

Environmental & Natural Resource Issues

Newsletter of ENRI Task Force
University of Kentucky • College of Agriculture

Spring 2006



Earth Day Kentucky 2006 – What can you do?

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year, and for the past few years the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet has sponsored Earth Day activities in Kentucky. This year's theme is "What can you do?" and begs the question of what each of us can do to improve the quality of our environment.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on March 21, 1970, in San Francisco, CA. In a resolution submitted to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, John McConnell noted that the observance of Earth Day would alert concern and interest for our planet.

By visiting www.earthday.ky.gov, you will find a list of things we all can do to help out the environment and details that will help you get started. Here are a few examples:

- Recycle old electronics to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- Use fewer lawn chemicals this summer for a "greener" lawn and garden
- Walk or bike to work, school, or other events
- Buy Kentucky grown and produced products
- Improve your home's energy efficiency
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood and don't litter
- Find local recycling facilities; buy items with recyclable packaging
- Celebrate Kentucky's water resources by participating in Kentucky Water Awareness Month in May (<http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/KWAM2006.htm>)

Upcoming Events

May is Kentucky Water Awareness Month

The Kentucky Water Awareness Month Committee, established through the Environmental and Natural Resource Issues (ENRI) Task Force, is pleased to provide educational materials designed to promote the month of May as “**Kentucky Water Awareness Month.**”

This year’s collection of materials includes watershed activities and water camp materials for youth, information about water and your body, septic system guides in English and Spanish, and much more. The materials include a mix of fact sheets, teaching guides, publications and media articles.

All materials are available on the ENRI website at the following link:
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/KWAM2006.htm>.

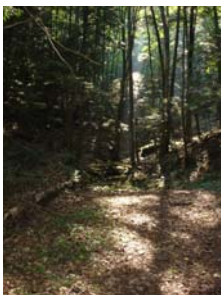


Kentucky Forest Leadership Program, June 5-9, 2006



If you know a high school student entering into the junior or senior year, consider encouraging them to be part of the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program. For more than 50 years students have attended this week-long event dedicated to exploring the many facets of forestry and natural resources. The week is full of hands-on learning about forestry and natural resource management while developing leadership skills. For more information and to receive application materials, contact Doug McLaren at 859-257-2703 or dmclaren@uky.edu. Application materials are also available online at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forestry/kflp/kflp.htm>. Applications are due by May 19, 2006.

Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Conference



Mark your calendar for the KAEE Annual Conference Friday and Saturday, September 8 & 9, 2006. This is a special event, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education. The conference will be centered at the Radisson Hotel on 5th Street in Covington, just a few blocks from the Ohio River. Conference details are available at www.kaee.org.

Three strands for conference workshops and sessions are being developed around the theme, 30 Years of Excellence in Environmental Education: *Environmental Education in Practice*; *Environmental Literacy*; and *Journey into EE*.

Plan to attend all day on Friday for special workshops, both on-site and off-site, to hone your skills and increase your knowledge. Friday evening will be topped off with the KAEE birthday bash. Saturday will feature speakers, concurrent sessions, and the KAEE Excellence in Environmental Education awards luncheon. You can help honor those who have brought excellence to the field of Environmental Education by nominating them for a KAEE Excellence in EE award. Nomination forms and guidelines are on the web site at www.kaee.org.

The conference will also feature the KAEE Resource Fair, bringing together many of the agencies, organizations, and businesses that provide information, materials, and support for Environmental Education in Kentucky. If you are interested in being an exhibitor, contact the conference committee through Mary Kate Dickerson at bingkate@epowerc.net or 859-609-0906. There will be plenty of opportunity for fun and networking, too. You won't want to miss the silent auction – always brimming with the latest and greatest in EE treasures - and the newest KAEE conference feature, Mystery!

Project WILD Aquatic Educator Training

June 28, 2006

Salato Wildlife Education Center

Contact: 800 858-1549

In this companion to Project WILD, teachers and youth group leaders will explore the fascinating world of water. Activities such as Dragonfly Pond and To Dam or Not To Dam help students use critical thinking skills while highlighting water's importance to people, wildlife and habitat. Includes tour of the Frankfort Fish Hatchery and sampling in Elkhorn Creek. Each participant receives a Project WILD Aquatic curriculum guide and other valuable resources. Cost: \$10.

