



NRCS Restructure Starts October 1, 2007

Charles Farmer who has been serving as the District Conservationist in Woodford County along with Fayette and Jessamine for the last three years will be leaving us as of October 1st. He will still be headquartered in Fayette County but will also serve Jessamine and Scott County. This is due to the NRCS restructuring that will reduce the number of Field Offices from 95 to 54.

The following article is from Peggy Jackson, who will be the District Conservationist in Woodford County as of October 1st.

I am a native of Marion County and grew up on a tobacco and cow/calf farm along with my parents and 7 brothers and sisters. I graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Technical Agriculture degree, moved to North Carolina, and began working with the Soil Conservation Service (as NRCS used to be called before the early 1990's). The latter half of my years there were spent in the private sector. While the mild winters gave us reason to enjoy our time there, the pull of family became too strong and we returned



to KY in 1997. I have to admit though, that a 2 foot snowfall the first winter we were home almost made me pack up and head back south! Since returning home, I worked with State Government for several years as the Agricultural Liaison for a grant program but


Above , Peggy Jackson, will become the new NRCS District Conservationist, for Woodford County beginning Oct. 1st. She is currently the District Conservationist in Franklin County and has held that position for the last three years.

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NRCS Restructure Continued

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returned to NRCS in 2004 as District Conservationist in Frankfort. I have also been serving as District Conservationist in Scott County for most of that time, so covering two counties is something at which I have had some practice. On the personal side, my three kids (ages 17, 13 and 9) keep me on my toes. I am just praying I retain my sanity after 14 consecutive years of having teens in the house! We live in Lexington and dream of someday moving out to the country.

My assignment will begin on October 1st and I am looking forward to getting to know the farmers of Woodford County. Working with me will be Bob Ricks, NRCS Technician. Currently our plans are to be in Woodford County on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am hoping the workload will allow me to do a lot of farm visits in my first few months there so I can become more familiar with the farmers and operations.

FSA Public Hearing

The WC Farm Service Agency Public Hearing to discuss the closure of the office and send to Franklin County was August 6th. Jeff Hall, FSA State Executive Director, was in attendance to state the facts as FSA saw them and to answer questions. Anderson and Woodford are slated to go to Franklin County.

Approximately 55 landowners attended and showed their opposition to the closure. The WC office has the most workload of the three counties with 800 workdays, Anderson with 557 and Franklin with 486 workdays.

The farmers argued that the workload shows that Woodford is the one to stay open, it's rural

location and the Anderson County farmers wish (if they cannot keep their office open) to come to Woodford and not Franklin.

Hall did announce that he would be holding a Public Hearing in Franklin on August 22nd to talk with their landowners. He and his staff will make the final decision after that meeting.

The Agriculture Resource Building is a publicly financed building that allows farmers access to a number of other agriculture related services was also discussed.

Please contact your legislature and Jeff Hall to help us keep FSA in Woodford County.

Together We Can!!

The Woodford County Conservation District would like to continue sending you the Woodford Way but as you know - everything is going up in price. You can help us by taking out an ad and we will be assisting you in your business.

If you want to advertise your business in this agriculture/natural resource newsletter - Business Card Size 2" x 3.5" - \$50 per issue Call Martha at 859-873-4941 f or more information.

2007 Invest in Our Future

 4-H/FFA Auction - September 4th - 7 pm

Woodford County Fairgrounds (Red Barn)

4-H & FFA members will sell beef & lamb ready for market. Country Hams cured by 4-H members will also be sold. Projects will be sold to highest bidder on a per pound basis. Cook-out dinner prior to sale.

Contact the Woodford County Extension Service—859-873-4601— for more information.

Invest in Woodford County Youth This Fall!!

Soil Organic Matter by Charles Farmer

Managing soil organic matter is the key to air and water quality (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Best Management Practices can increase soil organic matter and enhance soil quality, positively affecting air and water quality and soil productivity.



Erosion control is not enough.

Soil conservation policy in the United States stems from the devastating erosion events of the 1920s and '30s. Out of concern for preserving agricultural productivity came the concept of tolerable soil loss and the creation of the T factor - the maximum annual soil loss that can occur on a particular soil while sustaining long-term agricultural productivity. Conservationists focused on reducing soil loss to T by applying practices, such as terraces, contour strips, grassed waterways, and residue management.

