



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

JUNE 2015

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP ACRONYMS

In conversations around conservation programs in Kentucky, many acronyms are used on a daily basis. This listing includes acronyms for groups, programs, and terms that districts might use rarely or at every meeting. Please consider using this listing as a reference sheet.

State Organizations:

DOC - Division of Conservation State agency created by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1946 as a division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Charged with providing conservation programs on the state level and assistance to the state's farmers, landowners and conservation districts.

EEC – Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of State Government which oversees the state's energy and environmental needs.

KACD - Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Private, non-profit association made up of the 121 districts and 30 watershed conservancy districts. The board consists of 1 board supervisor from each of the 9 areas of the state. Charged with assisting organization in implementing programs and working with the general assembly to secure funding.

KACDE – Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees – Private, non-profit association made up of the employees of the 121 conservation districts. This organization provides needed training for administrative and technical employees, as well as provides educational opportunities through grants.

SWCC: Ky Soil and Water Conservation Commission Created by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1946, this group sets the policies under which the conservation districts operate. The commission is made up of 1 board supervisor from each of the 9 areas of the state appointed to serve by the secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet, with approval from the governor.

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts - Private, non-profit national association that represents conservation districts across the United States. They are a strong lobbying organization for conservation and comprised of nominated members from each established area in the US.

DOW – Division of Water State agency who manages, protects and enhances the quality of the Commonwealth's water resources through voluntary, regulatory and educational programs.

KDFWR – Ky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources State agency developed to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources of the state and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities. They are governed by a commission which consists of nine members nominated by the sportsmen and sportswomen, and appointed by the Governor.



Federal Organizations:

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service Federal agency charged with protecting the natural resources, providing technical assistance and implementing Farm Bill Programs. NRCS is no longer located in each county office however there are personnel designated to cover each county. They have a memorandum of understanding that allows them to provide technical assistance to landowners, districts and for the state cost share program (SCS). NRCS and districts also share farm and landowner information.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture U.S. federal executive department responsible for developing and executing federal government policy on farming, agriculture, forestry, and food.

RDA – Rural Development Agency Developed to improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. They offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services such as housing, economic development, equipment and water. They also offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations.

FSA – Farm Service Agency Federal agency primarily tasked with the implementation of farm conservation and regulation laws around the country. They administer farm commodity, crop insurance, credit, environmental, conservation, and emergency assistance programs for farmers and ranchers.

CED – County Executive Director Located in each FSA office to oversee the local committees and federal funds.

State Terms and Programs:

KRS – Kentucky Revised Statutes The body of laws which govern the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They are created pursuant to and must conform to the limitations set out in the Kentucky Constitution.

SCS – State Cost Share The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program was created to help agricultural operations protect the soil and water resources of Kentucky and to implement their agriculture water quality plans. The program helps landowners address existing soil erosion, water quality and other environmental problems associated with their farming or woodland operation. Funds are administered by local conservation districts and the SWCC with priority given to animal waste-related problems.

PACE – Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement - The Kentucky General Assembly established the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Corporation and authorized the state to purchase agricultural conservation easements in order to ensure that lands currently in agricultural use will continue to remain available for agriculture and not be converted to other uses. Landowners also are encouraged to donate easements in order to dedicate their land to agricultural uses. Donors of conservation easements may receive federal and state income tax and estate tax benefits.

AWQA – Agriculture Water Quality Act The goal of the act is to protect surface and groundwater resources from pollution as a result of agriculture and silviculture (forestry) activities. The Agriculture Water Quality Act requires all landowners with 10 or more acres that are being used for agriculture or silviculture operations to develop and implement a water quality plan based upon guidance from the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan.



Federal Terms and Programs:

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program A voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts that provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. This provides opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet federal, state and local environmental regulations.

RCPP- Rural Conservation Partnership Program Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

CSP – Conservation Security Program Rewards and encourages good stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land.

CRP – Conservation Security Program The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), an offshoot of CRP, targets high-priority conservation issues identified by government and non-governmental organizations. Farm land that falls under these conservation issues is removed from production in exchange for annual rental payments.

ACEP – Agriculture Conservation Easement Program Provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

FRPP – Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program The purchase of conservation easements of acres of land having prime or unique soil or other desirable production qualities that are threatened by urban development.

MRBI – Mississippi River Basin Initiative NRCS and partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River Basin.

ORBI – Ohio River Basin Initiative NRCS and partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Ohio River Basin.

WRP – Wetland Reserve Program Program allowing NRCS to restore, protect and enhance natural wetlands.

EWP – Emergency Watershed Program The purpose of this program is to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWP Program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

