

AUTUMN 2024

Newsletter

KACDE

Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees

Welcome to our newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest happenings and upcoming events.

With the changing seasons, it feels like the perfect time for a new chapter and fresh opportunities. Embracing change, whether it's the weather or a new position, brings excitement and growth. It's an absolute honor to represent KACDE as the newly elected President. I want to start by expressing my deepest gratitude to all of you for placing your trust in me to serve in this capacity.

For over two decades, I have been committed to conservation work. Working alongside so many passionate and talented individuals across this state has shown me the importance of what we do—protecting and preserving Kentucky's natural resources for future generations. I've seen firsthand the impact that our efforts have on communities, from farms and forests to urban areas, and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of KACDE, whose mission is to help develop, promote and strengthen conservation district employees and their districts.

Looking ahead, I am dedicated to fostering collaboration among all districts, sharing our knowledge and resources, and advocating for the important work we do not only in our counties, but at the state and national levels. We face challenges—whether they be funding, environmental changes, or community awareness—but we also have tremendous opportunities to make a lasting difference. As we move forward, let's remember that we are not just employees; we are advocates, educators, and stewards of Kentucky's natural resources. Let's use this time together to exchange ideas, support one another, and inspire positive change in the work we do.

I look forward to serving you, working with you, and growing with you in this new chapter for KACDE. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your continued commitment to conservation. Together, we will accomplish great things.

Penny Warwick



Farewell!

As we say goodbye to Natalie Browning in her role as president, we reflect on her leadership and dedication. She has guided us through many endeavors leaving a lasting impact on our organization.

We are grateful for Natalie's four years of leadership with KACDE and are pleased to have her continue serving as Past President in this next chapter.

KACDE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 10-13



ENGAGE, CONNECT, CONSERVE

With over 60 attendees and a full agenda, our recent conference in Elizabethtown was a success! If you missed out this year, we encourage you to join us next year—there's so much to gain!

This year welcomed many new faces, creating an excellent networking opportunity for both seasoned professionals and new employees from across the state. We're excited to see these connections flourish!

The conference kicked off with a tour of Hinton's Orchard, while administrators engaged in a concurrent session covering essential office operations, from budgeting to taxes.

Throughout the event, attendees enjoyed a variety of sessions, including Excel, wellness, and "Ag in the Classroom," as well as exploring soils in the classroom. Our partner employees participated in hands-on field visits, learning effective ways to engage with producers and more!

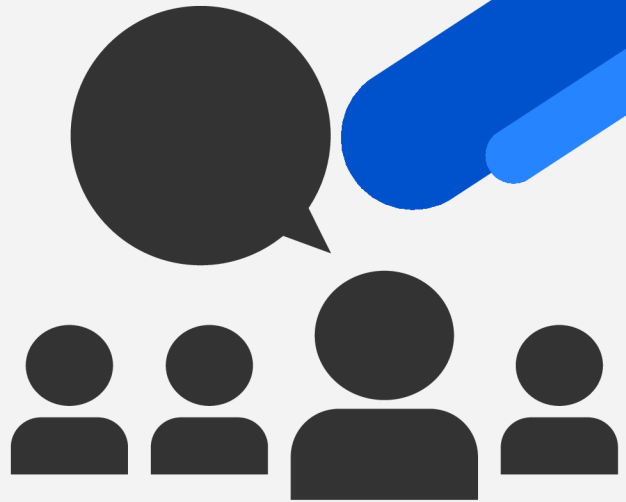
We proudly inducted new officers and area representatives during the conference including Natalie Browning as Past President and Penny Warwick as President.

KACDE extends its gratitude to NRCS and KACD for their generous sponsorships, as well as to all the guest speakers who provided valuable updates and led engaging sessions.

CONFERENCE POLL

Please take our survey!

We want to hear from all attendees, including those who haven't joined us recently. Your feedback is vital as we consider changes to the conference. It's important for us to understand your experiences and suggestions to make future events even better. Please complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/ZmFLshXvzGxEc4GqZ>



Jot it down!

Deadlines, upcoming events, changes, FYIs

Area Reps

Area 1- Becky Kaczur, Area 2- Monica Nolan, Area 3- Paula Wood, Area 4- Mason Quiram, Area 5- Shayna Gibson, Area 6- Crystal Harrod, Area 7- Wanda Gilbert, Area 8- Donna Leach, and Area 9- Erica Reynolds

Art & Writing Shirts

Be on the lookout for an email from your area rep regarding art and writing t-shirt orders.

NACDE Feb. 8-12

If you're considering attending the NACD Annual Meeting in 2025, now's the time to start planning!

KACDE Officers

Penny Warwick - President, Michelle Estes - Vice President, Meghanne McClannahan - Secretary, Wand Gilbert - Treasurer, Morgan Mairs - Reporter, Natalie Browning - Past President, and Kayeigh Evans as Advisor

SECDEA Nov. 4-6

We hope to see you in Pigeon Forge! It's always a wonderful experience to connect with everyone! The registration deadline has passed for this year, If you're not attending maybe plan for next time!



2005- KACDE celebrated 10 years of the annual conference in Jabez!

FOLLOW
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