

# KY NUTRIENT NEWS

## Workgroup Roundup

The Division of Water took nutrient workgroups on the road in March, visiting Murray, Versailles, and Louisville. The Nutrients & NGOs workgroup met at Murray State's Hancock Biological Station to discuss potential project ideas. The Nutrients & Ag. group welcomed Kentucky's new NRCS State Conservationist Eric Allness at the Woodford County Extension/Conservation District office in Versailles and discussed agriculture needs. The Nutrients & Public Agencies Workgroup met at the USGS OKI office in Louisville, while the Nutrients & Utilities Workgroup also met in Louisville at the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant. All four groups held discussions on priorities for future Gulf Hypoxia Program funding. If you are interested in participating in a workgroup, contact Josiah Frey ([josiah.frey@ky.gov](mailto:josiah.frey@ky.gov)).



Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant



Hancock Biological Station

## UPDATES

- [USDA announced \\$1.5 Billion](#) in funding for the 2024 Regional Conservation Partnership Program. An interstate group is forming in the Red River Basin to work on agriculture issues. If you are interested in collaborating in this watershed, contact Paulette Akers ([paulette.akers@ky.gov](mailto:paulette.akers@ky.gov)).
- The next Nutrients & Ag. workgroup is scheduled for *May 14<sup>th</sup>* in Hardin County. If you are interested in participating, please contact Josiah Frey ([josiah.frey@ky.gov](mailto:josiah.frey@ky.gov)).
- DOW updated the Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control manual into a digital resource that is accessible on the go on EEC's [website](#).
- NOAA released it's [2024 National Hydrologic Assessment](#), which predicts above-average temperatures and precipitation for parts of the Midwest and Southeast and "average or normal hypoxic conditions in the norther Gulf of Mexico this summer".
- DOW analyzed environmental benefits from package plant removals since 2017 in a new [Package Plant Success in Kentucky Story Map](#).

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

- DOW's Green Infrastructure Assistance Program (GIAP) is seeking applications that help rural and disadvantaged communities address stormwater under EPA's Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG). Letters of intent are recommended by *May 1<sup>st</sup>*, with applications due by *June 30<sup>th</sup>*. For more information contact Dale Booth at [dale.booth@ky.gov](mailto:dale.booth@ky.gov), and [DOW's OSG Story Map](#).
- DOW is presenting at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Water & Wastewater Operators Association Conference in Owensboro from *May 7-8*. To learn more, visit the KWWOA website at <https://www.kwwoa.org/state-conference/>
- EPA hosts [bimonthly webinars](#) on harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and nutrients. The next webinar on *May 22<sup>nd</sup>* is titled "Using Wetlands to Reduce Nutrient Loadings to Rivers and the Coast."
- NOAA is [soliciting proposals](#) that "identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources." A notice of intent is required by *May 23<sup>rd</sup>*, with submissions due *August 22<sup>nd</sup>*.
- The Kentucky Stormwater Association's Annual Conference is from *July 10-12* in Owensboro. To learn more, visit the KSA webpage at <https://ksa.memberclicks.net/>.
- EPA is accepting applications until *November 21<sup>st</sup>* for [Community Change Grants](#) that "build capacity for communities to tack environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy."
- EPA is making [federal wastewater technical assistance available](#) to communities with failing septic systems or without existing wastewater infrastructure on a rolling basis.

## RESEARCH & NEWS LINKS

- [Kentucky Farm Bureau Launches Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative to Address Loss of Farm Acreage Across the State](#)
- [More Soybeans Expected in Kentucky This Year \(usda.gov\)](#)
- The 2024 Kentucky Legislature passed the following bills into law that have a nutrient connection:
  - [24RS HB 1 \(ky.gov\)](#); [24RS HB 40 \(ky.gov\)](#); [24RS HB 130 \(ky.gov\)](#); [24RS HB 472 \(ky.gov\)](#); [24RS HB 563 \(ky.gov\)](#)
- [Cover crops under the microscope \(agriculture.com\)](#)
- [2nd National Flash Drought Workshop Report: Building on Progress and Looking Forward | Drought.gov](#)

## EARTH DAY HIGHLIGHT

The Division of Water visited James Lane Allen Elementary in Lexington on Earth Day to provide environmental education on nonpoint source pollution. DOW used an Enviroscape watershed model to simulate various pollutants and simple ways to protect water quality. Students were also treated to a demonstration of DOW's drone program and learned how drones help manage drinking water supplies.

