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**FY2025 Quarterly Report - Q1**  
to  
**Louisville Metro**

# HISTORY

- Special Purpose Government Entity, created in the 1930's by the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act.
- Established in Kentucky by KRS Chapter 262 1940.
- Organized by Jefferson County residents in 1944.
- Conservation Districts were formed to allow local citizens opportunities to help guide and develop conservation programs in each county by working at the "grass roots" level.

# MISSION

Our mission is to conserve and assist in the development of all renewable natural resources within the District. We work with the residents of Jefferson County to conserve the soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife through programs that integrate technical assistance, outreach, education, cost-share, and partnerships.

Our activities also include a special focus on urban and suburban activities relevant to the Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Area.

Our Conservation District allows Jefferson County to leverage state and federal funds not accessible without its existence or partnerships.

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# Board of Supervisors and Staff

## SEVEN ELECTED SUPERVISORS

- Supervisors serve 4-year terms after election by the residents of Jefferson County.
- Supervisors attend a monthly board meeting, work on committees, supervise employees, oversee tax dollars, and develop programming to promote conservation practices.

## DISTRICT STAFF

### Administrative Secretary (part-time)

- Oversee the daily operations of the office.
- Filing all federal, state, and local reporting.
- Bookkeeping and accounting in coordination with the Board's Treasurer.
- Acting as the secretary at all board meetings.
- Administers CAIP and local cost share programs.

## ADVISORS

- Kentucky Division of Conservation
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture
- Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Past Supervisors & Staff

# Achievements

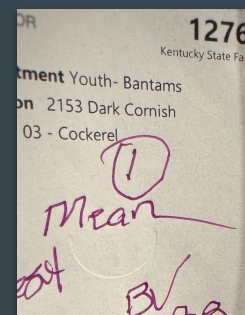
Fiscal Year 2025 - Q1

- Kentucky State Fair
  - CAIP Program
  - CAIP Informational Meeting
  - Partnership w/Parks & Rec. Urban Agriculture Program
  - Partnership with Trees Louisville
  - Soil Testing
  - The People's Summit on Food Systems & Urban Agriculture
  - Environmental Educational Outreach
  - Jim Claypool Art & Writing Contest
  - Rain Harvesting at Community Gardens
  - Hiring Staff
  - Training at KACD Annual Meeting and KACDE Conference
  - Pursuing Grants
  - SWCD Office is Moving!
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# 2024 Kentucky State Fair

- Bee and Honey Room - West Wing
- Invited by the State Apiarist
- Exhibits:
  - Native Plant Cost Share
  - Conservation Stewardship Program
  - Soil Testing for Jefferson County Residents
- Giveaways
  - Environmental Education Activity Books from free Federal Government Sources
  - Packable Reusable Tote Bag to Jefferson County Residents



# CAIP (County Agricultural Investment Program)

Open Application Period: September 23rd through October 11th

Jefferson County SWCD requested the full amount of CAIP funds allotted to Jefferson County this year.

Appeal to the County Agricultural Council was to assist in expanding the CAIP program in the county.

\$35,000

Accepted Applicants can receive funding for agricultural or conservation projects. The total amount of accepted applicants determine how much funding each project receives. The maximum is

\$5,000

This year the CAIP administrative cost is 5% the total amount of funds.

These funds will go towards administration of the program by staff.

Total Administrative Expenses:

\$1,750



Jefferson County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District

## CAIP Program Informational Meeting

Informational meeting to discuss  
the 2024 County Agricultural  
Investment Program - CAIP.

at **LOUISVILLE  
grows**  
1641 Portland Avenue

Tuesday - September 24th @ 5:30 p.m.

[www.jeffcd.org](http://www.jeffcd.org)



Through a  
Partnership with  
**KADF**  
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



# CAIP Information Session

- Informational Meeting regarding the 2024 Program
  - Sept. 24 @ 5:30 at Louisville Grows`
  - Partnered with KADF and UK Extension Service to explain
    - Program background
    - Application process
    - Changes to 2024 program
    - Provide applications and assist with AWQP (Ag. Water Quality Plans)
    - Question and Answer



# Louisville Parks & Recreation Urban Agriculture Program Partnership

- The Shawnee People's Garden
  - 536 N. 44th Street in the West End
- Two existing High Tunnel Greenhouses
  - SWCD funding repair and improvements
  - SWCD facilitating Repair & Maintenance Workshop with Grow Appalachia
- Future Plans
  - Kentucky State University partnership
  - Create an Urban Agriculture Incubator Space with workshops, training, and access to state and federal funding.





## Partnership with



Sponsorship of a Trees Louisville tree giveaway during Tree Week

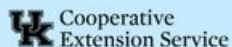
- October 12, 2024
  - 600 - One Gallon Container Trees
  - SWCD Tabling during event
- distributing:
- Soil Testing Kits
  - Native Plant Seed for Landscapes
  - Information on SWCD Programs



TO LEARN MORE OR TO HOST YOUR OWN TREE WEEK EVENT, VISIT [TREESLOUISVILLE.ORG](https://treeslouisville.org)







Cooperative  
Extension Service

# SOIL TESTING

*Did you know soil testing is available to every Kentucky citizen through UK Cooperative Extension?*

## What is Soil Testing?

- Soil testing is a chemical analysis that provides valuable insights into what your soil needs to be more productive.

