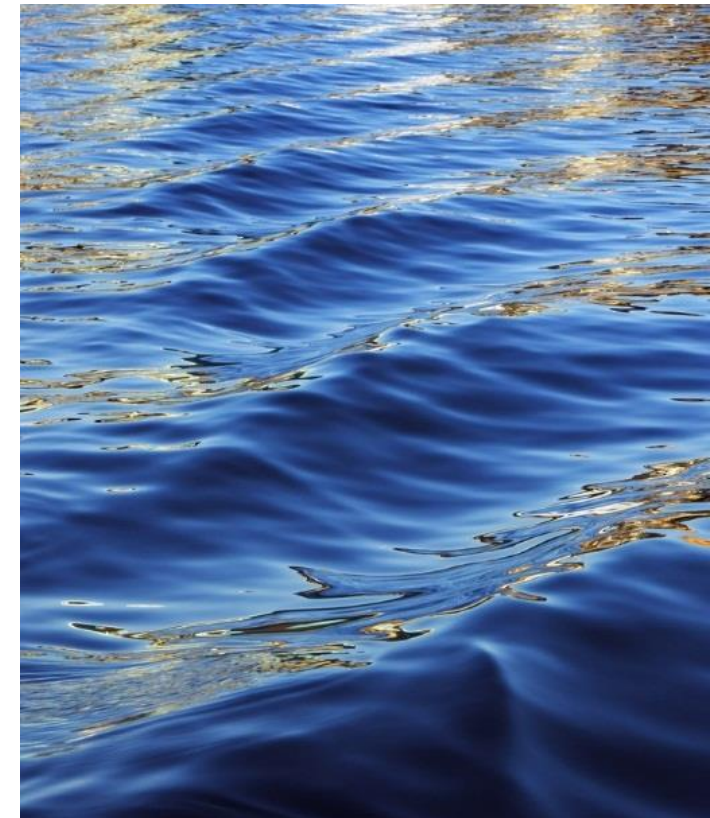




# Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

Allan Bryant



# It Started With Soil

- In the beginning, each district was formed to basically “save the soil” following the dust bowl of the 1930’s. Farmers were unable to grow anything because of the terrible farming practices, combined with the drought, that left the soil eroded.
- The federal government stepped in and offered subsidies to farmers to utilize conservation practices that would help the land.
- The Soil Conservation Service was then formed. Now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



# It Started With Soil



- In 1936 a Standard State District Act, also referred to as “District Law”, was developed at the federal government level by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which encouraged the citizens of local governments to organize conservation districts across the nation.
- The Soil Conservation District Program recognized that new farming methods must be accepted and enforced by the farmers on the land, giving local citizens the opportunity to shape soil and water conservation resources planning in their communities at the grass-roots level.

# What is a Conservation District?

- In 1940, the Kentucky General Assembly passed enabling legislation, KRS Chapter 262, which allowed Conservation Districts to be established.
- Conservation Districts are “political subdivisions of state government” that utilize state, federal and private sector resources to solve today’s conservation problems.
- Conservation Districts are independent from other governmental bodies. It has its own employees and it often incurs debts which are not debts of the Commonwealth but the debts of the political subdivision.
- There are 121 Conservation Districts in Kentucky and more than 3,000 nation wide



