

## Kentucky: Overview

Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority small watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement structural and management conservation practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers may receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces. For over 75 years, NRCS has provided agricultural producers with assistance to implement voluntary conservation practices that protect natural resources while maintaining production and profits.



*NRCS will help agricultural producers in selected priority watersheds implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff.*

## Kentucky

### Priority Watersheds

The watersheds approved for this initiative in Kentucky are the Lower Cumberland - Bennettstown Little River, Lower Kentucky - Clarks Run, and South Fork Licking - Headwaters Hinkston Creek. Counties impacted by these watersheds include Bath, Boyle, Christian, Montgomery, and Trigg.

### Conservation Funding and Practices

NRCS conservation professionals will provide technical assistance and planning tools to determine which conservation actions will provide the best results to improve water quality on your land. Nutrient management systems, erosion control, conservation tillage, and buffer systems are just some of the practices being offered as part of the National Water Quality Initiative. To help install these conservation practices, financial assistance to share in the cost of implementation is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

## Partnerships

NRCS identified priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state water quality agencies. Partners sometimes offer financial assistance in addition to NRCS programs. NRCS will continue to coordinate with local and state agencies, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage

*The National Water Quality Initiative will work in selected watersheds to help farmers, and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams.*

funds and provide streamlined assistance to help individual agricultural producers take needed actions to reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients and other runoff into impaired waterways.

## Producer Benefits

The landowners and farmers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way which provides cleaner water. In addition to the financial assistance, the land will remain productive into the future. Water quality conservation practices benefit agricultural producers by lowering input costs and enhancing the productivity of working lands. All across the country—farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are voluntarily taking action and putting conservation on the ground to improve water quality on millions of acres!

## Public Benefits

NRCS is proud to be involved in a nationwide effort with landowners and communities to improve and protect our water resources. Communities benefit by having clean waterways, safer drinking water and healthy habitat for fish and wildlife. Conservation investments are good for all Americans because well managed farms limit pollution from runoff, produce food and fiber, sustain rural economies, and provide food security to the Nation.

## How to Apply

To get started, make an appointment at your local [USDA Service Center](#). You will need to establish eligibility and farm records for your land. NRCS will help you complete an application, develop a conservation plan, and explain which conservation practices are available in your watershed. Remember to check with your local NRCS office to see if you are located in a selected watershed.

The cutoff dates for application ranking for 2012 are May 18 and June 15. Any applications received after June 15 will not be considered for funding during fiscal year 2012.

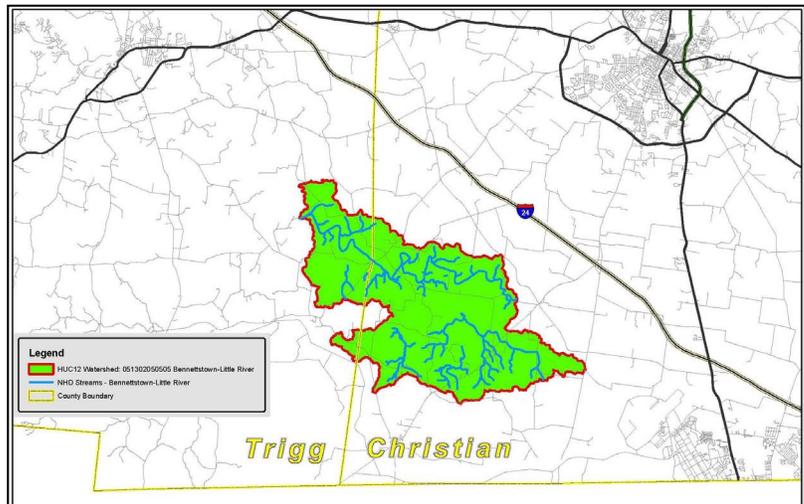
## For more Information

USDA - NRCS, KENTUCKY  
771 CORPORATE DRIVE  
LEXINGTON, KY 40503

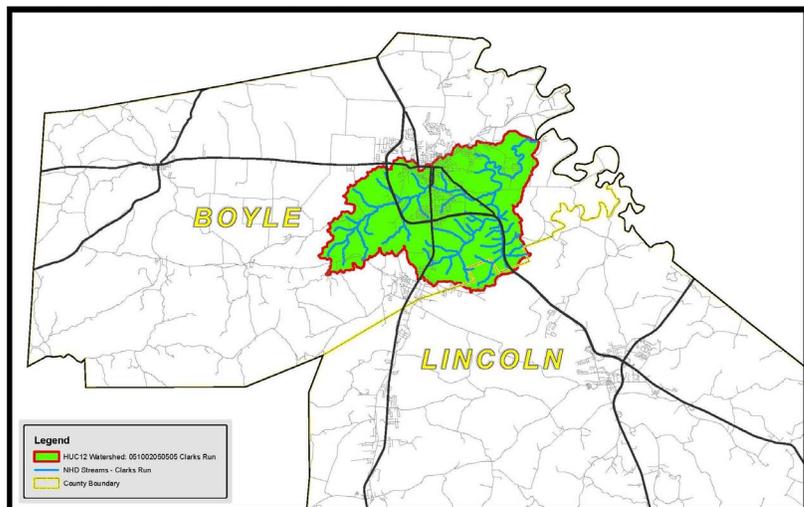
859-224-7350

[www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov)

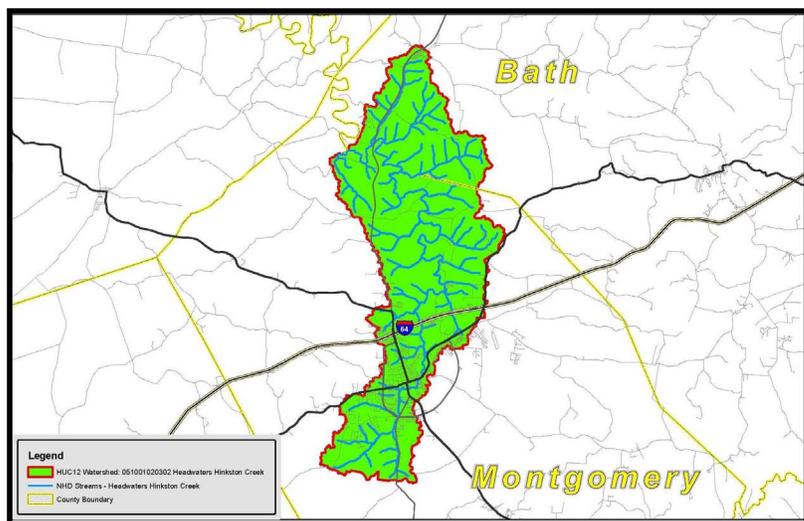
Bennettstown - Little River  
12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 051302050505



Clarks Run  
12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 051002050505



Headwaters Hinkston Creek  
12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 051001020302



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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