



Fayette County Conservation District

Annual Report

2025

Prepared for :
Fayette County

Prepared by :
Heather Silvanik

www.kyfccd.org



Overview of Operations



Vision

Empowering urban and rural communities via cost-share programs and educational outreach. Addressing participation barriers, resource concerns, and ensuring public transparency in operations while responsibly managing taxpayer funds.

Mission

Our mission at the Fayette County Conservation District is to sustain our local ecology in both urban and rural environments, including but not limited to the conservation, development, maintenance, and use of the land, water, trees, and other natural resources.



Message from our Director



Heather Silvanik

In FY 2025, the Fayette County Conservation District (FCCD) leaned into the demand for program support and guidance. We added a fall installment of the Backyard Conservation Program, offered a class for Precision Agriculture, began funding organic matter testing for our Soil Voucher Program, and reached unprecedented support for the urban environment while remaining a steadfast resource for the agricultural sector.

We have noticed a significant increase in applicants investing more than our programs require for the maximum reimbursement, demonstrating a project-oriented approach to making land enhancements and taking measures to preserve.

Approved projects are also being completed at the highest rate we've seen since the launch of our local cost-share initiatives, allowing us to enhance programs based on the recorded outcomes.

Average Cost-Share Rate

33%

Total Economic Impact

1.2M

Completed Project Applications

89%



Revenue

Millage and Delinquent Tax

.001% of Fayette County property taxes ad valorem.

58%

3%

Other Revenue

Revenue from renting FCCD-owned farm equipment, donations, and earned interest.

39%

Intergovernmental Revenues

Tobacco Settlement funding from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and Division of Conservation.



LFUCG Millage Tax

\$362,682.72

Intergovernmental Revenues

\$237,237.05

Equipment Rental Revenue

\$10,748.90

Other Revenue

\$5,252.29



Expense Breakdown

Cost-Share Programs

Administered to Lexington residents for conservation projects.

58%

11%

Education and Outreach

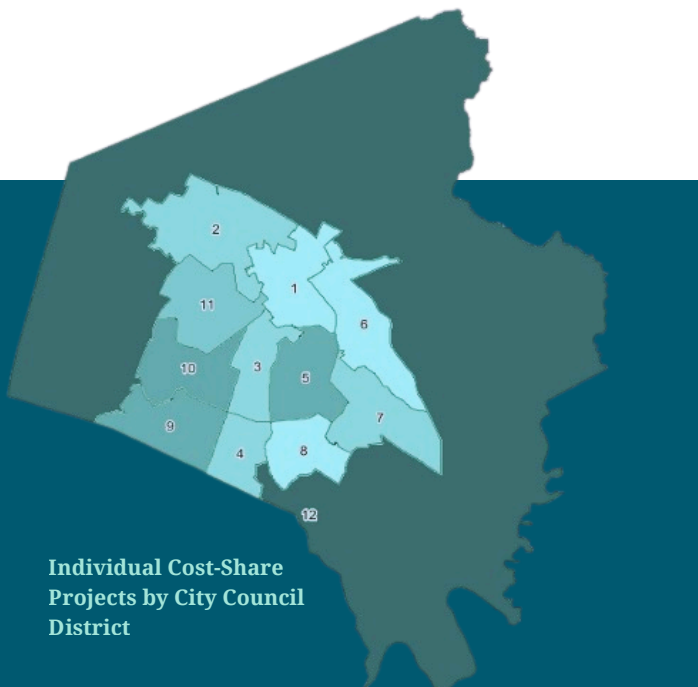
Funds administered to Lexington residents for scholarships and educational projects.

31%

Personnel and Operating Costs

Salaries, professional services, supplies, and utility costs.

69% of FCCD's revenue was distributed directly to taxpayers.



Cost-Share	\$345,789.05
Operations	\$195,648.05
Education	\$69,146.25



Agricultural Impact



Heavy Use Area
\$14,817.41



Soil Sample Vouches
\$4,361



Cover Crop
\$24,971.80



Dead Animal Removal
\$11,330

714 acres of cover crop planted

795 soil samples analyzed

7.2K square feet of heavy use area installed

89 dead livestock properly disposed



County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)

63 Agricultural producers completed 89 diversification projects in 12 different investment categories, spending **\$934,797.89** and receiving \$227,894.89, all thanks to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.





