



State Cost Share Signups

To ensure all interested land-owners get the opportunity to compete for State funding the program is now open for a second round of applications through January 25th. Interested farmers can apply at the Woodford County Conservation District at 180 Beasley Road.

This year **pasture renovation** will be allowed under the KY State Cost Share Program. The program will pay for 75% of the actual cost for lime, fertilizer and legumes seed. A soil test (less than 3 yrs old) will be required and fertilizer and lime must be applied at the recommended rates. The cost share amount for this practice is limited to \$7500 per person.

In October and November 2007 the Woodford County Conservation District accepted applications for a pilot effort that combined a federal and a state cost share program for the purpose of helping farmers install conservation practices. In a complicated turn of events, the initial October/November signup period was intended to as a pilot program for a combination of two separate programs. We have not yet been notified who was approved for State funds under the initial October/November period. Those who applied for the pilot program were not allowed to apply for a **new pasture renovation practice**. Many chose to apply only for the state program because they were only interested in the pasture renovation.

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Eligible Cost-share Practices

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural Waste Control Facilities | Livestock Watering Systems |
| Animal Waste Utilization | Pasture & Hayland Erosion Control |
| Closure of Agricultural Waste | Pesticide Containment Facilities |
| Impoundment | Riparian Area Protection |
| Conservation Buffers | Rotational Grazing System |
| Conservation Cover | Establishment |
| Conservation District Environmental | Sinkhole Protection |
| Grants | Stream Crossing |
| Cropland Erosion Control Systems | Streambank Stabilization |
| Forest Land Erosion Control System | Strip Intercropping System |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | Vegetative Filter Strips |
| Integrated Crop Management | Well Water Protection |

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

State Cost Share Continued

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Even if you applied under the initial period, you may want to consider applying again.

This second round of funding will allow:

- Anyone who missed the initial period to have a chance at funding through the program.
- Those who applied in the initial period can re-apply so that they have a second chance at funding

should they not be funded under the October/November period.

- Also this second period will allow interested farmers to make additions or changes to their initial Oct/Nov application.

Those who applied for the combined pilot can now apply for the pasture renovation component.

By Peggy Jackson

Farmland Preservation Program

The Woodford County Conservation District would like to know how many people would like to learn more about the Farmland Preservation Program.

preservation program in Woodford County, please come by the office and add your contact info to a mailing list. This list is only to provide information to you as a landowner once it is available.

If you would be interested in learning more about the opportunities for a farmland

New Board Member

Michael Mitchell, of Midway, is our newest Woodford County Conservation District Supervisor. He farms on 750 acres with his father. He and his wife, Lauren, have one son.

Pictured at right - Michael (*left*) is being sworn in by Judge Executive John Coyle.

The Board feels that Michael will be a great asset to the District.



Conservation Art and Writing Contest Winners

Education Programs Just Keep “Growing and Flowing” at the Woodford County Conservation District.

It was a very busy fall, 2007 as the WCCD sponsored its annual teacher workshop and teacher resource fair for all teachers, K -12, in all Woodford County Schools and for Home school teachers.

It was a busy time for teachers and students as they taught, studied, researched, and developed their art and writing entries on “Kentucky’s Wildlife” for the 2007 Conservation Art and Writing Contests.

The district received 555 art entries and 343 writing entries with all 898 entries being judged at the Agriculture Building on December 5th, by 7 well qualified judges, reading and critiquing the entire day. Judges observed that a great deal of work went into this year’s contests; it was hard choosing the winners. Judges recommended that teachers have their students send their writings to Woodford County elected officials, zoning board, and others, letting them know of their concerns for our County’s Land, Air, Water, Wildlife, all Natural Resources, and their concern for “Saving our Land” for today and for future generations!

Each school, Division I (grades 1-3) and Division II, (Grades 4 & 5) Art Winners were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The Overall Art County Winner is Tessa Brengelman, 2nd grade, at Northside School, Mrs. Amanda Wallin, teacher. Overall County Runner-Up County Winner is Destiney Logan, 2nd grade, Southside School, Mrs. Kimberly Reeves, teacher.

The Overall County Writing Winner, “Purple Martins in our Community” is Jennifer Brooks, 6th Grade, WCMS, Mr. Geoffrey Sprinkle teacher. Overall County Writing Runner-up is Caleb Dotson, 7th Grade, WCMS, Mrs. Leslie Curtis, teacher.

Congratulations Tessa, Destiny, Jennifer and Caleb! The Overall County Winners have been forwarded to the Kentucky Division of Conservation for judging in the state competition.

All entries received a “Certificate of Participation” from the WCCD for a job well done.

Please go on line to the district’s website www.woodfordcd.org to learn more about the “Flowing and Growing” of the WCCD’s education programs by reading “The Informer” Educator’s Newsletter.

By Lillie Cox

USDA-NRCS Received Over Four Thousand EQIP Applications

On January 10, 2008—Michael Hubbs, State Conservationist for U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kentucky announced that Kentucky USDA NRCS field offices received and processed 4,531 EQIP applications for the first ranking period of fiscal year 2008. The FY2008 EQIP allocation for Kentucky is \$10,260,000.

Of the 4,531 applications received, 3,241 are eligible with an amount equal to \$47,647,049.

