

COMMONWEALTH CONSERVATION CORNER

KACD Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION



2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 7 - March 28, 2025

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE STATUS OF CURRENT BILLS



FIND MY LEGISLATOR

www.kyconservation.com

2025 KACD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Direct Aid

Direct Aid monies are appropriated to conservation districts to assist each county in carrying out their statutory requirements and is distributed based upon the district's compliance with the oversight requirements of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (audit requirements, reports, scheduling, etc.). These funds assist districts with hiring needs, office space, local cost shares, and help with the cost of statutorily required district audits.

'24-'26: \$1,000,000 Tobacco Settlement Dollars

PL-566 Rehab

The Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) authorizes USDA-NRCS to help organizations & units of government plan/implement watershed projects.

KACD supports requesting special funds to establish a Matching Watershed Dam Infrastructure Revolving Fund to match federal and local funds for the purpose of rehabilitation of high hazard watershed dams across the Commonwealth.

State Cost Share

SCS funds enable producers & landowners to implement best management practices & maintain compliance with Ag Water Quality Plans. The program helps reduce soil erosion, decrease nutrient runoff, & creates cleaner streams. Clean water is essential for today's farmers to supply food resources for an increasing population.

Program Funds are invested back into the local community, at a minimum rate of 125%, benefitting local contractors, & suppliers.

FY 2024: Allocated Cost Share Funds: \$3,870,784.14
Requested Cost Share Funds: \$11,364,981.60
'24-'26: \$2,000,000 Tobacco Settlement Dollars

Audit Limits

Currently there is a Special Audit Limit of \$500,000 for all Special Purpose Government Entities. Conservation Districts administer many state cost share programs and federal grants, which may then cause them to exceed this limit. Many of these funds from the state and federal government are pass-through funds benefitting our local landowners, not the operational budgets of the conservation districts.

KACD supports raising the Special Audit Limit to \$1,000,000 for all Conservation and Watershed Conservancy Districts.

Non-Partisanship

Conservation Districts work at the grassroots level to protect & conserve natural resources across the Commonwealth. Partisanship would provide no clear benefit to the communities we serve; but instead bring undue partisan polarization into local issues. As non-partisan bodies we are better able to represent & serve the communities within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, making sound conservation decisions regardless of political affiliation.

KACD requests to exempt Conservation District Supervisors from any legislation that would make them partisan.



KACD Calendar of Events

Wednesday
FEBRUARY
26
KACD Mthly
Share Session @
10 am

Friday
FEBRUARY
28
Application Deadline:
KACD Public Affairs
Specialist Position

Tuesday
MARCH
4
KACD Area 2 Mtg
@ Logan Co. Ext.
@ 9:30 am

Thursday
MARCH
6
KACD Area 1 Mtg
@ Marshall Co.
Ext. @ 9:30 am

Friday
MARCH
7
2024 Art & Writing
Award Ceremony @
the Capitol @ 11 am

Tuesday
MARCH
11
KACD Area 3 Mtg
@ Hardin Co. Ext.
@ 9:30 am

Thursday
MARCH
13
KACD Area 5 Mtg
@ Grant Co. Ext.
@ 9:30 am

Tuesday
MARCH
18
KACD Area 6 Mtg
@ Church of the Annunciation
in Paris @ 9:30 am

Wednesday
MARCH
19
KACD Area 7 Mtg
@ Hal Rogers Fire Training Ctr
Somerset @ 9:30 am

Wednesday
MARCH
26
KACD Mthly
Share Session @
10 am

Thursday
MARCH
27
KACD Area 9 Mtg
@ Buckhorn State Park
Buckhorn @ 9:30 am

Monday
MARCH
31
KACD Area 4 Mtg
@ Bullitt Co. Ext.
@ 9:30 am

Wednesday, April 9th- KACD Area 8 Mtg @ Elliott Co. Ext. @ 9:30 am

It's time to register teams for the 2025 Kentucky Envirothon Contests!



Register Online

Non-Refundable Registration Fee of \$250.00 per team will be accepted through March 15, 2025

OPTIONAL TRAINING DAYS: MARCH 14TH, 20TH, & 28TH, 2025
IN FRANKFORT, KY (MORE INFO TO COME)

West Regional Competition: Friday, April 11, 2025
(West Ky 4-H Camp, Dawson Springs)

East Regional Competition: Saturday, April 26, 2025
(Curtis Gates Lloyds Wildlife Management Area, Crittenden)

State Competition: May 14-15, 2025
at Ky FFA Leadership Training Center

<https://2025kacdenvirothon.cheddarup.com>



KACD AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

3 - \$1,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

WE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR:

- ✓ Graduating High School Seniors entering College
- ✓ Currently enrolled College Students
- ✓ Non-Traditional Students (25 yrs old+)
- ✓ Studying/Majoring in an Agriculture Field (preference given to conservation and/or natural resources studies)

Since 1979, KACD Auxiliary has helped send numerous young people to the school of their choice through scholarships to students interested in careers in agriculture. Educating our youth and young adults for tomorrow will be beneficial to all those concerned with the wise use and management of our natural resources.

**MARCH 1, 2025
POSTMARK DEADLINE**

(LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

LISA MULLINS
KACD Auxiliary President

☎ [270-639-5763](tel:270-639-5763)

🌐 www.kyconservation.com/scholarship-opportunities

To Download Applications, visit the KACD website





2025 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award

SEEKING NOMINEES



Deadline: March 31, 2025
sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA

2024-2025 KACD Sponsors

KACo
Kentucky Association of Counties

kyCorn
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Smithfield
Good food. Responsibly.®

KACDE
Professionalism • Networking • Education

Rice
Agri-Marketing
SERVING | FAITH | FAMILIES | AGRICULTURE

Breckinridge County
Bullitt County
Calloway County
Clark County
Floyd County
Franklin County
Hopkins County
Perry County
Warren County

KENTUCKY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

KFB
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Ag

Red River Valley Farm
Winchester, Kentucky

BAMERT
SEED COMPANY

Cargill RegenConnect®

USDA
NRCS

ROUNDSTONE
Native Seed

SOUTHERN SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Kentucky Soybean Board ✓