

Fall 2025



WOODFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Woodford Way

Changes Abound

Nat Colten joined the Woodford County Conservation District as the new District Operations Manager on August 1st of 2025. Nat grew up working on farms in Franklin County and has spent the past 8+ years studying and working at the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University. Immediately prior to coming to work for Woodford County, he was coordinating a state-wide on-farm research and extension project for the UK Forage Extension Program. Nat is a community builder and lifetime learner who likes to get things done. These characteristics are embodied in his work as a conservationist, farmer and singer/songwriter. When he is not working, Nat enjoys many of the same activities that are involved with his work but is partial to time spent with his life partner, Jeri Katherine Howell, their dog, and his small cow herd.

New management has not been the only change at the Ag. Resource Building in 2025, and the Conservation District's Board of Supervisors appreciates your patience during this time of change. Another late summer drought has posed land and livestock management challenges, and the federal government shutdown has led to still more uncertainty for many. We are committed to keeping you informed of federal program and staffing changes.

- The Farm Service Agency Office is currently open during normal business hours with limited service. You can always give Jimmy and his team a call if you have questions: (859)-873-4941 EXT 2.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service employees are still furloughed. All services related to federal programs like EQIP are on hold until further notice.
- The WCCD can still service existing state cost-share contracts, and all of the District's local programs are fully operational.

Phone calls, emails, and in-person visits to the Conservation District Office are always welcome! We will get back with you promptly.

Nat Colten, District Operations Manager
woodfordcd@gmail.com
(859)-873-4941 EXT 3

Local Program Updates

- Cover Crop Program:
 - I. the *Field Cover Crop Program* is open until December 1st and pays \$20/acre up to \$2,000 (50-acre maximum for tobacco). Eligible species include rye and wheat. A completed application must be turned in with field maps, a crop report, and receipts dated before Dec. 1.
 - II. The *Garden Cover Crop Program* is open until supplies last! Come by the Ag. Resource Building and grab a bag of wheat/clover seed while supplies last.
- Dead Livestock Collection: reimbursement for hauling by an approved vendor is available year-round. The District pays \$125/animal with valid receipts from approved vendors (Conboy, LACKY, or the UK veterinary diagnostics lab).
- Art and Writing Contest: student submissions are due to the WCCD by December 1st. Cash prizes are paid for winning entries at the grade, school, district, regional and state level!



Disabilities accommodated
with prior notification.





2025/KENTUCKY WETLANDS UP CLOSE

Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contest / RULES

STATE WINNERS:

First: \$250; Second: \$150; Third: \$50

REGIONAL WINNERS: \$50

COUNTY LEVEL WINNERS: \$25

* State/Regional winners will receive a personalized certificate. County winners that win regional or state awards will only receive one check for the top prize.



RULES

1. Kentucky students grades 6-12 are eligible to compete in the writing contest. Students up to grade 5 may compete in the art contest.
2. A student may not enter both the art contest and the writing contest during the same year.
3. An entry must be created by one and only one student. Any entry submitted by more than one student will be disqualified.
4. All entries become the property of the contest sponsors. The decisions of the judges at all levels of competition are final.
5. Top three writing entries and/or artworks from your school must be submitted to your local county conservation district by Dec. 1, 2025.
6. **ARTWORK:** Student entries shall be 8 1/2" X 11". Entries may be digital or submitted on any color or thickness of paper, such as cardstock, art paper, or printer paper. All artwork must be two-dimensional (2-D). Three-dimensional (3-D) artwork will not be accepted. Artwork may be rendered in any medium: pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon, paint, photography, etc. Mixed media and collage work is acceptable as long as all pieces are securely glued to the surface of the work. All entries must convey at a glance an accurate understanding of the information provided in the tabloid, the theme of the competition, and persuade the viewers of the need for good water conservation practices. All entries must be the original work of the student.
7. **WRITING:** Entry may not exceed 1,000 words and must be written in ink or typed on one side of paper only. No photographs or artwork may be included with the written work. The written entry should demonstrate an accurate understanding of the information provided in the tabloid and inform the reader about water conservation. Students should write from the perspective of an informed writer to a less informed reader and may be in the form of a letter, article, editorial or speech. The work should be from the student author and avoid plagiarism from this source or other sources. ALL sources should be reputable and cited appropriately.
8. The entry form to the right must be completed and attached to your entry.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Keep entry simple and sincere.
- Be creative and original. Avoid plagiarism by using original words and ideas. Plagiarism is defined as the act of stealing and passing off the words of another as your own without crediting the source.
- Consider an area of water conservation that is important to you, your family and your community.
- Draw from your personal interests or experiences.
- Writing entry should take the form of informational.
- Think about aquatic issues in your community, farm, subdivision or city.
- DO NOT use this tabloid as your only source.
- Interview people in your community about changes in aquatic issues.
- Find ways to improve aquatic issues in your community. TAKE ACTION!

