



Commonwealth Conservation Corner



Message from the KACD President, Mr. Ted Jessup!

KACD Family -

Harvest season is upon us again. Harvest time is special, when we realize the fruit of our labors, and begin making plans to do it all again next year. Our planning is informed by the lessons we learned this year, adding to the bank of knowledge we've gained over our past year's efforts.

Your KACD Board of Directors have also begun planning for the upcoming year, recently finalizing our site for the 2026 Annual Meeting, planning for our upcoming Legislative Reception, and meeting with Legislators to make our budget needs known. Our newsletter this month is full of information to help you help us to make a real difference for KACD in this year's budget session. Our work begins now, and I would ask each District to take a few simple steps in the upcoming month:

- Invite your State Representative and Senator to your next Board meeting. If you offer a Zoom or Microsoft Teams option, provide that information.
- Develop a relationship with your Legislator. Start now, so when we ask you to make contact in the days ahead they know who you are.
- Make plans now to attend our Legislative Reception. Personal invitations from Supervisors who plan to be in attendance is the surest way to bring our Legislators in to hear our story.

Finally, I know this current federal shutdown has been challenging for your districts. Our Executive Team, Executive Director, and NACD Director have worked with NACD and NRCS during this round of shutdowns, and are trying our best to provide the most up-to-date information to districts. Hopefully our federal partners will be back to the office soon. Feel free to communicate your needs to KACD Exec. Director, Ms. Crystal Renfro.

We wish you all the best during harvest season. Remember, do you part now to make budget season a success for KACD.

Sincerely,

In this newsletter you can expect:

Message from the President!

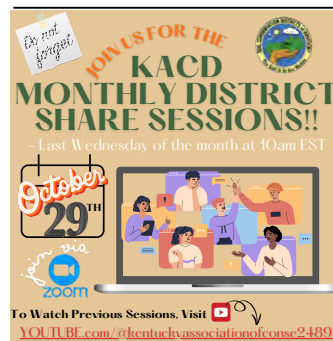
Tips for Contacting Your Legislators

Save the Date - Legislative Reception

Save the Date - KACD Annual Meeting

Upcoming Webinars (with links!)

Sponsor Recognitions





EFFECTIVE WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

GENERAL TIPS...

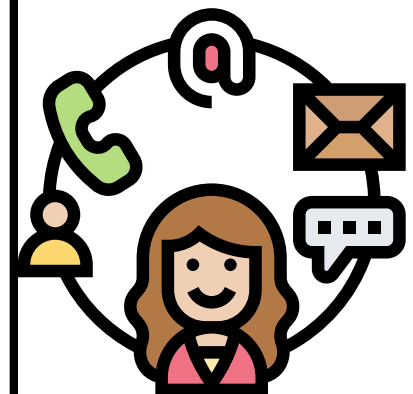
- Know where your legislators stand on issues that are important to your District
- Know their background and occupation (e.g. farming/forestry/development/education)
- What is their relationship to conservation
Are they already practicing conservation?
Is Districts' work and mission a new topic for them?
- Find out their House or Senate committee assignments – this is where they can have the most influence
- What is their passion – why do they serve their constituents?
- Communicate regularly - contact should not always be for “The ASK”, become familiar 1st!
- Keep it short..., concise information & to the point.
- Use a personal story to relate your message.
- Don't discount an offer to meet with legislative staff members. They hold more influence than you realize.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED...

