



# Kentucky Division of Conservation

District Employees and  
Federal Grants Funds



## Agricultural Conservation Technicians (50/50 Employees)

- Program began in 2004
- Administered by the Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kentucky Division of Conservation through Kentucky's Conservation Districts
- Enables districts to obtain additional federal funding to hire technical personnel to carryout the workload, in relation to the Farm Bill, with conservation planning, design, layout, installation and inspection of approved practices



## Agricultural Conservation Technicians (50/50 Employees) Cont'd

- These positions are 50% federally funded and the other 50% comes from state and/or local funds
- These positions are employees of the local conservation district.
- The range in salary is \$21,000.00-\$29,000
- The conservation district advertises the position and takes the applications, next they review and select their top candidates and send them to the Division of Conservation for ranking.



## Agricultural Conservation Technicians (50/50 Employees) Cont'd

- The candidates are ranked according to education and experience, this establishes the base salary to be offered to the applicant.
- The ranking is sent back to the district in order for them to set up interviews, the Field Representative from the area and the District Conservationist are asked to participate in the interviews.
- Once a candidate has been appointed the Division of Conservation sends the federal 50% of the salary/benefit package to the district.



## Agricultural Conservation Technicians (50/50 Employees) Cont'd

- The 50/50 employee is required to report accomplishments and progress to the district and NRCS and the district will conduct an evaluation after the first 6 months to determine satisfactory performance and continuation of the position.
- An annual evaluation will be performed each year after this.
- This has been a very successful program for the last seven years and Kentucky currently has 18 Ag.Con. Tech. positions.



## Emergency Watershed Protection: Construction Inspectors

- The Division of Conservation entered into this agreement with Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service in September 2010.
- This EWP agreement gave DOC the opportunity to capture federal funds through local conservation districts by delivering a service back to NRCS.
- The EWP Inspectors were already technical employees of the districts and take on these projects in addition to their regular work schedule.



## Emergency Watershed Protection: Construction Inspectors - Cont'd

- These funds are used to assist with planning, design, implementation and inspection of NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) recovery projects
- EWP workload requirements include:
  - Site inspection of recovery activities
  - Practice layout
  - Record construction activities in a job diary
  - Develop final report for each completed EWP project



## Emergency Watershed Protection: Construction Inspectors - Cont'd

- These projects have to be completed within a certain timeframe, some, known as exigent projects, only have a 10 day window
- The Inspector is responsible for tracking their hours on the jobsite
- The hours are turned into the Division of Conservation and the conservation district is then reimbursed for the hours – the EWP pay is a set hourly rate





## Emergency Watershed Protection: Construction Inspectors - Cont'd

- The Inspector is reimbursed for travel to the site as well if they do not have access to a federal vehicle
- This opportunity to participate in the EWP inspection process has allowed our district technical personnel to gain knowledge of the inspection process which makes them even more of an asset to the district and the landowners that it serves.



## Emergency Watershed Protection: Construction Inspectors - Cont'd

- Kentucky has utilized 11 district employees for EWP work and completed 20 jobs in 11 counties.
- We have expended \$25,650.34 of the EWP grant monies by the end of June 2011.



# Kentucky Division of Conservation

For additional information:

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