



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

MAY 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Through the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission is able to provide environmental grants to conservation districts to reduce agricultural non-point source pollution of surface or groundwater. These grants are provided for projects that educate the public about pollution problems and demonstrate effective alternatives, as well as those that encourage the adoption of new management techniques or measures. This allows the local conservation district to offer solutions to local problems.

To apply for this grant a district must provide the following:

- Description of project and work to be performed
- Justification as to the need for the project
- Goals of the project and expected outcome and/or accomplishments
- Previous grant accomplishments on similar projects in the county
- Budget for the project and identify sources of required matching funds
- Other information the Commission would find important in the consideration of this environmental grant request

This program requires a 25% match to funds allocated by the state. This can be matched by in-kind or cash. Local producers who receive money from this grant can also be required to provide the 25% matching funds. A maximum of \$7500 per program year is eligible to be received.

Each year, the Soil and Water conservation commission approves approximately \$500,000 for these grants in the state. This approval happens once per year, along with state cost share approvals. Each district is allowed to receive only one environmental grant per year, so the supervisors should agree what kind of project would benefit their county the most.

The Environmental Grant program can, and should, be used as a tool for districts to create partnerships. By utilizing this type of funding, districts can create a bond with such entities as fiscal court, the extension service, local school districts, and others, in order to create large scope environmental initiatives. This also provides a way to get the district's name into the community so that others can see their mission toward environmental improvements. The taxpayers of your county should see that the district is working to benefit everyone's natural resources, not just the agricultural community's needs.

Eligible practices (Not Limited To):

- Dead Animal Removal Program
- Illegal Dump Cleanup
- Tire Amnesty
- White Goods Amnesty
- Local Watering Facilities
- Local Manure Management
- Composting facilities
- Recycling
- Tree Giveaway
- Watershed Monitoring

Curious how much has been spent on providing these programs across Kentucky over the last 10 year?

- 2009 \$377,750.00
- 2010 \$509,170.00
- 2011 \$603,772.50
- 2012 \$497,976.00
- 2013 \$615,122.00
- 2014 \$526,750.00
- 2015 \$857,727.00
- 2016 \$586,700.00
- 2017 \$862,727.00
- 2018 \$587,145.00
- 2019 \$563,980.00