By the end of the century, concerns about air and water quality became as important as concerns about agricultural productivity. To address these environmental goals and maintain the land's productive potential, we must now go beyond erosion control and manage for soil quality. How soil functions on every inch of a farm—not just in buffers or waterways—affects erosion rates, agricultural

productivity, air quality, and water quality. The most practical way to enhance soil quality today is to promote better management of soil organic matter or carbon. In short, we should go beyond T and manage for C (carbon).

Why focus on soil organic matter?

Many soil properties impact soil quality, but organic matter deserves special attention. It affects several critical soil functions, can be manipulated by land management practices, and is important in most agricultural settings across the country. Because organic matter enhances water and nutrient holding capacity and improves soil structure, managing for soil carbon can enhance productivity and environmental quality, and can reduce the severity and costs of natural phenomena, such as drought, flood, and disease. In addition, increasing soil organic matter levels can reduce atmospheric CO₂ levels that contribute to climate change.

Shelby Ison, KACD Teacher of the Year



Shelby Ison (holding plaque) 4th grade science teacher at Northside, received the 2007 KACD "Elementary Conservation Teacher of the Year" award at its annual convention in Louisville recently. Also shown are: L-R: Lillie Cox, WCCD Education Coordinator; Harold Carmickle, WCCD Chair; Gregory Ison; Clint Ison,; Jeffrey Ison; Peggy Seal, WCCD Supervisor; and Martha Newby, WCCD District Operations Manager.

The WCCD is proud to have had Northside Elementary's, Shelby Ison, 4th grade Science and Language Arts teacher, and "Outdoor Classroom" leader to be selected as the state 2007 KACD "Teacher of the Year" for Elementary Education. Mrs. Ison received her plaque and monetary award at the KACD Annual Convention in Louisville in July.

Shelby's passion for teaching science is very evident in her classroom with her students and carries over into her personal life. She is an enthusiastic, tireless worker for the conservation of the land, air, water and all our natural resources.

Congratulations Shelby!!!!!!

Scenes for the 43rd Woodford County Farm Tour



WCCD Supervisor Peggy Seal (holding basket) and Martha Newby WCCD District Operations Manager presented L-R: Tim Smith, Mimi Hackney and Cheryl Hardesty \$50 Gift Certificates from the WC Farmer's Market. Dalton Evans is also pictured.

Marlin Mitchell on Left visits with Charles Farmer during the Farm Tour. Mitchell received the Outstanding Farmer Award.

Below: Patti Meads, Horticulturalist, and Martha Newby congratulate Claude Kaenzig for being the Distinguished Farmer Award recipient.



Look at that line, ice Cream must be awfully good!!

Watermelon sure is good!!



Woodford County Conservation District 2006-2007 Annual Report

**Woodford County
Conservation District**
Agriculture Resource Building
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www.woodfordcd.org

The board meets at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of every month at the District Office.

The mission of the Woodford County Conservation District is to promote and protect our natural resources; promote conservation through information and education; cultivate positive relationships with Local, State and Federal Governments in order to strengthen support for conservation programs.

District Board of Supervisors:

Harold Carmickle, Chair
Herman Pittman, Secretary/Treasurer
Donald Mitchell
Claude Kaenzig
Curtis Congleton
Peggy C. Seal
Vacancy (Charles Kaenzig - deceased August 30, 2006)

District Staff:

Martha Newby, District Operations Manager
Lillie Cox, Education Coordinator
Marty Leonard, District Assistant
Wyonna Sturgeon, Custodial Assistant

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Charles Farmer, District Conservationist

Kentucky Division of Conservation

Kim Richardson, Field Representative

The Woodford County Conservation District (WCCD) is well into it's 63rd year and the programs have changed tremendously over that time. The following are highlights of the programs and events that took place during the last fiscal year:

42nd Annual Farm Tour - Over 200 people came to the Agriculture Resource Building to have breakfast that was prepared/sponsored by the Woodford County Sheriff's Office and the Woodford County Farm Bureau. All attendees heard from the 4-H Country Ham project students where they showed the curing facility. The participants got on school buses and toured Life Adventure Center; the Graskop Farm and 400+ had lunch at Valhalla Farm in the Southern part of the county. The farm tour committee consists of Patti Meads and Ben Meredith, Woodford County Extension Service; Bessie Bain, WC Extension District Board; Joe Lacefield, Ky. Fish and Wildlife Resources; Wayne Wright, WC Sheriff's Office; Ronn Pelfrey, WC Farm Service Agency; Charles Farmer, NRCS; Mark Lancaster, WC Schools; Harold Carmickle, WC Conservation District Board; Lillie Cox and Martha Newby, WC Conservation District.

