

Cumberland County Soil Conservation District Works for Betterment of Cumberland County

The Cumberland County Soil Conservation District/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office has assisted landowners in applying conservation practices. Seven Cumberland County landowners received assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to install conservation practices.

Knowing the value of partnerships, the Soil Conservation District has partnered with various entities to get conservation on the ground. They partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a contract and provide technical assistance in completing five (5) miles of riparian fencing on a dairy farm located in the Obed Wild and Scenic River watershed.

The Cumberland County SCD received a Tennessee Department of Agriculture Ag Resources Program \$20,000 grant to establish Best Management Practices on farms to improve water quality and reduce erosion. Practices applied through this grant are alternative livestock watering facilities, livestock exclusion fencing, cross-fencing for rotational grazing, and sowing cropland to grass and clover.

The Cumberland County SCD works with the community for the betterment of Cumberland County. The SCD participated in a meeting of agricultural experts and provided input in development of a local agricultural section to the homeland security program for Cumberland County. The SCD provided natural resource data for Cumberland County to the Cumberland County Fire Department that resulted in the Fire Department receiving a grant for more than \$300,000 for fire equipment.

The SCD participated in the Farm Bureau Ag-in-the-Classroom event by staffing a soils station that included Edgar the Earthworm's Soil Tunnel. Nearly 600 students, teachers and parents visited the soils station, which was one of twelve stations at the event.

The district conducted the annual SCD tree sale, and sold more than 3,000 nursery stock trees to 87 landowners. The SCD also sponsored three fish days during 2004 where a variety of fish were sold to 36 landowners, who received fishpond management information.

In 2004, the Cumberland County Soil Survey manuscript and digitized soil maps were placed on the NRCS website. Digitized soil maps provide valuable information to landowners, buildings, city and county managers, and others.