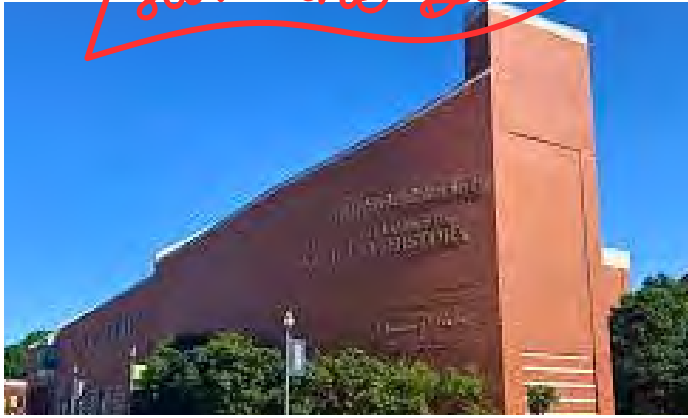
- Stay informed on legislative issues at the Local, State, and National levels.
- Track Ky Legislation that are important to your District.
- Contact Legislators and/or Staff Members regularly to keep them informed about conservation and foster a strong relationship; as well as when expressing your position on an issue. (possibly quarterly or at least twice a year)
- Host local events for Legislators to learn about Conservation Districts and to meet with their local constituents.
(Roundtable Discussions, Farm Field Days, Conservation Tours, etc.)
- Invite Legislators and/or Staff Members to attend Board Meetings and Annual Meetings.
- Attend other legislative events such as local forums, town hall meetings, etc.
- Utilize media- it is one of the most powerful tools in grassroots advocacy
(Local Newspapers, Radio, Television, Social Media, etc)

HOW TO MAKE CONTACT....

- Know who your Legislators are!
Find your KY Legislators at Legislature.Ky.gov - under the Legislators Tab, go to Who's My Legislator
Find your US Legislators at Congress.gov/members/find-your-member
- Effective communication methods are emails, letters and phone calls!
 - Emails should be professional, respectful, concise and to the point. Include your address so they know you are their constituent.
 - Letters should be brief & concise (no more than 1 page, limited to 1 issue), make it personal, & express your firm position.
 - When calling, you may reach a staff member or leave a message. This is a great form of communication as well, do not discount it. State your name, where you live, what the issue is and what you want them to do.
- Make an appointment to meet in person!
 - Legislators' schedules are full, and fill quickly. Reach out early and plan for approx. 15 minutes.
 - Be Prepared, Be Prompt, & Be Patient
 - Be Open to meeting with Legislative Staffers, they are a great resource to legislators and constituents!
- Follow-Up and Thank your Legislators!
 - Thank your Legislators and/or Staffers for their time & no matter the outcome of the issue, Thank your Legislator. (an opposer of 1 issue, may be an ally on the next!)



Save the Date



2026 KACD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION EVENT

Join KACD on **Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6 pm to 8 pm** at the **Kentucky Historical Society Commonwealth Hall in Frankfort, KY** for the 2026 Ky Conservation Legislative Reception!

We urge you to contact your Legislators **NOW** to invite them to this event. Their calendars fill up quickly and notifying them as early as possible, hopefully ensures their availability to attend. KACD appreciates your assistance with this effort!

National Conservation District
Employees Association

FREE Virtual Training Series

BUILDING AND FUNDING YOUR INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
9 AM PST/11 AM CT**

Join us as we hear from Eagle County Conservation District (CO) staff on the process of transitioning their small noxious weeds program into one that is thriving, fully-funded, and regionally-scaled. They'll be presenting on strategic partnerships, benefits to their community, and a range of funding sources associated with their program expansion, with audience Q/A to follow.

Register to secure your spot and for webinar access info: www.ncdea.us

All webinars occur on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9am PST/11am CST
The November webinar will be pre-recorded and posted to ncdea.us on 11/26



**OCTOBER 29, 2025
@ 3:00 PM EST**

As a reminder to look out for and care for our own mental well-being and that of others, join the next NACD Conservation Coffee!

Mark your calendar for October 29th at 3:00 p.m. ET for an "Introduction to LandLogic with Kaila Anderson."

During this one-hour online webinar, join NACD and Placer Resource Conservation District of California, as we learn from Kaila Anderson about the LandLogic ModelSM, a culturally tailored mental health model incorporating a producer's land, and how conservationists fit into the continuum of care for farmer's mental health. Register and Join for free here:

October 2025

NACD Conservation Coffee Registration

2026 KACD Annual Meeting



*Crowne Plaza
Louisville Airport Expo Center*

July 26-28, 2026



Without the support of our sponsors, KACD would not be able to successfully represent and support the 121 conservation districts of Kentucky,

Thank You!
SPONSORS



KENTUCKY ASSOC. OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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