## How does it work?

- Soil samples are collected at all of our 120 cooperative extension offices and sent to a laboratory for testing.

## Why Soil Test?

- Identify previous cropping history
- Show losses of surface soil through erosion
- Provide a guideline for lime and fertilizer needs of the soil
- Analyze pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and CEC of soil.

## Community Soil Testing

- Provided 152 Soil Nutrient Tests and 38 Soil Contaminant Tests for the Residents of Jefferson County - a value of \$2052
- Assisted Jefferson County Extension in paying administrative costs to send soil samples to the state lab.
- Budgeted \$6850 for 445 of free soil nutrient testing and 162 soil heavy metal testing for 24-25 fiscal year.

# The People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture



## The People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture: Food Vision 2030

Hosted by Food in Neighborhoods  
with major financial contributions from Kentucky State University

**September 13, 2024**

at Louisville Central Community Centers (LCCC)  
1300 W Muhammad Ali Blvd  
Louisville, KY 40203

**Registration closes on  
Thursday, September 5**

Go to [bit.ly/PeoplesSummit2024](https://bit.ly/PeoplesSummit2024) and register today!



Food in  
Neighborhoods  
Community Coalition



- The Jefferson County SWCD was invited to participate in a panel discussion:
  - Growing Food and the Policies We Need
- Other Panelists:
  - Tia Bowman - Metro Real Estate Program
  - Catherine Shake - Jefferson County Extension
  - Jody Dahmer & Mariah Corso - Beargrass Thunder
  - Nico Phillips - Parks & Rec. Urban Ag. Program

# Environmental Educational Outreach


- The Jefferson County SWCD distributes educational booklets to Jefferson County Public Schools interested in Conservation Education.
- 2024's Theme is Protecting the Forest Together
  - Riparian Forest Buffers
  - Forestry Fun Facts
    - Kentucky State Tree - Kentucky Coffee Tree
    - Largest Sassafras Trees in the World in Owensboro, Kentucky! 21' circumference!
  - Urban Forests
  - Class Activities
  - Tree Anatomy
  - Forest Invasive Pests
  - How Trees Make Our World Healthier





# Annual Jim Claypool Art & Writing Contest

- The Jefferson County SWCD participates in the annual Conservation Writing and Art Contest through educators in the Jefferson County Public School System.
  - Educational Tabloids are Available to All Interested Educators.
- 2024's Theme is Protecting the Forest Together
  - Forestry and Forest Health
- Forestry Fun Fact: Kentucky is 50% Forested!
- Students Grades K-12, from all over Kentucky participate.
- In 2023 Jefferson County was the Statewide First Place Winner in Art.



**STATE WINNERS:**  
First: \$250; Second: \$150; Third: \$50

**REGIONAL WINNERS:** \$50

**COUNTY LEVEL WINNERS:** \$25

\* State/Regional winners will receive a personalized certificate. County winners that win regional or state awards will only receive one check for the top prize.

**RULES**

1. Kentucky students grades 6-12 are eligible to compete in the writing contest. Students up to grade 5 may compete in the art contest.
2. A student may not enter both the art contest and the writing contest during the same year.
3. An entry must be created by one and only one student. Any entry submitted by more than one student will be disqualified.
4. All entries become the property of the contest sponsors. The decisions of the judges at all levels of competition are final.
5. Top three writing entries and/or artworks from your school must be submitted to your local county conservation district by Dec. 1, 2024.
6. **ARTWORK:** Student entries shall be 8 1/2" X 11". Entries may be digital or submitted on any color or thickness of art board (poster board, mat board, etc.) or may be on art paper, which is firmly affixed to art board. All artwork must be two-dimensional (2-D). Three-dimensional (3-D) artwork will not be accepted. Artwork may be rendered in any medium: pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon, paint, photography, etc. Mixed media and collage work is acceptable as long as all pieces are securely glued to the surface of the work. All entries must convey at a glance an accurate understanding of the information provided in the tabloid, the theme of the competition, and persuade the viewers of the need for good forest conservation practices. All entries must be the original work of the student.
7. **WRITING:** Entry may not exceed 1,000 words and must be written in ink or typed on one side of paper only. No photographs or artwork may be included with the written work. The written entry should demonstrate an accurate understanding of the information provided in the tabloid and inform the reader about forest conservation. Students should write from the perspective of an informed writer to a less informed reader and may be in the form of a letter, article, editorial or speech. The work should be from the student author and avoid plagiarism from this source or other sources. ALL sources should be reputable and cited appropriately.
8. The entry form to the right must be completed and attached to your entry.

