



# Unique District Cost Share Programs and Services



# Conservation Districts in Kentucky



## Challenges

- Districts BIG and SMALL have a need for better public relations
- Need for programs that touch more of the general population
- More Focus on the urban sector
- Lack of uniform funding across the state
- Need for smaller programs to reach larger numbers

# Mercer County Tree Rebate Program

*496 Mercer County landowners  
\$24,642.68 since 2013*

## BENEFITS

- Work with LOCAL businesses and nurseries that sell trees (Walmart and Lowes are not included)
- Reach more of the urban sector
- Must have proof of residence in Mercer County
- Purchase a native hardwood – receive a rebate for 50% up to \$50
- Program runs in months that have an “R” for suitable planting

- Great exposure through advertising
- Planting trees for the environment
- More of the non-traditional customers through the door
- Opportunities to connect with local people, advertise other programs and give out some conservation information



# Jefferson County High Tunnel Program

- Louisville is the largest City in Kentucky with a population of over 750,000 with many poverty level and underserved neighborhoods
- Established Food Deserts within the city
- The Conservation District obtained grants from Humana and NACD and worked with NRCS through the EQIP program
- Worked with churches, neighborhoods & community centers to establish High Tunnel structures
- Applicants paid 7% of the cost of installation of the structure



# High Tunnel = Healthy Food

## RESULTS

- 25 High Tunnel Structures were built within city limits in food desert neighborhoods and 9 by gardeners that donated all produce.
- Worked with 9 non-profit partners with intent to serve those in need.
- 2329 pounds of produce was harvested and served in a 2 year period

## POSITIVE Public Relations

Assisted with the Mayors Healthy Food Initiative

Developed a wealth of new contacts

Inspired Huge growth in Urban Education

Hosted local meetings and seminars to promote the project

Formed better relationships with local government





# Hardin County Teacher Grants

## Results

60 teachers in Hardin County have been certified through the workshop

Developed new relationships and contacts within the schools

Teachers are better educated about Agriculture in their community and feel more comfortable teaching about related topics in their classrooms

- Most teachers in Kentucky are required to obtain 24 hours of professional development throughout the year
- Conservation District works with many schools throughout the year and saw the need for agriculture and conservation education
- District personnel had previously been certified through Food Land and People and Water Education for Teachers
- Offered 20 teachers per year the opportunity to have free agriculture/conservation based professional development
- Hosted a training workshop for teachers in the county and paid the cost for all materials
- The second day was spent on a local farm



**Goal:**

- Boost pollinator habitat
- Establish bee hives every 6 miles across the county
- Community Awareness
- Education about pollinators



***is for Bullitt County***

**Partners:**

- Farm Bureau
- School System
- Highway Department
- Fiscal Court
- Library
- Private landowners

**Activities**

- Landowners volunteer to have hives placed on their property and agree to plant pollinator habitat
- District partners construct hives and care for them for one year and sell the proceeds to purchase more hives
- State Highway department is partnering and will plant pollinator gardens on state “right of ways” in the county and have agreed to place hives in those locations.
- FFA packages the pollinator seed.

*This project is in it's 1<sup>st</sup> year  
and all began and continues with  
**VOLUNTEERS!!!***





## Results

### **Bee is For Bullitt Activity Day at the library**

- Hive box art contest with local high schools
- Hive box painting
- Beekeeper story telling
- Live beekeeping demo
- Honey tasting
- Face painting, coloring & activities

### **14 School Presentations**

All honey harvested in the first year can be purchased by the landowner or is sold by the Bee is for Bullitt organization. All proceeds go back to the purchase of hives and supplies.

***Over 100 Hives installed by local landowners***





# Warren County Landowner Programs & Cost Share



- Must be a resident of the county
- Pollinator Habitat – Seed provided for honeybees or butterfly garden
- Cover Crops – 50/50 up to \$3000
- Erosion Control – 50/50 up to \$1000 for Geotextile Rock and Fabric



# Warren County Urban Services



**Senior Living Workshop**



**Rain Barrel Workshops**



**Free Soil Testing**





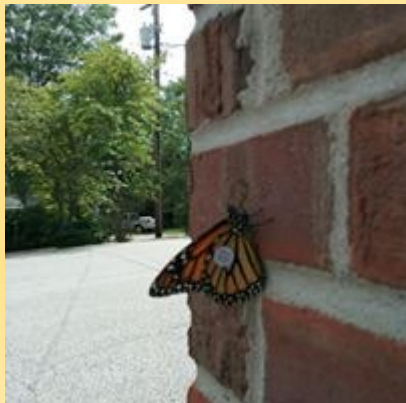
# Oldham County Pollinator and Monarch Program



- District Staff Collects Monarch eggs on local farms each summer
- Pollinator presentation at local schools in which they take eggs and caterpillars to the classrooms
- Host a “Monarch Egg Hunt” on a local farm
- Assists community entities and landowners that want to plant milkweed beds



# Oldham County Monarch Program



## RESULTS

- Unbelievable public interest with 100's attending the egg hunt and local workshops
- District staff collects over 200 eggs and caterpillars to share each year
- Presents monarch program to 12 local schools and approximately 1000 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders
- Works with Monarch Watch organization to obtain tags