Agriculture Water Quality Act - Landowners file a self-certification form with the District stating that they have developed and are implementing a water quality plan for their operation.

Dead Animal Program - Assistance from the WC Fiscal Court and the Department of Agriculture enables the District to assist landowners with proper disposal of fallen livestock. This year 304 cattle; 41 equine; 1 swine and 5 county road pickups were made by Nation Brothers, Inc., from Shelbyville.

2006-2007 Annual Report Continued

Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share - \$85,261 was approved for Best Management Practices on seven farms to resolve resource problems.

Agricultural Districts - There are two agricultural districts in the county with 9,863 acres and 82 farms.

Technical Assistance - Charles Farmer, NRCS District Conservationist, and Melvin Dean, 80/20 District Employee, provided technical assistance to the landowners of Woodford County.

Conservation on the ground:

- Conservation Plans Written - *2,279 acres*
- Land with conservation applied to improve water quality - *2,190 acres*
- Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality - *739 acres*
- Grazing land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base - *1,459 acres*
- Non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality - *29 acres*
- 4 EQIP Contracts and 2 WHIP Contracts
- 75 Brief Technical Assistance
- Conducted classes with WCHS Land Judging Team

Maps - Historical aerial and soil maps, topography, geological and ArcView provide current (2006) aerial maps for landowners, real estate agents, developers, etc.

New Teacher Orientation and District Day - Lillie Cox, WCCD Education Coordinator, welcomed the new teachers by giving each a WCCD welcome bag stuffed with all kinds of information and goodies including a gift certificate for the WC Farmer's Market. District Day is for all WC teachers, at the beginning of the year, and a conservation display was set up

with all our educational programs shown. A handout entitled "Programs Just Keep Growing and Flowing at the WCCD" was given to all.

Teacher Workshops - A fall K-12 workshop was held on "Project WILD" and "Flying WILD" where DOE accredited instructors demonstrated and some 30 teachers participated in several hands-on activities for their students. All teachers received workbooks and received PD Credits for taking the workshop.

Teacher Resource Fair - 40 Teachers attending did hands-on activities with Bob Eigel, Soil Scientist. He brought several soil cores and the teachers learned about the different soils, depth of the top soil, soil horizons and more. Linda Russell, Taylor County Conservation District Administrative Secretary, showed the teachers how to paint with soil. The district purchased white t-shirts for all participants, who brought soil from their farms/yards, and tie dyed their t-shirts with the soil, creating some interesting looking shirts. This activity was in the art/writing tabloid.

Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest and the Conservation Writing Contest - "Kentucky Soil - It's Worth Protecting" was the theme for the Art and Writing Contests. There were 922 entries and were all judged at the district office by a team of qualified individuals.

School Participation Award - The district gives an award to the school whose teachers and students have the highest participation percentage with the district. This year's recipient was Southside Elementary, with over 500 students, receiving a full day of hands-on activities from COSI (Columbus Ohio Science Institute) On Wheels program entitled "Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky." This program is designed to enhance student's knowledge of the science of the agriculture industry.

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Conservation Teacher of the Year - The district honors a teacher each year who has excelled in teaching their students about the environment and how to take care of our planet in which we live. This year the District actually awarded two teachers who work as a team at the WC Middle School. Laura Wright and Leslie Curtis are actively creating and building an outdoor classroom with a wetland at WCMS. They received a plaque, monetary award, a tree planted in their honor at the school and an opportunity to attend the KAEE Conference.

