



Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

2023 General Assembly Session

Conservation District Quick Facts

- 121 Conservation Districts in Kentucky.
- 847 public elected officials dedicated to the natural resources of the Commonwealth.
- Every citizen in Kentucky lives within a Conservation District.
- Working at the "grassroots" level to establish conservation programs using federal, state, and local funding.

Changes for Appointment to Soil and Water Conservation Commission

We seek a change in the Kentucky Revised Statutes to the process in which nominations are made for supervisors to be appointed to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Changes to Equipment Revolving Loan Program

We seek a change in Kentucky Revised Statutes to allow contractors, in cooperation with local conservation districts, to obtain loans for heavy and specialized conservation equipment.



State Funding of PL-566 Watershed Structure Rehabilitation

Request clarification and legislative direction on distributing state appropriated funds to rehabilitate watershed conservancy high hazard dams.

Minimum Age Limit for Conservation District Supervisors

We seek a change in Kentucky Revised Statutes to establish a minimum age limit to be elected and serve on the conservation district board. An exemption has been included for any supervisors already in office who are under the established age limit.

For more information please visit our website:
WWW.KYConservation.com



Legislative Thank You and Program Update

Direct Aid for Conservation Districts

1996 to 2008:
\$1,150,000
General Fund Dollars

2008 to 2010:
\$1,000,000
General Fund Dollars

2011 to 2017:
\$975,000
General Fund Dollars

2018 to 2022:
\$907,300 - \$900,000
Tobacco Settlement Dollars

1. This money is appropriated to conservation districts to assist each of them in carrying out their statutory requirements and is distributed based the district's compliance with the oversight requirements of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (audit requirements, reports, scheduling, etc.).
2. Direct Aid funds match local and federal funds in hiring needed technical and administrative staff to assist the citizens in each county to address conservation and environmental issues. Districts currently have a 75% federal grant available for technical assistance if they can provide the matching 25%. We have the federal funds to hire up to 50 technicians statewide but at this time only have hired 36 due to lack of district funding.
3. This money helps districts maintain office space in each county, especially those who no longer have a NRCS office in their county.
4. This allows districts to provide additional financial assistance to landowners to address conservation concerns and address other environmental concerns in their communities. (Fallen Animal Pickup, Metal Recycling, etc.)
5. This money rolls over several times in the local communities.
6. 62 conservation districts are administering CAIP Programs in cooperation with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Office of Ag Policy is assisting more districts to help administer the program.
7. These funds help pay for required audits for conservation districts

Kentucky Soil Erosion & Water Quality State Cost Share Program

1. These funds are used to carry out practices to keep producers in compliance with their Ag Water Quality Plans. To reduce soil erosion, decrease nutrient runoff, and to make our streams cleaner. This affects everyone in the state.
2. They also provide financial assistance to landowners under the "Bad Actor Clause" of the Ag Water Quality Act to carry-out corrective measures to keep them in compliance with the Act.
3. Clean water is essential for today's farmers to supply food resources for future increasing populations.
4. This money is rolled over several times in the conservation district's local community benefitting local contractors, seed and fertilizer suppliers, and supply providers are used to carry out these practices.
5. FY 2021: Approved 592 individuals. FY 2022: Approved 387 individuals.

1995:
(Start of Program)
\$650,000
Restricted Fund Dollars From KDA

1996:
\$ 1,150,000
**Restricted & General
Fund Dollars**

1997 to 2002:
\$11,150,000
**Restricted, General & Tobacco
Settlement Dollars**

2003 to 2008:
\$9,550,000
**Federal, Restricted & Tobacco
Settlement Dollars**

2009 to 2022:
Gradually Dropped To
\$2,500,000
Tobacco Settlement Dollars