Urban Impact



Backyard Conservation Program

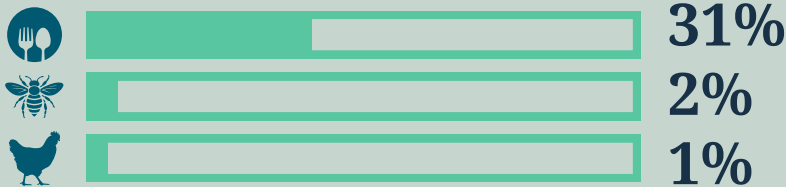
\$47,423.95

288 individuals participated in the Backyard Conservation Program and completed 627 individual projects that cost a total of **\$132,390.09**.

- 178 Raised beds installed
- 161 Soil amendments applied
- 93 Pollinator gardens planted
- 62 Native trees or shrubs planted
- 32 Rain barrels installed
- 32 Rain gardens planted
- 24 Composters established
- 16 Lawns diversified
- 15 Wildlife habitats established
- 6 Container gardens planted
- 5 Greenhouses constructed
- 3 Permeable areas established

212 Food Production Projects

31% of all Backyard Conservation Projects were related to food production, including 13 apiaries augmented and 10 poultry operations being added or enhanced.



55% of soil samples were analyzed in urban areas



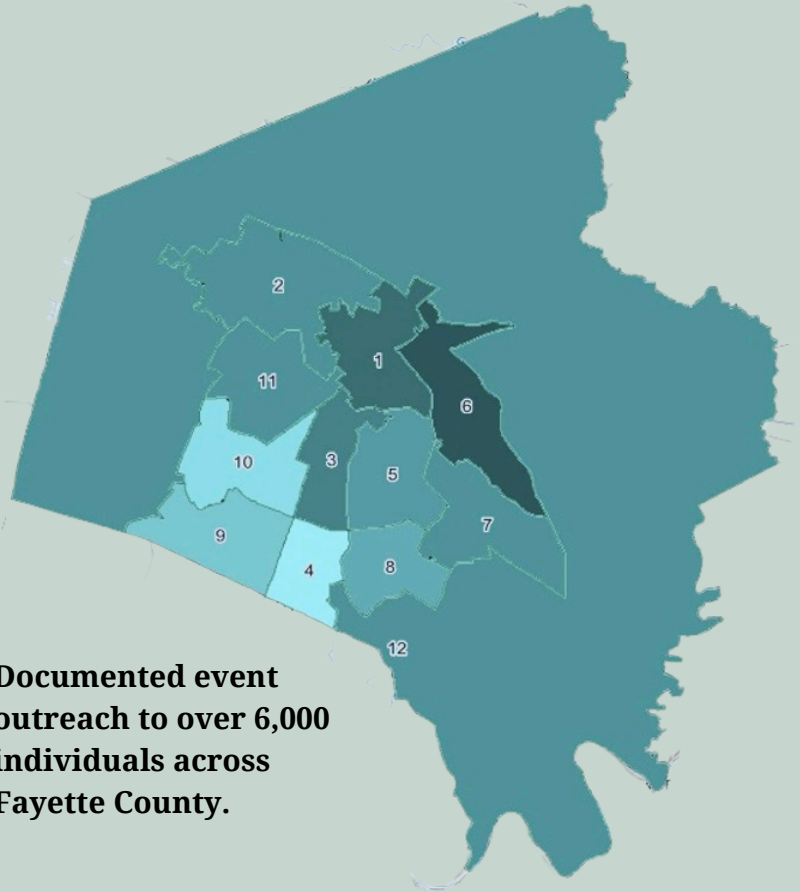
Education & Outreach



Fayette County students competing in the Kentucky Envirothon State Competition.



Documented event outreach to over 6,000 individuals across Fayette County.



Conservation and Education Grant

\$36,455 was awarded to 21 applications based on a ranking criterion that prioritized new applicants.



