

COMMONWEALTH CONSERVATION CORNER *June 2026*



UPCOMING EVENTS

KACD Annual Meeting
July 26–28
Louisville, KY

NACD Southeast Meeting
August 9–12
Cherokee, NC

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STATE ENVIROTHON COMPETITION

Kentucky's State Envirothon brought together nine teams of motivated students from across the Commonwealth to showcase their knowledge in soil science, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and current environmental issues.

Participants were tasked with developing a plan to address environmental concerns and presenting their plan to a panel of judges. They were also tasked with team problem-solving scenarios during the field portion of the competition. The event highlighted the dedication of the students, as well as the teachers, coaches, and volunteers who made this experiential learning event possible.

This is just one example showcasing the next generation of conservation professionals. They're passionate, engaged, and motivated to tackle real-world environmental challenges!



<https://www.kyconservation.com>

**KACD WELCOMES
SETH SMALLWOOD AS PUBLIC
AFFAIRS SPECIALIST THROUGH
NRCS PARTNERSHIP**

MESSAGE FROM THE KACD PRESIDENT



Seth Smallwood, a native of Frenchburg, Kentucky, has joined the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts as the new Public Affairs Specialist. He graduated from Morehead State University with a degree in Agribusiness, where he developed a strong interest in agricultural communication and conservation outreach.

His connection to conservation began during his time as a Pathways Intern with NRCS, gaining early hands-on experience while completing his studies. After college, he worked as a Crop Services Sales Associate with Hinton Mills Feed Company, strengthening his understanding of production agriculture and the needs of local producers. He then went on to serve as a District Technician in Menifee, Montgomery, and Bath Counties, providing technical assistance, field support, and program guidance to producers across the region.

Seth looks forward to supporting Kentucky's conservation districts by sharing their stories, enhancing communication efforts, and highlighting the important work taking place throughout the Commonwealth.

KACD Friends-

We just finished our May Board of Directors meeting, putting the final touches on this years' Annual Meeting, and the registration information will have reached your county offices by now. This year we are making a special effort to reach out to Kentucky's Watershed Conservancy Districts (WCDs) to invite them to this meeting. We are also their state association and we need them to join us in moving conservation forward in the upcoming year. Our agenda includes information and breakout sessions especially designed to help WCDs complete their mission. Their direct involvement in our state association makes us all stronger, strength we will need for the legislative challenges ahead of us.

So, my request is this- if your county has a Watershed Conservancy District, please make a personal plea to your county's Directors to consider attending our annual meeting.

As many of you already know, our funding levels approved during the 2026 General Assembly session fell far short of our requests. To those of you who contacted your legislators, or attended the Legislative Reception, Thank You for your efforts. Work has already begun on the 2028 session, using lessons learned from this effort. We will be sharing that information also at our Annual Meeting, and urge you to bring your ideas to the table. I look forward to seeing you July 26-28 at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville!

See you then,



Mr. Ted Jessup, KACD President

A Conservation Success Story: Bath County Conservation District Tree Seedling Giveaway



The Bath County Conservation District recently celebrated an outstanding response to its annual tree seedling giveaway, an event created to encourage conservation and support the long-term health of local natural resources. With residents lining up early and supplies moving quickly, the district distributed all 1,200 seedlings in just two days, demonstrating strong community enthusiasm for conservation efforts.

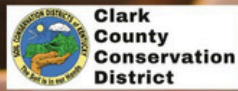
District Administrator Missy Ginter shared her excitement about the program's impact. She said, "The tree seedling giveaway was a huge success in Bath County. With an order of 1,200 trees, every one of them was given out in two days, and people were still asking for more. I'm already seeing many of the trees planted in yards, fields, and along fence lines, often with added protection to help them grow. Seeing that level of care makes us hopeful that this effort will lead to an even greater population of mature native trees throughout the county."

Residents have wasted no time planting their seedlings, and many have taken extra steps like adding markers, braces, or protective supports to ensure the young trees establish well. These early signs of stewardship highlight the community's commitment to improving habitat, supporting soil health, and investing in the county's environmental future.

The Bath County Conservation District looks forward to continuing programs like this, building on the momentum created by this year's overwhelmingly positive response.

Thank you!

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