm Census - Campbell County		
Year	Number of Farms	% of county land in farms
1940	1,292	81.5 %
2012	504	43.5 %

The data collected in the most recent survey will be used to update and strengthen the Conservation District's action plan to protect and enhance our farms, forest and other working lands.

The 2017 survey results are available on our website's home page.

Kentucky Agricultural District Program

The Kentucky Agricultural District Program is a voluntary program that allows farmers to form special areas where commercial agriculture is encouraged and protected. A minimum of 250 acres total is required. Benefits include the right to have property taxed at its agricultural value and protection from annexation without the landowners permission. There are seventeen agricultural districts in Campbell County with a total of 15,089 acres and 319 landowners.



Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area And St. Anne Woods and Wetlands

The Conservation District, in cooperation with the Campbell Conservancy and the Campbell County Fiscal Court, received grants from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board (KHLCFB) that helped purchase 140 acres of land along the Licking River known as Hawthorne Crossing Conservations Area (HCCA) and 146 acres in Melbourne, KY known as St. Anne Woods and Wetlands (SAWW). While habitat restoration is the main goal of the properties. There is one section of SAWW that is currently open to the public for hiking, bird watching, educational programs, and research and the rest of the SAWW property is open by appointment. At this time HCCA will remain closed while habitat restoration is taking place. Future activity in the property will be conditional on access.

Other Conservation Programs

- **Tree Planting and Urban Forestry Enhancement Grant** for public lands.
- **Cooperator of the Year** - Recognizing an outstanding Conservation District Cooperator.
- **Conservation Equipment** - A Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader is available for rent to Campbell County farmers for \$25/day for spreading lime to improve productivity by increasing the soil pH. Farmers must attend a safety training program before using the spreader. The spreader is a joint effort of the Campbell Co. Farm Bureau, Extension Service, Cattle Association, and Conservation District.
- **County Agriculture Investment Program** - The District administers this state program to increase net farm income and help tobacco farmers and tobacco-impacted communities.

Your Conservation District -

Working to make sure that the resources we enjoy today are here to provide for the needs of tomorrow

Kentucky Conservation Districts are Special Purpose Government Entities, organized under Kentucky Revised Statute 262. Conservation Districts are responsible for protecting our soil, water and other natural resources. The Campbell County Conservation District was established in 1945 by a vote of the citizens of the county. Seven locally-elected officials who serve a four-year term, without pay, govern the Conservation District. Services offered through the Campbell County Conservation District are funded through local tax dollars, grants, donations and volunteer work.

Farmers and other landowners can receive technical and often financial assistance to reduce soil erosion, prevent water pollution, and maintain and improve the productivity of our farmlands and forests. Landowners also receive assistance with writing and carrying out their Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act Plans. The Conservation District also administers the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program, Kentucky Agricultural District program, County Agriculture Investment Program, and a variety of other programs designed to help people care for their land.

A Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service brings federal assistance to Campbell County. Conservation Districts are your local link to resources and assistance through the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and other state and federal agencies. Assistance is available to everyone, including landowners, businesses, schools, organizations, and cities and other local governments.

Mission of the Campbell County Conservation District

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.

Conservation Education

The Conservation District makes funds available each year to help people learn how to care for natural resources.

- **Kentucky Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contests.**
- **Conservation in the classroom**
- **Local conservation education grants** for educational institutions.
- **State and local scholarships** for college students.
- **Kentucky Conservation Teacher of the Year** competition for teachers who actively engage students in conservation education and community outreach.
- **National Envirothon**- Conservation District sponsorship and support of local high school teams.
- **Kentucky Forestry Leadership Program** - Weeklong experience in forest management and related subjects for high school students completing their sophomore and junior years.
- **Field Days and Workshops** about pond scum, invasive species, Best Management Practices, and other conservation topics. Including educational workshops for Project Wild, Project Wet, and Project Learning Tree.

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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.

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