Seasonal Scholarship Program

\$12,500 was awarded to 10 students who are permanent residents of Fayette County based on a conservation essay graded by a scoring rubric.



Jim Claypool Art & Writing Contest

\$1,000 awarded to the top three winners in both the art and essay contests and the teachers of the winning students.



Employee Spotlight

Sarah Ward

Assistant Director

Sarah is an ecologist and Master Naturalist who works with producers, educators, and students to promote FCCD programs and provide technical guidance. She serves on all board subcommittees and the Greenspace Trust.

80

Tabling and
Education Events

5K

Individuals
Reached



FCCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Perry Gibson



Allen Carter



BJ Bentley



Aaron Clark



Jeremy Faulk



Mark Coyne



Ellen Harding



Community Partnerships



Locust Trace AgriScience Center

\$3,000

Junior Conservation Board



Seedleaf

\$3,000

Bluegrass Urban Farm Friends (BUFF)



Bluegrass Greensource

\$3,000

Creek Days



Geomancer Permaculture

\$3,000

Kilrush Food Forest



GreeneLanding Farm

\$2,000

Youth Summer Camp



Trees Lexington!

\$3,000

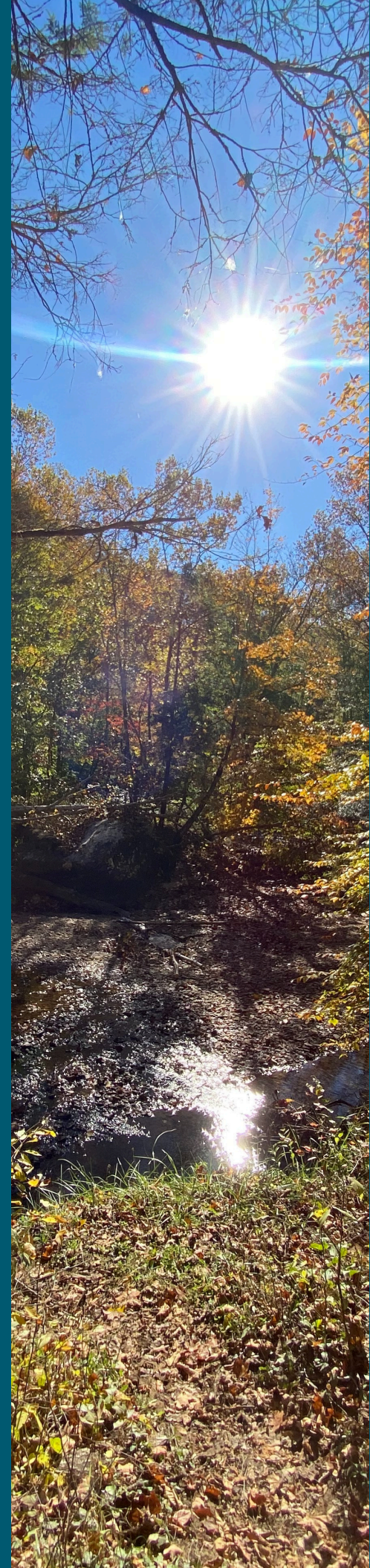
Spring Tree Giveaway



Graves Repair Service

\$1,000

Farm Equipment Rental Program





Looking Ahead

Plans

FCCD is committed to ongoing objectives aimed at enhancing public relations, broadening outreach efforts, and refining programs. All these initiatives share a common aim: to boost Fayette County Soil & Water Supervisor election awareness, preserve natural areas, and promote education in environmental and agricultural fields.

Agroforestry

In FY 2026, FCCD plans to highlight the local need for financial and technical support in agroforestry, request federal funding assistance, and establish a network for local farmers to share best practices and innovations in agroforestry.



View our FY 2026 Plan of Work



Contact Us



THANK YOU!

FCCD provides comprehensive cost-share and educational initiatives tailored for the residents, businesses, and educational establishments within Lexington. We invite you to request our participation at your event, where we can offer tabling, deliver insightful presentations, and conduct in-depth site visits.

For assistance with USDA farm registration, detailed program and technical guidance, or strategic planning support, we encourage you to reach out to our dedicated staff to arrange a personalized consultation.

View Our Programs



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