Fall 2026

WOODFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Woodford Way

Falling in to the Future

A cynic might say that farmland protection is a hot topic when it is politically expedient. An optimist might say that widespread public concern for farmland protection is an indication of common values. Whatever the case may be, the Woodford County Conservation District will continue its work as it has for the past 80 years. A copy of the District's Long Range Plan from 1989 illuminates the legacy of people like Harold Carmickle, Randal Rock, Martha Newby and Donald Mitchell, whose work has greatly contributed to natural resource conservation in recent decades through the development of local cost-share programs, education and technical assistance, and expanded access to state and federal funding opportunities. Major progress has been made since 1989 toward addressing agricultural resource concerns like erosion and water quality. There have been land use planning successes as well. However, two items from the 1989 Long Range Plan continue to be of concern: prime farmland and water resource protection.

Like how farming practices of the past exacerbated the effects of drought and windstorms in the 1930s, development today threatens to eliminate soil resources that are geographically unique and finite. The impacts that development can have on water pollution, not to mention stormwater flow, are evidenced in the recently published Glenns Creek Watershed Plan: loadings of ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorous and total dissolved solids are all highest coming from the city center of Versailles. The District's role is not to judge or regulate decisions made by public officials and private landowners. Our role is to emphasize and promote the value of what we are responsible for stewarding so that we can collectively understand why it is worth conserving and plan actions accordingly.

The Woodford County High School Land Judging Team understands this, as was demonstrated by their recent success at the regional competition in Frankfort. Under Tracy Probst's leadership, students are developing skills that are transferrable to future careers and community land use planning. The District is excited to provide support, and together we've gotten to assess soil cores from all over the state, learn from soil scientists, and practice on local farms where best management practices can be seen first-hand. Be sure to wish your Woodford County High School Land Judging Team good luck at state on November 5th!

Interviewing farmers this year has been inspiring and hopeful - despite the many challenges that we face. The topic of farmland protection was mentioned throughout, and a self-evident fact repeatedly emerged.

Financial sustainability is critical to farmland protection.

Your Conservation District understands the economic and social pressures experienced by farmers and land managers. We are here to help plan and implement actions to ensure that fertile soil and clean water remain for generations to come.

Local Program Updates

- **Fall Cover Crop Programs:** open, planting must occur before Dec. 1
- **Rock Gateway Program:** open year-round
- **Dead Animal Removal Program:** open year-round
- **Soil Testing Program:** open year-round
- **Grid/Zone Soil Sampling Program:** open year-round

Federal & State Programs

Step 1: Setup farm records with the Farm Service Agency located in the Ag. Resource Building at 180 Beasley Rd. Versailles, KY if you have not already.
Step 2: Submit a request for technical assistance to the WCCD in order to schedule an NRCS site visit. This can be done on our website via the Contact page, by email to woodfordcd@gmail.com, or by coming in to the office in person.
Step 3: Explore available programs and practices that address site-specific natural resource concerns with NRCS staff and submit applications as appropriate.

Technical assistance is always available. State and federal cost-share application deadlines are in the fall every year, but awards are not announced until spring of the following year. More information can be found on our website at woodfordcd.com/cost-share.

Farm Service Agency Updates

December 11, 2026 is the deadline to enroll in the 2026 Crop Year Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program.
December 15, 2026 is the crop reporting deadline for fall-seeded small grains (barley, oats, rye, & wheat).
January 2, 2027 is the crop reporting deadline for honey and maple sap.
January 15, 2027 is the crop reporting deadline for canola and peaches.

Featured Educational Program



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. English is the official language of the United States and the English language version is the authoritative version of this publication. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

AG WATER QUALITY

The Agriculture Water Quality Act requires landowners with 10 or more acres that are being used for agriculture or silviculture operations to develop and implement an ag. water quality plan (AWQP). It is the sole responsibility of each landowner to develop, implement, and revise their plan, but the Conservation District is here to assist you.

The AWQP is made up of best management practices (BMPs) that cover 6 different areas: silviculture, pesticides and fertilizers, farmstead, crops, livestock, and streams and other waters. The Woodford County Conservation District can assist with planning and implementation via technical assistance and cost-share funding programs. *An up-to-date AWQP is required to receive funding through cost-share programs in Kentucky.*

For more information, contact the Conservation District office.



Upcoming Dates

- October 29: Comprehensive Plan Update
- November 5: Comprehensive Plan Update
- November 6: Farmer's Resource Breakfast
- November 11: Ag. Resource Building closed for Veteran's Day
- November 14: Comprehensive Plan Update
- November 23: WCCD Board meeting
- November 26-27: WCCD office closed for Thanksgiving
- December 1: Art & Writing Contest entries due
- December 1: KYSU Small Farm Grant application deadline
- December 10: KDA pesticide applicator testing
- December 24-25: Ag. Resource Building closed for Christmas
- January 1: Ag. Resource Building closed for New Years
- January 14: KDA pesticide applicator testing
- January 18: Ag Resource Building closed for MLK Jr. Day
- January 25: WCCD Board meeting
- February 11: KDA pesticide applicator testing
- February 22: WCCD Board meeting

Conservation District Board of Supervisors

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Peggy Carter Seal, Vice-Chair
Curtis Congleton, Secretary/Treasurer
Brad Carmickle
Robert Richardson
Donald Mitchell
Joe Greathouse

Office Staff

Nat Colten, District Operations Manager
Jared Davenport, Soil Conservation Technician

180 Beasley Rd.; Versailles, KY 40383
859-873-3411 Ext. 3
woodfordcd@gmail.com
www.woodfordcd.org
www.facebook.com/woodfordconservation