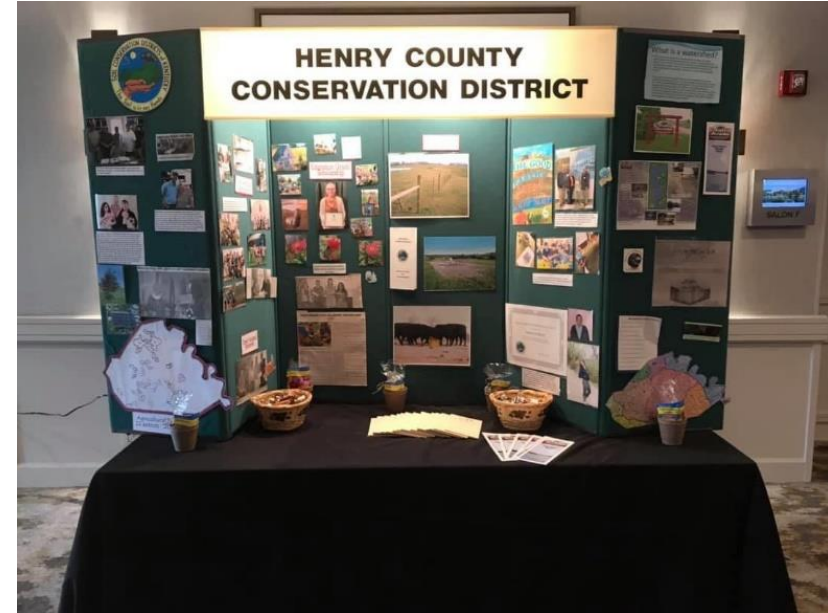
# Purpose of Conservation Districts

- To conserve and develop all renewable natural resources within the district.
- To set priorities for conservation work to be accomplished.
- Provide leadership at the local level
- Authorized to undertake, sponsor or participate in projects, activities and programs which promote the conservation, development, maintenance, management and wise use of the land, water, trees and other related natural resources of the district.



# Conservation Districts - a great starting point for:

- Identification of
  - Existing Conservation Practices
  - Conservation Needs and Priorities
  - Implemented Best Management Practices
  - Ag Water Quality Plans
- Coordination with NRCS
  - District staff work with NRCS staff
  - Focused vs Sprinkled Practices
- Coordination with Division of Conservation
  - State Cost Share practices
  - Noncompliance and Remediation Issues identified by DEP
- Water Quality Issues
- District Programs



# District Resources and Programs

- Federal Programs - NRCS
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- State Programs
  - Environmental Stewardship Program aka State Cost Share
- District Programs
  - District Cost Share Program
  - Educational Programs
  - Outreach Programs
- Resources
  - Soil Technicians and District Staff



# Who Conservation Districts Work With

- School Teachers
- Business Leaders
- Government leaders
- Landowners
- Senior Citizens
- Students
- Commodity Groups





# Conservation Education and Outreach

- Promotion of Sound Conservation Programs
  - Newsletters and the Media
  - Field Days and Tours
  - Awards Programs
  - Presentations



# District Funding and Resources

- Property Tax or Fiscal Court Appropriation



# No Two Districts Are Alike

- Each District focuses its attention on what the local board determines to be their natural resource priorities.