The little more than \$10 million actually available will fund approximately 450 applications which is a mere 10 percent of the applications received.

Mike Hubbs, State Conservationist said, "The recent application requests for EQIP contracts totaled over four times the amount we received. This indicates Kentucky is in need of additional EQIP funds. As state conservationist, I will request additional funds and keep

you posted if more funding becomes available."

This first ranking period ended November 16, 2007 however, one can apply at anytime for the EQIP program. Applications not funded are held until the next ranking period.

EQIP applications are evaluated and ranked using criteria set forth by local work groups to determine which applications provide the best environmental benefits and address the resource concerns of their local area. These criteria are on the Kentucky NRCS website: <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>. For applications selected for funding, an EQIP plan of operations will be developed with the landuser to identify appropriate conservation practices. EQIP practices in Kentucky include, but are not limited to, critical area planting; pipeline and watering facility; grassed waterway; diversion; and fencing.

Carcass Removal Program

Call Nation Brothers at 1-800-633-5677 to remove your dead livestock. (Does not include sheep.)

This is a free service to the landowner thanks to the Woodford County Fiscal Court and the Woodford County Conservation District.

Scholarships

The Woodford County Conservation District is offering it's Agriculture/Natural Resources Scholarship again this year. If you or you know of anyone interested in a college scholarship and is planning on their major being in the natural resource sciences curriculum, please contact the Woodford County Conservation District at 859-873-4941 or go on our website at www.woodfordcd.org.

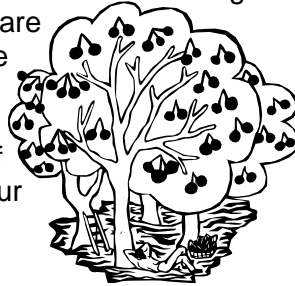
Tree Seedlings for Sale

The Kentucky Division of Forestry is once again offering low-cost tree seedlings to Kentucky landowners. The seedlings are intended for reforestation of idle land, for timber production, erosion control, windbreaks, visual screens, and enhancing wildlife habitat. Several species of conifers and hardwoods are available. The seedlings come in bundles of 50 and 500. The cost depends on the species and quantity chosen. Seedlings are normally shipped via UPS to your home. Visit the division's website at www.forestry.ky.gov and click on Order Seedlings link to download a seedling order form. You may also contact the KY Division of Forestry at 502-573-1085 or call the Woodford County Conservation District office at 859-873-4941 or 859-873-0801 to have a seedling order form sent to you.

Bluegrass Chapter SWCS Fruit Tree Sale

The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is offering a limited supply of grafted Pecan trees that are suited to growing in Kentucky. They will be on a 1st come 1st serve order. They should be anywhere between the 2-4 foot range. Do not know at press time but Blueberries are hopefully going to be available. Orders must be received by March 25, 2008.

Support the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of SWCS and experience the joy of growing your own fruit!



Please contact Martha Newby at martha.newby@ky.nacdnet.net or 859-873-4941 to place your order. You can print off the order form on the Woodford County Conservation District website - www.woodfordcd.org.

Tree Seedling Giveaway

The tree seedlings have been ordered for the Woodford County Conservation District giveaway and will be delivered sometime in March. Please put a reminder on your calendar to call the office (859-873-4941) the last of February - first of March to check on delivery date. The species ordered are: Bur Oak, Eastern Redbud, Wild Plum, and Ky. Coffeetree.



FSA New Employee

Say Hello to Becky Jordan, a new employee for the Versailles Farm Service Agency (FSA) Center. Becky was born in Bourbon County where she was engaged in farming on her family's farm. She now resides in Franklin County with her husband, David, and two daughters, Callie and Morgan. Becky has always enjoyed being active in farming and continues to do so with her husband in Franklin County. Becky looks forward to meeting the citizens of Woodford County.

FSA NOTE: 2005-February 28, 2007 Disaster Program has been extended to include the Disaster of 2007. If you have signed up for livestock compensation for 2005 and your livestock amounts were greater in 2007 you may qualify for an additional payment. Please contact the FSA office (859-873-3411) for more info.



Dates To Remember

Jan. 21 - MLK Birthday Holiday

Jan. 25 - Ky. Cost Share Signup
Deadline

Jan. 28 - WCCD Meeting, 6:30 pm

Feb. 10-13 - NACD Convention,
Reno, NV

Feb. 18 - President's Day - Holiday -
NRCS, FSA offices closed

Feb. 19 - Farm Bureau Mtg., 6:30 pm

Feb. 25 - WCCD Meeting, 6:30 pm

Mar. 1 - Deadline-NAP Insurance for
Alfalfa, Grass Hay and Pasture

Mar. 15 - Deadline-NAP Application
for Vegetables, Gourds, Pumpkins,
Strawberries & Watermelon

Mar. 18 - Farm Bureau Mtg., 6:30 pm

Mar. 24 - WCCD Meeting, 6:30 pm

*All meetings will be held at the Ag Resource
Building unless stated otherwise.*

Contact Information

Woodford County Conservation District

Agriculture Resource Building
180 Beasley Road
Versailles, KY 40383
859-873-4941 or 873-0801
Fax: 859-873-9504
www.woodfordcd.org

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Peggy Jackson
NRCS District Conservationist

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