



# 2015 Committee Reports

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

OCTOBER 2015

## **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

This committee develops materials to inform and to assist conservation districts to promote conservation education. This committee encourages promotion of education across all levels while encouraging youth involvement in the district.

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The committee recommends conservation districts carry out the following actions:

- Districts should continue their support and promotion of the annual Art and Writing Contest and continue to increase student Participation.
  - Provide materials to classrooms through the Division of Conservation and Kentucky Farm Bureau websites and use of KACDE tabloids
  - Provide CDs of materials where necessary
  - Encourage at least one entry for the Art and Writing Contest
  - Continue to recognize the winners as well as teachers who are involved in the contest.
- Each district board is encouraged to charge the board's education committee to develop and place into action an environmental education program for the district.
  - Consider developing an education coordinator position whether this be on an individual district basis or on a joint district position.
  - Work with teachers on all levels to promote soil and water conservation
  - Actively participate in the KACD Teacher Awards Program
- Districts should promote and/or co-sponsor teacher education seminars, educational programs, tree giveaways, Arbor Day events, community gardens, and backyard conservation programs.
- Districts should actively promote youth participation and provide conservation education programs for FFA, YMCA, home school association, 4-H, boy and girl scouts, church youth programs, elementary school family resources centers, junior conservation district boards, community centers, youth hunting and fishing groups, Envirothon teams, and FCCLA.



- Districts are encouraged to continue assistance both financially and technically at all levels in the Environment, FFA Land Judging contest, statewide science Olympiad, Kentucky water watch/watershed watch program, collegiate land judging, Research Extension Apprenticeship Program (REAP), science fairs, as well as the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program.
- Districts should coordinate with local developers to educate them in the area of soil erosion and best management practices through workshops.
- Districts should support the Auxiliary Scholarship Program by nominating local students to apply for these annual scholarships.
- Districts are recommended to educate citizens about the watershed that they live in and how that watershed may be impacted. (ie: workshops, newsletters, field days, and water testing).
- Districts are encouraged to seek alternative funding to purchase environmental education materials and tools.
- Districts should conduct/attend environmental education workshops.
- Districts are encouraged to conduct and/or attend environmental workshops.
- Districts should promote the following workshops to teachers within their county:
  - Food Land and People, Project Wet, Project Aquatic Wild, Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, Wonders of Wetlands, Splashing in Kentucky, Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom, Biologist in Training Program, Flying Wild.
- Districts are encouraged, along with district supervisors, to
  - Take responsibility in environmental education
  - Develop training sessions and encourage participation
  - Encourage participation in training sessions during area meetings and KACD Convention
  - Provide community workshops on environmental education
- Districts should consider recognizing an outstanding student who has excelled in conservation functions in an awards program similar to the Master Conservation Program for Landowners.