# No Two Districts Are Alike: Educational Programs

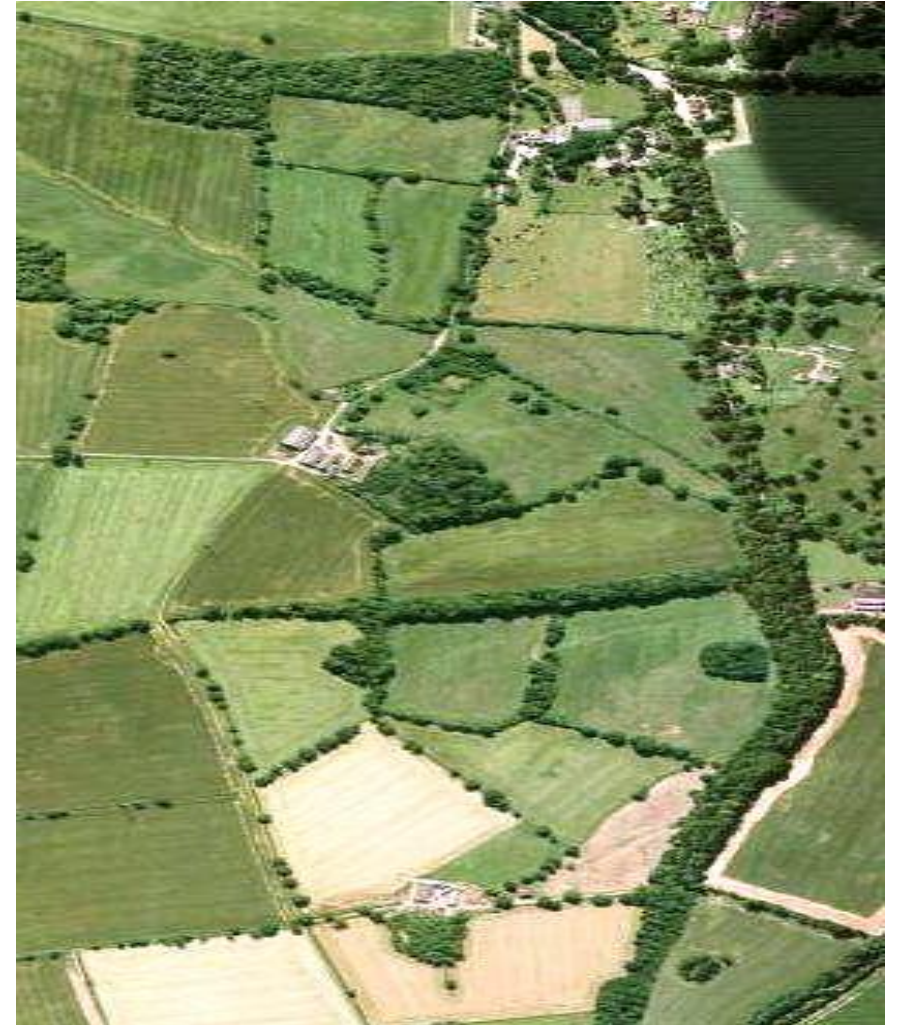


# No Two Districts Are Alike: Conservation Practices



# Agriculture Districts

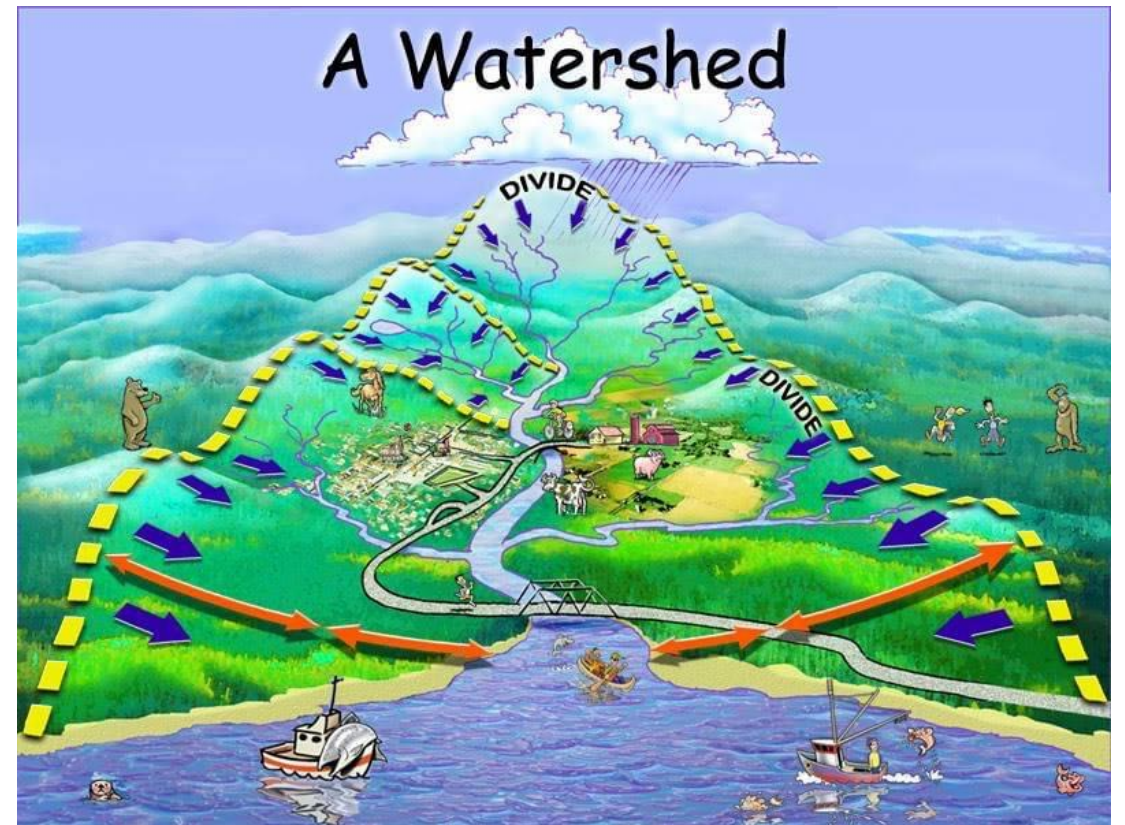
- Purpose and Benefits
  - Protection of prime farmland
  - Provides means for public review
  - Consideration of government actions and its impacts
  - Land assessed at agricultural use value
  - Ag Districts Shall not be annexed KRS 262.850 (10)  
Determined by initiation of procedure
- Eligibility?
  - 250 contiguous acres with owners consent



# Watershed Conservancy Districts

## KRS 262.700 to KRS 262.795

- Formation
  - Watershed Conservancy Districts are subdistricts of a soil conservation district and constitute a subdivision of state government. There are 30 Watershed Conservancy Districts in Kentucky.
- Purpose
  - Develop and execute plans and programs relating to any phase of conservation of water, water usage, flood prevention and control of erosion, floodwater and sediment damages



# Conservation District Partners

- Conservation Districts bring partners together with the one common goal of protection all natural resources in the District.







## Contact Us:

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