

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Conservation District promotes and assists in the conservation of our natural resources by the following activities:

POSTER & ESSAY CONTESTS

The annual conservation poster and essay contests, sponsored by the Conservation District, and Kentucky Farm Bureau, were very popular with local students. The theme for this year’s contests was “Kentucky Wetlands Up Close” Winners included: **Art:** 1st-Wylie Jones, 2nd-Olivia Buchanan, 3rd-Addyson Cooke. **Essay:** Rae Turner.

COMMUNITY

After obtaining a grant from the Division of Waste management, in collaboration with Bracken Co. Solid Waste and Fiscal Court, BCCD held the 7th annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event in Aug. 2026. Began trash voucher program, offering free disposal of items not eligible for HHW or recycling.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Conservation District works closely with the county’s school districts to offer numerous school involvement activities.

Each year the Conservation District promotes Earth Day! Tree seedlings are distributed to all 4th grade students each spring. Earth Day T-shirts have been presented to all 3rd grade students to emphasize the importance of conservation of our natural resources. The program was also expanded to offer seedlings to the public.

Soil Stewardship theme: “Soil, Where it all Begins.” The theme encompassed types of soil, what soil is comprised of and soil layers. Before summer break the district teamed up with the FRYSC and Extension to host a Safety Day for 2nd-5th graders to promote safety at home over the summer covering a variety of areas: electricity, fire safety, lawn mower & ATV safety, household safety, stranger safety and first aid.



Over the summer students took field trips to local sites to learn more and get hands on experience with things that impacted and benefit from good soil and water health, outdoor survival skills, Animals, Kentucky History and Kentucky sports, like the Derby.



The district continued the popular Backyard Conservation Program. The purpose of this program is to help Bracken County homeowners and residents promote the wise use of our soil and water resources by establishing, enhancing, restoring and/or maintaining a backyard conservation project. Projects ranged from compost bins, rain barrels, and raised garden beds, to bee hives and pollinator gardens.

Each year, the district awards scholarships to graduating high schoolers or even college students in the county. With a preference for those who are majoring in agriculture related field, the district also accepts and awards scholarships to those with other career goals. This year’s scholarship recipients are: **Caleb Sutton, Ella Burton, Teegan Feldhaus, Makenzie Rudd, Bailey McDowell, Jessica Mains and Savannah Kelsch.**



WATER QUALITY & WATERSHEDS

The Conservation District has watershed maps available. Any landowner with 10 or more acres needs to have an Agricultural Water Quality Plan (AWQP) on file and reviewed/updated every three years or when changes on care of the land are made.

AWQP workbook can be found/completed at <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/AgWaterQualityPlan.aspx>

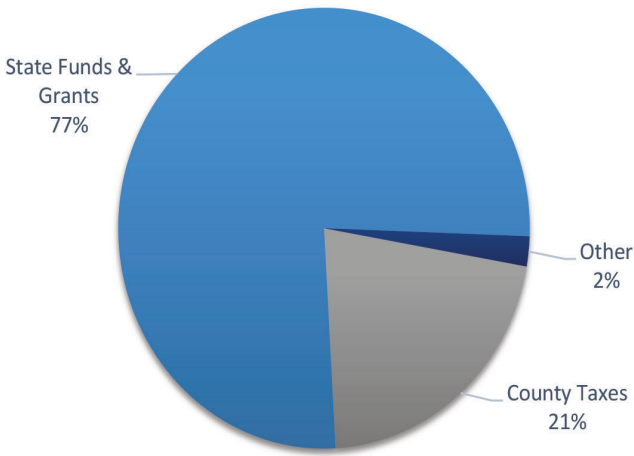


AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

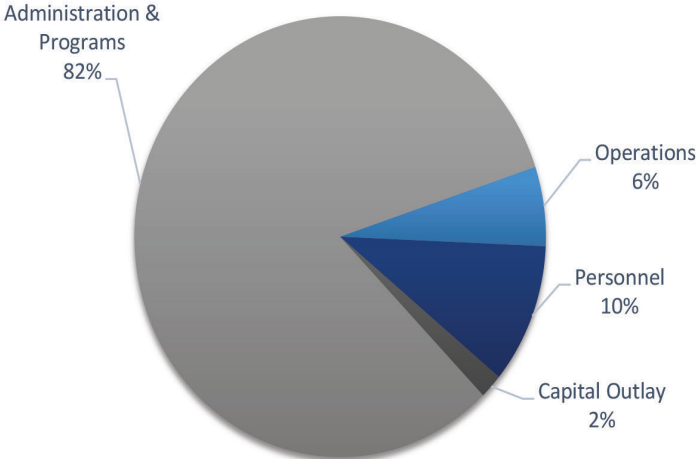
The Bracken County Conservation District has purchased two HayBuster Seeders. The district also has two in-line bale wrappers. These are available for rent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

FY 25-26 Funding Sources



FY 25-26 Expenditures



EROSION CONTROL

The Conservation District encourages farmers to use conservation practices to control erosion on cropland, hayland and pastureland. Such practices include minimum or no-till plantings, contouring, stripcropping and adequate livestock watering systems. This is done through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Offices by the news media, articles, field days and through farm planning.

STATE & AREA MEETINGS

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held in Harrison County. The State Meeting was held July 26-28, 2026 in Louisville, KY.

ATTENTION: FARMERS/LANDOWNERS Fallen Livestock Removal Program

Pickup by: **Countryside Ind.**
Cost-shared by: **Bracken Co. Conservation District**
(FOR ANIMALS LOCATED WITHIN BRACKEN COUNTY)

Until further notice, the Bracken County Conservation District will pay for 100% of the cost of a dead animal removal through contract with Countryside Ind. with a limit of 5 animals per year.

To Schedule A Pickup Call: (859) 421-1867

AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Call as soon as possible after death of animal
- Have animal on hard surface, free of any enclosures (will not go into pastures or lots)
- Give good directions to your farm
- Indicate type of animal to be picked up
- Provide phone number where you can be reached

All services and programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

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