News to Use

Farm Chemical Collection

- Have unwanted farm chemicals?
- Don't know how to get rid of them?
- Wish they'd go away?



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) will collect and dispose of your old, unwanted, outdated, or banned farm chemicals. Kentucky Department of Agriculture field representatives or approved contractors will assess, package, load and transport the unwanted chemicals away from your farm. **At No Cost To You!**

Paint, motor oil, antifreeze and industrial chemicals are **NOT** included, but KDA does pick up insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants, rodenticides, nematicides, and acaricides.

For more information please call 1-800-205-6543 or visit <http://www.kyagr.com>.

Water, a Shared Responsibility

Facts and figures taken from the 2nd United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR), <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr2/>

As we celebrate Kentucky Water Awareness Month in May, consider the impact of water on a global scale.

- * In many places of the world, a staggering 30 to 40% or more of water goes unaccounted for due to water leakages in pipes and canals and illegal tapping.
- * In 2000, more than 900 million urban dwellers (nearly a third of all urban dwellers worldwide) lived in slums. A slum dweller may only have 5 to 10 liters of water per day at his or her disposal. A middle- or high-income household in the same city, however, may use some 50 to 150 liters per day, if not more.
- * Groundwater systems globally provide 25 to 40% of the world's drinking water.
- * Sanitation coverage in developing countries (49%) is only half that of the developed world (98%).
- * Given proper incentives, it is generally found that industry can cut its water demand by 40 to 90%, even with existing techniques and practices. However, water conservation policies need to be fair, feasible and enforceable.
- * If children are taught proper hygiene, primary schooling can transform them into health educators for their families, thereby passing on vital information and skills that can reduce household vulnerability to deadly diarrheal diseases by at least 40%.
- * Women produce between 60 and 80% of the food in most developing countries. They are major stakeholders in all development issues related to water, yet they often remain on the periphery of management decisions and planning for water resources.

USDA Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS) Studies Factors That Influence Participation in Federal Conservation Programs



Photo courtesy of USDA-NRCS.

While farmers can see the economic benefit of maintaining the quality of their own land, they may not be able to see the offsite impacts of their agricultural practices. Protecting soil productivity by limiting soil erosion and avoiding excess chemical applications can obviously benefit the farmer, but can also have even greater benefits on a watershed scale. It is this thought that has led to Federal financial and technical support for on-farm conservation practices and programs. But, who participates?

The USDA-ERS examined the characteristics of farms that have adopted conservation-compatible practices and participated in USDA conservation programs. The study found that farm size, commodity

mix, and operator motivation all influenced decisions made regarding the type of conservation practices utilized.

Findings of the study included the following:

- Small enterprise operators that are focused on non-farm occupations are less likely to adopt practices requiring extra time or expense than operators of large enterprises whose primary occupation is farming.
- Young operators who consider farming their primary occupation and who rely less on off-farm income are more likely to install grass waterways, contour strips, and other working-land structures compatible with agricultural production.
- Larger farms whose operators consider farming their primary occupation are more likely to seek participation in working-land conservation programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- Intensive use of land retirement programs is most common among smaller “retired” and “lifestyle” farms.
- Smaller farms whose operators are focused on non-farm activities are also more likely to take land out of production.

For a complete report of the study, visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/err14/> .

Surfing the Internet

Commonwealth Water Education Program

www.inyourwater.org

This new campaign is designed to let educators, students and the general public learn about Kentucky’s number one threat to water quality – nonpoint source pollution. Did you know that you were contributing to the problem? Learn what you can do to help. Educator workshops, audio-visual resources and links to useful websites can be found here. For more detailed information, contact Kristin at ksduna02@louisville.edu.

Tox Town

<http://www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>

Tox Town is a Web-based introduction to environmental health risks and toxic chemicals found in everyday locations. Tox Town invites visitors to explore a city, a small town, the US-Mexico border, and a farm to learn about environmental health issues present in each setting.

About this newsletter... This newsletter is available on the World Wide Web in a PDF or html format at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/news.htm>. This newsletter is coordinated by Amanda Abnee Gumbert (acabne0@uky.edu) and Ashley Osborne (arich2@uky.edu), Extension Associates for Environmental and Natural Resource Issues.