**HELPFUL HINTS**

- Keep entry simple and sincere.
- Be creative and original. Avoid plagiarism by using original words and ideas. Plagiarism is defined as the act of stealing and passing off the words of another as your own without crediting the source.
- Consider an area of forest conservation that is important to you, your family and your community.
- Draw from your personal interests or experiences.
- Writing entry should take the form of informational.
- Think about forestry issues in your community, farm, subdivision or city.
- DO NOT use this tabloid as your only source.
- Interview people in your community about changes in forestry issues.
- Find ways to improve forestry issues in your community. TAKE ACTION!

**POINT SYSTEM FOR ART**

- **50 points** - Purpose/Audience. (Appropriate communication style to reach audience, establishes and maintains a purpose; and holds to subject in community. Theme clearly conveyed at a glance.)
- **30 points** - Composition/creativity/craftsmanship. (Layout, originality, and quality of work, such as neatness.)
- **20 points** - Language/correctness. (Word choice, usage, spelling, punctuation, capitalization.)

**POINT SYSTEM FOR WRITING**

- **30 points:** Purpose/Audience (establishes and maintains a purpose, communicates with audience, employs a suitable tone)
- **20 points:** Organization (logical order, coherence, transition organizational signals)
- **20 points:** Idea Development/Support and Evidence of Research (student's original work shows sources of research, sources are cited)
- **30 points:** Correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization), Language (word choice, usage), Sentences (varied in structure and length, constructed effectively, complete and correct)

**ENTRY FORM**

Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contest

Name (Miss, Mr) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I hereby certify that I have read the rules and helpful hints and this entry is the original work of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher or Principal Signature (required)

# Rain Harvesting at Community Gardens



- The Jefferson County SWCD coordinated donation
  - Ten 1000 gallon capacity IBC totes
  - Donated from Heaven Hill Distillery
  - Delivered to:
    - Jefferson County Extension Agency  
Miller Lane Incubator Farm
    - Jefferson County Master Gardeners  
Crescent Hill Community Garden



# Hiring Staff

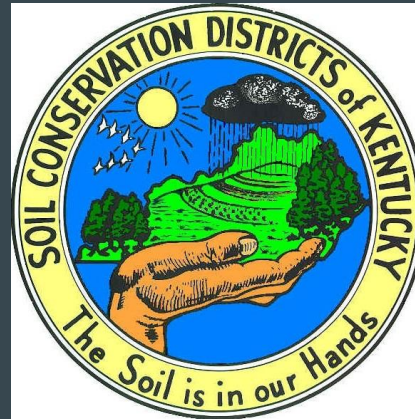


- **Soil Conservation Technician**
    - Entry Level Position shared between the Jefferson County SWCD and the Louisville work unit of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
      - NRCS pays 80% of salary
      - SWCD pays 20% of salary
    - Employee will serve as a Soil Technician and carry out duties prescribed to them by both entities to advance their mission.
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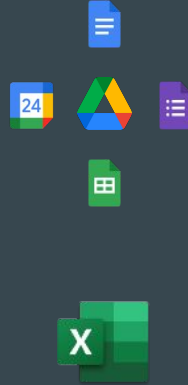
# Training for Supervisors and Staff

- KACD Annual Meeting
  - July 14-16, 2024 , Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky
  - Education and network opportunity with National and State Level Agencies and other KY Conservation Districts
  - Training included grant workshops, cost share programs, conservation programs, conservation education opportunities, among others
- 2025 KACD Annual Meeting AND the NACD Southeast Regional Meeting is in Louisville again! We'll be hosting eight states!





Geri Johnson, Conservation District Admin. Sec., builds a water filtration system in a workshop with KY Ag & Environment in the Classroom. Water is pretty clear. Not too bad for a first try. (Water before filtration in inset.)



## Training for Staff

- KACDE Annual Conference
  - September 10-12, 2024 Country Inn & Suites, Elizabethtown, KY
  - Tour of Hinton's Orchard where they have installed numerous Best Management Practices.
  - Office administration
  - Cost Share
  - Grant opportunities
  - Conservation Education
  - Technical staff training provided by NRCS
  - Networking

# Pursuing Grants

- NACD Technical Assistance Grant
  - \$18 Million Available
  - Only available to Conservation Districts.
  - Awarded grant in 2021-2022 to fund additional staffing.
  - Grants are specifically for funding staff salaries.
  - Allows SWCD re-allocate funds used for staff salaries to expand programming.
- Section 319(h) Grant Program Funding
  - \$2.8 Million Available in Kentucky
  - Federal Funding from Clean Water Act to reduce nonpoint source pollution.
  - Working with Environment Scientist Chelsea Durbin with the Ky Div. of Conservation to put together a program and potential partnerships for Letter of Intent due in November.

# We're moving!

- The Conservation District is reducing its operating costs by moving into the Mazzoli Federal Building to again share offices with the NRCS at their invitation at no cost to the District.
  - The Jefferson County SWCD and local NRCS office have shared office space since the 1970's until 2023, due to Federal restructuring.
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# Thank you for your time!

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