



# KENTUCKY SHINES!!!

**Award Chair note: Welcome to the “Limelight.” Meet your fellow employees!**

## Who’s in the Limelight in Kentucky?

### Laura Grimes – LaRue County Conservation District



My name is Laura Grimes and I have been employed by the LaRue County Conservation District for 10 years. I also served as the treasurer for the KACDE from 1999 to 2007.

I am married to Chris Grimes and we reside in Buffalo, Kentucky. We have 2 teenagers, Christopher (19) and Chelsey (17) with number 3 due in just a few weeks. Chris and I own and operate a 138 acre farm with row crops and livestock. I moved from the city of Louisville to rural LaRue County in 1977 and never went back. I prefer working hard on a farm rather than living in the crowded city. I love working with animals and that is what drew me to the farm. We have cattle, horses, dogs and a cat on our farm. It’s very rewarding to go from “start to finish” with an animal that you raise and train; I only wish I had more time to do it. My teenagers grew up raising and showing American Saddlebred horses and raising and training quarter horses. This requires hours of training and it kept them off the couch playing video games!

I love working with the landowners of LaRue County and especially being able to help them reach their conservation goals on the farm. The LaRue County Conservation District is very active with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Last year, we assisted 14 landowners on 1026 acres that were approved for \$65,539 in funding to install conservation practices that addressed local resource concerns. We were also able to help an additional 17 landowners through the Division of Conservation’s State Cost Share

Program with \$86,267 in funding on 1449 acres affecting 5670 animal units to improve water quality and decrease soil erosion.

The district worked with approximately 730 students on the importance of conserving our natural resources with an emphasis on soils, but also discussed the importance of water quality, wildlife and tree planting. We give away 1500 trees each year in celebration of earth day to local schools, head start program, kid's crew and our local agriculture expo. We display at the Expo promoting the services and programs offered through the district office. The district also owns 2 water testing kits and an Enviroscape Model that are used in the local schools.

The district (with me writing the grant and administering the program) provided a Forage Improvement Program that had 135 applicants and funded \$128,148 for forage improvements. The district is planning another program this year and has secured \$48,300 in funding.

With funding from the Department of Agriculture, we administer the Dead Animal Pick-Up Program in LaRue County. The district owns 2 no-till drills that were purchased with Ag Development Funds. These drills are available for rent by local landowners who cannot afford to purchase the equipment.

Because we do not have any local vendors who sell products such as geotextile and erosion control blankets; the district decided several years ago to stock and sell these items as a service to local landowners to use in the installation of conservation practices.

All of this would not be possible without the support of the board of supervisors in LaRue County, the Division of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and our local Fiscal Court.

**Award's Chair Note: Laura is a great asset to the KACDE family. She goes above and beyond the call of duty. Only a phone call away.**

## Linda Russell – Taylor County Conservation District



Isaac and Rebekah's Wedding Day, January 1, 2005  
Linda, Isaac and Rebekah, my Dad and Mom – Stanley  
and Henrietta Oakes. Steve (my husband)

Hi! I'm Linda Russell and I have been the Administrative Secretary for the Taylor County Conservation District for 15 years. I have learned so much about conservation of our natural resources and farming since my employment with the Conservation District. I have a new respect for anyone that makes their living off the land. I grew up in a subdivision of Campbellsville, just a mile from town, which we called "the country." I always considered myself a "country girl" however, it didn't take long for me to realize I wasn't a real country girl!

I am married to Steve and we just celebrated our 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in August. We live on 18 acres in southern Taylor County. We have a wonderful son Isaac and he is married to Rebekah. They live in Bowling Green where they are seniors at Western Kentucky University. Isaac has been on the President's List and Beka on the Dean's List since beginning college. So you "*know*" when we eventually have grandchildren THEY WILL BE GENIUS'!

I love spending time with my family and feel so blessed. I still have the pleasure of enjoying my Mom and Dad. They will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 17<sup>th</sup> ~ what a milestone! I have one brother who is four years younger than me. I am a member of Campbellsville Baptist Church and *thrive* on Bible study classes offered there. My true joy comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!

Friendships are essential to me. A night out with my girlfriends is always a fun time and a great stress reliever! Meeting new people and talking with them is one of my favorite pastimes. I adore chocolate and I love shopping and dancing! I love to cook and try new recipes and my newest toy is my Professional Kitchen-Aid mixer that my family got me for Christmas! I collect cookbooks, items with acorns on them (my maiden name is *Oakes...acorn...oak tree*) teacups and memories! I enjoy many crafts:

making baskets, cross stitching, reading, photography and scrapbooking. Karen Kingsbury and Beth Moore are two of my favorite authors.

I have been employed at many places since graduating high school. I was a salesclerk in a local clothing store, a cashier at Kroger's, a turn shirt operator at Union Underwear (which later became Fruit of the Loom). I have owned my own business which was a tanning salon; where we also sold beauty supplies and lingerie. I was a telephone operator for General Telephone Company for 8 years and worked in Taylor, Pulaski, and Hardin counties. I worked a cord-board just like the one in Lily Tomlin's comedy spoofs! Those are some of the jobs I have held, but the ones nearest my heart are being a wife and a Mother. When I was in the fourth grade, I wrote in my School Days Memory Book that I wanted to be a wife and a Mom when I grew up.

I currently serve on the KACD Conservation Education and Youth Committee and I am the Secretary of KACDE. I have also served as KACDE Treasurer and Area 7 Representative. I believe one of the keys to success is networking and sharing our ideas and projects. We can learn so much from each other about computer tips, educational activities and office organization to name a few!

I genuinely enjoy my job because each day is different. From keeping books, to giving presentations to civic groups, to "*Painting with Soil*" with school children, my mind is always kept alert! We as Conservation District employees, have great potential to impact so many aspects of our communities where we live. Each day brings a new opportunity to learn and grow and SHINE!

**Award's Chair Note: Linda is a great asset to the KACDE family. She goes above and beyond the call of duty. Always willing to lend a hand.**

*Start each day with a smile and end it with laughter!*

*Wanda Gilbert*



9/07