



KENTUCKY SHINES !!!!!!!!

Awards Committee Chairperson Notes – This is our third issue of the newsletter. 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"! May 2007



Linda Lake was awarded the State Administrator of the Year by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at the Governor's Summit on Agriculture held in Louisville on March 15, 2007.

Linda enjoys her work very much and the high-light was in March 2001 when the district was recognized at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. as one of the seven outstanding conservation districts in the nation in 2000. She has lived on a farm all of her life and is an avid UK Basketball fan. She has two nieces and three great nieces. Church activities are the most important part of her life. Linda has been the Adm. Sec. of the Mercer County Conservation District since June 1997. The district has provided cost-share programs to local farmers since the beginning of the Agricultural Development Fund with Linda serving as administrator for the programs. The Forage Improvement Program has provided \$512,375.50 to landowners, and the district was able to purchase a No-till Drill and a 200 gallon sprayer to rent to farmers in the county at a 50% cost-share. The Hay Storage Program has been administered by the district since 2003 with \$222,500.00 being provided through Phase I funds. Seventy-one hay storage facilities have been completed to date.

Linda knows the award wouldn't have been possible without the support of seven wonderful supervisors: Chairman- Garland Yankey, Vice-Chairman – Tony Best, Treasurer - Gayle Horn, Dale Heise, Tom Moore, Bill Royalty, and Jim Wheeler.

The conservation district strives to provide programs that are worthwhile to local farmers. The district has four no-till drills to rent to Mercer County landowners, and three 200 gallon sprayers which are FREE for thistle spraying and roundup burndown. Seventy-five hundred tree seedlings are given out to the public during the last week of March each year. Wildlife food plot mix is given to the public the first week of May. FREE soil testing is co-sponsored with the extension service during the entire year.

Educational programs include the Courier-Journal Art & Writing Contest with nearly 1800 students participating each year. Earth Day activities are scheduled for the second week in May for all 5th graders. Five students are sponsored to Earl Wallace Conservation Camp. A \$750.00 four-year renewable scholarship is given to a high school senior majoring in agriculture or natural resources. Soil Stewardship materials are given to local churches, libraries, and schools. The district also co-sponsors Agricultural Field Day, and Ag/City Breakfast.

Awards Committee Chairperson's Comment:

Linda is the Mercer County Conservation District Secretary in Area 6. Your dedication and hard work is appreciated. Proud to have you on the KACDE team!



Jessica and Derek Cornett

**District Operations Manager for the
Fayette County Conservation District.**

Farm girl at heart. That is who I am and what I was raised up to be while growing up on my family farm in rural Laurel County in Southeast Kentucky. I took the lessons I learned growing up and applied them even today as District Operations Manager with the Fayette County Conservation District. Two of the highest agricultural related awards that I won in high school were the Ron Adkins Agricultural Leadership Award given to the top Ag student over the four years, and the American Farmer FFA Degree. I also served as Regional Secretary for 4-H and Regional Vice-President for FFA. I received my degree in Business Administration with emphasis in management and marketing from Berea College in 2002. Afterwards, I took the daunting task of moving to the big city of Lexington.

In 2003, I started with the District and could not come to a better workplace that fellow employees made you feel like you were home. Among my regular duties with the District, I became a program administrator for the Forage Improvement, Diversification, On Farm Water Enhancement, and Equipment Rental Programs through Phase 1 funding. I also used my creative thinking with establishing and maintaining our website as well as our newsletter. I was also provided environmental education lessons to Fayette County's youth until we had funding for an educator. That experience is something I will never forget as I learned things from the kids and they learned things from me. I can remember the excitement in their eyes as I told them about growing up on a farm, or perhaps that a Reese Cup can be traced back to soil. As being a member of KACDE, I served as Area 6 Representative and Secretary for a few years. In 2005, I was surprised when I received the District Employee of the Year for Kentucky and the Southeast. The trip to NACD was an adventure as it was the first time I had flown on a commercial flight. You might also see my work as I maintain the KACDE website and assist Districts with their website. If you have an official KACDE Cookbook, that cover artwork is actually the wallpaper border in my kitchen and there is a photo of my grandpa inside.

After living in the city for four years, my husband of two years, Derek, and I packed our stuff and moved to Versailles. We honeymooned in Nashville. During that trip, we went to the Grand Ole Opry where I stood in infamous circle on stage and sang "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and "Amazing Grace." (Ok, it was with a small group, but sang my heart out like there were thousands!) In my free time (what's that?), I have a love of photography, along with working with my flowers, eating good BBQ, studying Appalachian & music history, and going to concerts. You can check out some of my recent photo works at www.kyphotography.com. My flowers are something I love to show off as my work in the garden is never done. As most already know, my favorite person to go see in concert is Josh Turner (we've seen him over 15 times now I think). In our office at the house, we have a "Country Music Hall of Fame" (as Derek's aunt calls it) with over 100 photos, autographs, & memorabilia.

Farming will always be a tradition in my family as it has been in the past. You won't meet a finer person in this world than a true American farmer. It is now rewarding to help farmers with their conservation ideas to maintain the farm for future generations.

Awards Committee Chairperson's Comment:

Jessica is the Fayette County Conservation District Operations Manager in Area 6. She is also a KACDE Member and Website Editor. She is dedicated and always ready to help.