

Spring 2026



WOODFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Woodford Way

Where's the spring rain?

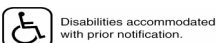
Spring is off to a dry start in Central Kentucky, but it will have, undoubtedly, started raining by the time you read this. Even still, much of the soil will be dry and likely far from “field capacity.” Wind accelerates soil drying by evaporation (especially when soil does not have plant cover) and also increases the rate of water transpiration from plant leaves. All of this means that newly planted tree seedlings, vegetables, etc. will need more supplemental water than normal. Livestock graziers should also be mindful of slower forage regrowth than we’re used to this time of year. The many exceptional crop farmers in Woodford County likely do not need a refresher of the water cycle, but it is always a good time to consider reducing or eliminating tillage if your cropping system allows it.

Dry windy days like we’ve been having are strong visual reminders of why Conservation Districts were created in the 1940’s [insert mental image of clouds of dust being carried away in the wind — that dust is soil!].

Did you know that an inch of topsoil can take hundreds of years to form?

The Woodford County Conservation District maintains an equipment rental inventory of 10 ft. and 7 ft. no-till seed drills, as well as a trailer-mounted post driver and lime spreader. We also house a plastic mulch layer (and lifter) for the Extension Office. Whether you’re just curious or ready to hit the ground, give us a call or stop by the Conservation District office to inquire about equipment rental. **We are here to serve you.**

In terms of trees, **the best time to plant a tree was yesterday!** The Woodford County Conservation District’s annual Tree Seedling Giveaway will be held on April 18th this year. More information, including a list of species, can be found on our website at woodfordcd.com/trees or by following the QR code below to our website.





MONARCH WAYSTATION GRANT

Are you passionate about preserving monarch butterfly habitats? Do you want to make a positive impact on our local environment? Here's your chance!

Grantees will receive ten native plants valued at \$60



Application Details

- **Application Opens:** Monday, March 23rd
- **Application Deadline:** Friday, April 17th
- **Must be a resident of Woodford County**
- **Waystation Award Program:** Tuesday, April 28th at the Woodford County Extension Office

Questions? Contact Delia Scott, Woodford County Extension Office
Phone: (859) 873-4601
Email: delia.scott@uky.edu



Cooperative Extension Service

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



The Woodford County Young & New Farmer Grant Program aims to cultivate a sustainable agricultural economy by supporting and fostering a new generation of farmers. This grant program offers financial assistance to young and new farmers establishing or expanding their agricultural operations.

Each eligible Woodford County Farmer may receive a grant award of \$2,000. Awards will be approved by the Woodford County Fiscal Court, which allocated a total of \$50,000 for the program. First priority will be given to new applicants who did not receive funding in the FY 2024-2025 grant cycle.

Applications must be received no later than May 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Submit and review the application and program information on the Woodford County website at woodfordcountyky.gov or by scanning the QR Code:

Applications may also be picked up or submitted in-person at the Fiscal Court Clerk's office at the Woodford County Courthouse, 103 S. Main St. Room 201, Versailles, KY.



For questions or additional information, contact the Judge/Executive's office at (859) 879-0649 or by emailing info@woodfordcountyky.gov.

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!

Farm Service Agency Updates

Enrollment for **Farmer Bridge Assistance** continues and individuals who experienced livestock losses from winter weather are encouraged to explore the **Livestock Indemnity Program**, which pays 75% of the average fair market value of the deceased livestock. **Crop reports** can be filed year 'round, but the deadline without late fee payment is July 15th.



Featured Educational Program

CONTROLLED BURN WORKSHOP



WHEN

April 11, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

LOCATION

Woodford County UK Extension

180 Beasley Road

Versailles , KY 40383

**FEATURING • Controlled Burn Terminology • Implementation
Fire Behavior Factors • Controlled Burn Planning**

WWW.KYFIRE.ORG

REGISTRATION: Scan image below



The first 10 Woodford County residents to register will be **FREE!**

\$75 REGISTRATION FEE

-Lunch is included

-Attendance capped at 30

PRESCRIBED FIRE ... IS GOOD FIRE



50% or more of the wildfires that occur in the US annually are in the South.

DID YOU KNOW?

The South prescribe burns more acres annually than any other region:

ABOUT 6 MILLION

In fact, several ecosystems of the South are dependent upon periodic fire to sustain healthy animal and plant communities.

BENEFITING
Private Landowners
Contractors
Volunteer Fire
Departments

Contact:

Jimmy Woods

James.Woods@ky.gov

(606) 207-6475



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.

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, see the [University of Kentucky's Ag. Water Quality Act website](#) or contact the Conservation District Office.



Upcoming Dates of Note

- April 11: Prescribed Fire Training
- April 17: Monarch Waystation Grant application deadline
- April 17: FSA Farmer Bridge Assistance application deadline
- April 18: Tree Seedling Giveaway
- April 18: Main Street Clean Sweep
- April 20: Extension Gardener's Workshop
- May 15: Woodford County Young & New Farmer Grant application deadline
- May 18: Extension Gardener's Workshop
- June 1: Kentucky State University Small Farm Grant application deadline
- June 22: Extension Gardener's Workshop

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