Environmental Education Grants - Grants are awarded each year to those who express the need of an extra environmental project in the community. This year the five recipients were: Debbie Spears (Southside) - **“Red Ribbons and Red Tulips”** project - funds were used to purchase red tulip bulbs that will be planted in October during Red Ribbon Week for Drug Awareness. Hopefully the tulips will bloom around Earth Day and will serve as a beautiful reminder of Drug Awareness and real life connections between taking care of our bodies and the environment. This is a learning tool that can have a lifetime effect on all the students. Pam Shouse and Kim Reeves (Southside) - **“Butterfly Grant”** Part of the curriculum is to learn about life cycles. In order to meet that goal these teachers purchased butterfly larva so that the their students could experience life cycles first hand. They watch the larva grow and turn it to a beautiful butterfly and then they release them on a special day. Kim Reeves (Southside) - **“Earth Day Grant”** - Funds were used to purchase seed starter, seeds, peat moss, conservation books and materials. Peggy Seal **“Garden Therapy and Salad Bowl Gardens”** at the WC Senior Citizens Center. Garden therapy helps with memory and depression with the elderly. The seniors were excited and enthusiastic about planting their pots with flowers, lettuce and tomatoes. Patti Meads, Horticul-

turalist, WC Extension Service, and the Schwalback family assisted with the planting. There will be a follow-up tomato contest and celebration in August. Shelby Ison (Northside) - **Northside Science Club** - 71 members attend monthly meetings after school. Some of the activities they do are composting, food nutrition comparisons, planting flowers and plants. They have an outdoor classroom that Mrs. Ison oversees and students enjoy classes there.

Scholarship - Lesley Greenwell was the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship the District presents to a qualified graduating senior each year. Harold Carmickle, Chair, also presented her the scholarship at WCHS Senior Awards Night.

Spring Fling Awards Event - A very special event as the District gives out the Art and Writing Contest Awards, the Teacher of the Year, scholarship and the grants. We had a light supper presides the program with supervisors and spouses serving. Tables were decorated with the soils theme and “dirt” cakes. The supervisors award the recipients with their certificates, t-shirts (purchased by WC Farm Bureau), plaques and checks as a PowerPoint presentation, developed by Martha utilizing students art, was shown. Lillie Cox, Education Coordinator, was emcee.

Kroger Grocery Bag Project - 1000+ Kroger grocery bags were donated to the district for elementary students to learn about the earth and decorate the bags with Earth Day messages. All bags were collected and returned to Kroger for distribution to customers during Earth Week. Classroom winners, and others attending, were judged at the office during “WC—A Partner In Conservation’s Power Earth Day 2007.” County Judge Executive John Coyle awarded the overall winner with a \$100 Savings Bond. T-Shirts were purchased

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and developed using students art for Kroger staff to wear during Earth Week.

Earth Day 2007 Celebration - The district sponsored the "Woodford County - A Partner In Conservation's Power Earth Day 2007." We received a grant from the Governor's Office of Energy, the KY NEED Project and by Osram Sylvania donating all of the florescent bulbs. Participants were requested to take the "Energy Star Challenge - Change A Light Change the World" and received a free energy savings bulb in return. Participants visited educational booths set up by Sylvania; WC Recycling Center; WC Health Dept.; WC Homemakers and WC 4-H Council Backpack Project for WC Schools Resource Center; WC Extension Service and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources. WCCD Environmental Grant recipients had displays about their projects. Outside activities included the Dept. of Agriculture's Activity Trailer; energy efficient "Green" vehicles from Toyota Prius, Saturn Hybrid VUE, GMC Flex Fuel vehicle and Division for Air Quality's Hybrid Honda. Lillie Cox, Ed Coordinator, and her husband Ben, talked with attendees about their 2001 Toyota Prius with 90,000+ miles averaging 48+ miles per gallon. Refreshments were provided including mini cinnamon donuts made in the certified kitchen in the Ag Resource Building. Promotion of this event included: a Proclamation signed by the County Judge Executive and the Versailles Mayor; newspaper coverage; banners, yard signs and posters.

Display - The District had a display at the WC Fair in June depicting our programs during the past year with the theme of soil and "No Farms No Food." Hand fans with the district's Long Range Plan were distributed. The display for the KACD Convention in July 2006 had a theme of "Programs Just Keep Growing and Flowing in WC."

Soil Stewardship Week - This week was observed in the 40+ churches and the local restaurants (placemats) utilizing the NACD materials.

Resource Library - The library contains over 550 videos and books on a wide range of soil, water, agriculture and various other environmental subjects. All citizens are invited to use the library.