POINT SYSTEM FOR ART

- **50 points** - Purpose/Audience. (Appropriate communication style to reach audience, establishes and maintains a purpose; and holds to subject in community. Theme clearly conveyed at a glance.)
- **30 points** - Composition/creativity/craftsmanship. (Layout, originality, and quality of work, such as neatness.)
- **20 points** - Language/correctness. (Word choice, usage, spelling, punctuation, capitalization.)

POINT SYSTEM FOR WRITING

- **30 points:** Purpose/Audience (establishes and maintains a purpose, communicates with audience, employs a suitable tone)
- **20 points:** Organization (logical order, coherence, transition organizational signals)
- **20 points:** Idea Development/Support and Evidence of Research (student's original work shows sources of research, sources are cited)
- **30 points:** Correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization), Language (word choice, usage), Sentences (varied in structure and length, constructed effectively, complete and correct)

ENTRY FORM

Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contest

Name (Miss, Mr) _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

County _____

School _____

School Phone () _____

☐ I hereby certify that I have read the rules and helpful hints and this entry is the original work of:

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (required) _____

Teacher or Principal Signature (required) _____



Equipment Rental

The Woodford County Conservation District has 6 no-till seeders, a 5-ton lime/fertilizer buggy, and a self-powered post pounder. The Conservation District is proud to be able to offer this service to Woodford and surrounding counties thanks to the Woodford County Fiscal Court, Kentucky Office of Ag Policy and the Kentucky Division of Conservation Equipment Revolving Fund. Equipment is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Please call ahead for availability or with any questions: 859-873-4941 EXT 3

Equipment Make/Model	Price/day	Price/weekend	HP/other requirements
Hay Buster 107C no-till seed drill (10 ft. width)	\$160	\$240	75 HP* tractor with rear remote hydraulic valve *HP depending on location and field conditions
Hay Buster 77C no-till seed drill (7 ft. width)	\$160	\$240	50 HP* tractor with rear remote hydraulic valve *HP depending on location and field conditions
Great Plains 706NT no-till seed drill (7 ft. width)	\$160	\$240	50 HP tractor with rear remote hydraulic valve
LandPride NTS2509 seeder with spiked rollers and culti-packer	\$160	\$240	80 HP tractor with rear remote hydraulic valve
Doyle RVM-305L 5-ton lime/fertilizer spreader	\$200	\$300	75 HP tractor with rear remote hydraulic valve
IDEAL ID-200 trailer-mounted post pounder	\$200	\$300	50 HP tractor or truck

Soil Testing

The Woodford County Conservation District offers FREE soil testing through the University of Kentucky Regulatory Services Lab. Sample bags and more information are available in the Woodford County Extension Office upon request (859-873-4601).

The District also provides limited cost-share for grid sampling. Contact the WCCD office for more information about this program (859-873-4941 EXT 3).

Learn more about soil testing here!

<https://woodford.mqcafe.uky.e>





BERRY SALE PRE-ORDER

CLOSES DECEMBER 1, 2025

Cash or check only.

Order payment is required by December 1, 2025.

Make checks payable to: Woodford County Extension Service

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Payment Info:

Amount Paid:

Date:

Received By:

Check #: Cash:

****If ordering blueberries, it is recommended to purchase two different varieties for pollination.****

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Raspberry - Caroline		\$2 each	
Blackberry - Caddo		\$4 each	
Blueberry - Bluecrop		\$8 each	
Blueberry - Chandler		\$8 each	
Strawberry - Earliglow		\$5/bundle of 10	
		TOTAL DUE:	

We reserve the right to substitute with like variety.

We will contact you when orders are ready for pick-up in April.

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



We are a drop-off site for CWD samples!

Follow the QR code below or give us a call to learn more. 859-873-4941 EXT 3



Deer Hunters: Enter to Win!

Take your shot against Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) for a chance to win prizes!

LEARN MORE



2025 HABITAT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

This two-day event will bring together professionals, researchers and land managers to share projects and expert talks on habitat restoration and natural areas management.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
SOUTHEASTERN GRASSLANDS INSTITUTE

REGISTER:



Date:
December 2nd & 3rd



Time:
9AM - 4PM



Location:
Harold R. Benson Research
and Demonstration Farm



CEU's Available!



**HABITAT
MANAGEMENT**
SYMPOSIUM



kaee
Kentucky Association for
Environmental Education



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Land Grant Program



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.



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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **November 11, office closed for Veteran's Day**
- **November 24, WCCD board meeting**
- **November 27-28, office closed for Thanksgiving**
- **December 1, Art & Writing Contest deadline**
- **December 1, Master Gardeners berry order pre-sale deadline**
- **December 2-3, KSU Habitat Management Symposium**
- **December 10, CAIP application deadline**
- **December 24-25, office closed for Christmas**

Woodford Co. Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Michael Duckworth, Chair
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
Loretta Clayton, Building Custodian
Marty Leonard, District Assistant

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