

Conservation Partnerships in Lauderdale County

Cooperative Effort Promotes Wildlife Habitat - The Lauderdale County USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office recently distributed free seed to local landowners to promote enhanced wildlife habitat on lands in Lauderdale County. The seed was provided through a cooperative project between NRCS, Quail Unlimited, and TWRA. Landowners who plant the seed are providing an additional food source for quail, turkey, and deer on their lands in Lauderdale County.



The NRCS has worked cooperatively with West Tennessee counties to plan and implement conservation projects that will have a positive impact on wildlife habitat across West Tennessee. According to Mike Hansbrough, NRCS Biologist for West Tennessee, landowners are starting to see the results and are reporting more rabbits and quail on managed property.

Native Warm Season Grasses Hay Demonstration Project - Larry and Alice McCoy, landowners in Lauderdale County, are working with NRCS and TWRA to implement a native warm season grass hay demonstration project this year. Mike Hansbrough, NRCS Area Biologist for West Tennessee and Dwaine Johnston, NRCS Soil Conservationist in Lauderdale County recently met with the McCoy's to discuss their haying options.



The McCoy's, who are officers in the Lauderdale County Livestock Association, operate a cow-calf operation. Using seed donated by TWRA, they plan to plant several hay plots that include Big Bluestem, Indian grass, and Little Bluestem. These grasses provide excellent forage for livestock, and when managed correctly, also provide wildlife benefits.

Livestock operators in Lauderdale County will have an opportunity to see first hand native warm season grasses used for hay production. The McCoy's are eager to use native warm season grasses for producing hay for their livestock.

Program Outreach to Promote Tree Planting - The Ripley Field Office staff assisted the Lauderdale County Soil Conservation District in conducting a program outreach project in Lauderdale County to promote tree planting in connection with the National Arbor Day celebration in the month of March. This project was a huge success and provided nearly 200 local landowners with 4500 tree seedlings. When planted, these seedlings will reduce soil erosion, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide wind buffers on lands in Lauderdale County.



The project provided an avenue to educate the public on the purpose of the Soil Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

EQIP Provides Multiple Benefits - Raymond Proctor, a landowner in the southwestern portion of Lauderdale County, had some serious gully erosion on his land near Cane Creek. Mr. Proctor contacted the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lauderdale County for technical and financial assistance to help solve his erosion problems.



Dwaine Johnson, Arthur Bentley and Mike Hansbrough, NRCS employees, worked with Mr. Proctor to develop a soil and water conservation plan under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to correct the serious erosion problem on his farm. Mr. Proctor had four deep gullies in the pasture field adjacent to Cane Creek that were getting worse each year. In fact, the gullies were so deep, he could not cross them with equipment and they had become a safety hazard for both the livestock and his equipment.

The construction of a grade stabilization structure along the stream eliminated the gullies and now all runoff water is directed across the field to the drop pipe that safely routes the water into the streambed. A water impoundment was incorporated into one of the gully head cuts as part of the grade control structure, which provides additional water for his livestock operation. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Mr. Proctor now has green grass and clean water where erosion once created a hazardous gully that was a safety concern.