Invest In Youth - The District donated funds to the "Invest In Youth" campaign. The proceeds will benefit the youth livestock club for educational and competition expenses.

Equipment Rental - The District has 2 Tye No-Till Drills for rent. The Versailles Farm and Garden schedules and performs the maintenance on the drills.

Outreach - The district has a quarterly newsletter entitled the "Woodford Way" that is sent to 1,700 landowners, Martha Newby, District Operations Manager, is the editor. Also "The Informer" (educational newsletter) is distributed to all 300+ teacher mailboxes in the schools. Martha also updates the website as needed: www.woodfordcd.org. Printed materials on various programs are developed and distributed as needed. We make every attempt to have photos and articles in the Woodford Sun (local weekly newspaper) at least monthly.

Awards Received - The district received two awards at the 2006 KACD Convention - **Outstanding Conservation District Recognition** was presented to the district for our continued outstanding dedication and leadership exhibited in our program planning and implementation. **Conservation District Education Award** was for outstanding excellence in conservation education programs emphasizing sound management of

Annual Report Continued

natural resources. Martha Newby, District Operations Manager, was honored by receiving the "Employee Choice Award" from the Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees (KACDE); and then from the Southeast Conservation District Employees Association (SECDEA) which led to her receiving the **"Employee Choice Award" from the National Conservation District Employee Association.**

Agriculture Resource Building - The WCCD owns the 15,000 square foot office complex and rents to NRCS, FSA, WC Extension Service and the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Rooms are available for any government, civic or community meetings. There were 479 meetings with 8,819 participants during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. For a total of 4,942 meetings with 89,450 participants in the past 13 years. Martha Newby oversees the daily operations of the building.

Membership - The district is a member of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD); National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees (KACDE); WC Farm Bureau; WC Chamber of Commerce; and the Thoroughbred RC&D Council.

District Funding - District revenue is provided by the Woodford County Fiscal Court and Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission. A complete financial report is available at the District office.

The Woodford County Conservation District would like to thank the agriculture community for their support throughout the year. We especially want to thank the Woodford County Fiscal Court for their continued support. Our motto is "Together We Can" and hopefully that is true and we can make a difference.

Equipment Rental

You will probably have to reseed your pastures this fall (if it ever rains) because of the drought during the summer.

Remember that the Woodford County Conservation District have 2 Tye No-Till Drills for rent. Southern States - Versailles Home & Garden maintains the drills and schedules the usage of the equipment.

Please call 859-873-8126 for more info.

**Need Dead Livestock Removed
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animals are contained.*

**This free service is provided by the
Woodford County Conservation District
in cooperation with the
Woodford County Fiscal Court**



Please Respond!

**If you would like to receive this
newsletter by email in pdf format,
please let Martha know by contacting her
at martha.newby@ky.nacdnet.net. This
would help our environment and funding,
plus the photos would be in color!**



**WOODFORD COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Agriculture Resource Building
180 Beasley Road
Versailles, KY 40383

**PPSRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
WOODFORD CO.
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
VERSAILLES, KY
PERMIT NO. 235**

Contact Information

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District Operations Manager

Lillie Cox
Education Coordinator

Marty Leonard
District Administrative Assistant

Melvin Dean
Conservation Technician

Charles Farmer
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Board of Supervisors

Harold Carmickle
Chair

Herman Pittman
Secretary/Treasurer

Claude Kaenzig

Donald Mitchell

Peggy Seal

Curtis Conleton

Dates To Remember

- Aug. 16-26 - State Fair, Louisville
 - Aug. 20 - Teacher Workshop at Northside Outdoor Classroom
 - Aug. 21 - Farm Bureau Mtg., 6:30 pm
 - Aug. 22 - Franklin Co. FSA Public Hearing
 - Aug. 24 - WCCD Display at State Fair - Cloverville
 - Aug. 27 - WCCD Meeting, 7 pm
 - Sept. 3 - Labor Day - ARB Closed
 - Sept. 24 - WCCD Meeting, 7 pm
 - Oct. 1 - New NRCS District Conservationist starts serving WC
 - Oct. 4 - Teacher Resource Fair
 - Oct. 8 - Columbus Day - NRCS & FSA offices closed
 - Oct. 22 - WCCD Meeting - 7 pm
- All meetings will be held at the Ag Resource Building unless stated otherwise.*