



KENTUCKY SHINES!!

APRIL 2009

This is a great way to get to know your co-workers and what is happening in our sister counties.

Who's in the "Limelight"!

Linda Smith - Allen County Conservation District



Good morning!

I believe I have met most of you by now or at least we've had an acquaintance. I am the Immediate Past President of KACDE and currently serve as Treasurer for the NCDEA. I have been employed by the Allen County Conservation District since 1993. I enjoy working with the farmers in our community and helping to improve our land and resources for future generations.

Prior to my employment with the District, I was a bookkeeper for sixty-four Dollar General stores and at the same time was also an employee of Winn Dixie for 8 ½ years; serving as Head Cashier for about 6 ½ of those years.

I became familiar with hard work as a child. As a young girl, I worked in a family-owned, country store and worked on a farm. I have done everything there is to do with tobacco. In my day, we drew tobacco plants and used hand setters. We were lucky to finally get to ride a setter! I have hand suckered tobacco, topped it, hoed it, cut, spiked, hauled, and hung it in the tiers, stripped, booked and taken it to market. I've cut hay and raked it; and then got the itchy job of hauling it in! I have picked corn, disked fields, mowed pasture fields, built barns and almost everything that goes with farming. We raised beef cattle, pigs and chickens. We slaughtered our own beef, pork and poultry and raised a large garden.

My mother passed away when I was four years old. I am the oldest child of four. My father had a stroke when I was eight and also died. The four of us were separated, two oldest together and the two youngest together. We were put in two foster homes in our county. We were the first foster children in this area. So much for history!

We eventually ended up in three foster homes. The first one, I learned the true meaning of family love and the second was an Aunt who took us out of obligation. When she took ill, we returned to our first foster home until our foster father also took ill. We were then placed in another home in the county. This one was not so pleasant. I believe we can take hardships and become a better, stronger person or choose to be defeated and go the wrong way. I chose the first option and wanted to make sure my family did not endure what I had.

I was married for 33 years and we divorced a couple years ago – sometimes good people grow apart. I have two wonderful daughters and a perfect grandson. Julie, my oldest, is preparing for a wedding this year. I am so excited for her. I think she has found a wonderful mate and I hope they are happy forever. Lorie, my youngest child, lives in Elkton, KY. I miss seeing her smiling face each day but I know she is only a phone call away. Nicholas is my one and only grandson. As most grandmothers would say, I think he is perfect in everyway!

He loves to come over on weekends for our weekly routine of Diet Coke, Cheetos, chocolate and Sponge Bob.....Julie, his mom, isn't as thrilled about it as he is – OLO!

About 17 months ago, I purchased a house, built in 1949, located on one of the main streets in town. It has been a full time job remodeling and making it a home. A plus is that it is so convenient in bad weather to get to work and easy access to the grocery store. I do miss my flowers and the privacy of the country. I hope to set roots and plant flowers at this place soon. Home is where your loved ones are and I hope mine continue to visit for many years to come. If you are ever in Allen County, please stop by for a visit!

Awards Committee Chairperson Notes: Linda is a KACDE member, dedicated to her job and KACDE. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty numerous times. Great to have you on the team and keep up the good work!

Vickie Hart - Whitley County Conservation District



"Vickie is a very hard-working, multi-talented person. As Administrative Secretary of the Whitley County Conservation District, she handles all administrative aspects of the District. She has been working here for 9 years and previously worked for approximately the same amount of time (or longer) as FSA's temporary program administrator.

She has been married for 5 years to Johnny Hart and they live in Corbin. They are proud parents to an adorable 4 month old Maltese puppy named Casper.

She graduated from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville with a bachelor's degree in Communications and a minor in Psychology. Yes, she is a VOL fan, but still has a soft spot for Wildcat basketball.

She has many interests and hobbies. She loves to read, scrapbook, go four-wheeling in the Daniel Boone National Forest on a Suzuki Samurai, cruise Laurel Lake on their pontoon boat, and enjoys watching racing (mostly because of Carl Edwards and Tony Stewart). She also enjoys anything to do with history, whether it is watching documentaries and movies, reading books, or visiting museums and historical places.

Her favorite thing to do is to watch scary movies and eat popcorn. She spends most of her free time spoiling her niece and nephews completely rotten. She is the type of person that anyone would be very lucky to call her friend, because she is one of the most loyal and compassionate people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I count her as a blessing in my life.

Submitted by Katrenia Caddell, District Technician

Awards Committee Chairperson Notes: Vickie is a KACDE member and working hard at her job. Great to have you on the team and keep up the good work!



KACDE TEAMWORK MAKES EVERYONE A "SHINING" STAR

Wanda J. Gilbert – Awards Committee Chairperson