



Local Work Group Meetings



Why NRCS cares about Local Work Groups (LWGs)

- Locally led conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities; that they understand local conditions best.
- Locally led conservation efforts are successful when there is an active Local Working Group made up of stakeholders in their communities.
- NRCS seeks to identify local resource priorities based on feedback from the LWG, as well as helping us target funding for Focused Conservation Projects and other Farm Bill programs.



What is an Local Work Group (LWG)?

- A group of diverse members who have a focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issues existing in the local community.
- The group is typically led by a local Soil and Water Conservation District and should meet at least annually.
- Local in Kentucky will be based on multi-County Work Units since program delivery for NRCS is based on them. Work Unit geographic areas are best suited to address the resource conservation needs that usually cross County lines.
- The goal is to provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs in each Local Work Group area.

Who should be included in the LWG? (Continued)

- Agricultural producers representing the variety of crops, livestock, and poultry raised within the local area; owners of nonindustrial private forest land;
- Individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the conservation and related technical concerns of historically underserved groups and individuals including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged and limited resource groups.

Who should be included in the LWG?

- Agricultural and environmental organizations; governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation programs and activities. Examples:
 - NRCS designated conservationist.
 - Members of conservation district boards.
 - Members of the county FSA committee.
 - FSA county executive director or designee.
 - Cooperative extension (board members or manager).
 - State or local elected or appointed officials.
 - Other Federal and State government representatives.
 - Representatives of American Indian and Alaskan Native governments.

When should LWGs meet?

- At least once each year at a time and place designated by the chairperson, unless otherwise agreed to by the members of the local working group.
- Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the chairperson.
- Meetings can be called by chairperson whenever there is business that should be brought before the local working group.



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How Should LWGs be conducted?



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- It is the responsibility of the conservation district to—
 - Develop the conservation needs assessment (440-CPM, Part 500, Subpart A).
 - Assemble the USDA local working group.
 - Set the agenda.
 - Conduct the USDA local working group meetings.
 - Transmit the USDA local working group's priority area and funding requests to the NRCS
- Local working group meetings are open to the public!
 - notification must be published in one or more newspapers, including recommended Tribal publications, to attain the appropriate circulation.
 - This public notice should be provided at least 14 calendar days (or longer if required by state law).
 - The public notice will include the time, place, and agenda items for the meeting.

*Getting conservation efforts OFF the ground
to get conservation ON the ground*

KY NRCS has set a goal to help facilitate
LWGs conducted across the state by
June 30, 2020. Please contact your local
Supervisory District Conservationist and
start planning!

