

Kentucky USDA State Technical Committee Meeting

June 5, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Lexington, Kentucky

The agenda and list of attendees may be found at the end of these meeting notes.

State Conservationist Welcome, Comments and Farm Bill Updates

State Conservationist Greg Stone welcomed everyone to the State Technical Committee. He said it was a great opportunity for NRCS to get help and tap knowledge from those present. Greg said he is a new state conservationist but is a 38-year employee of NRCS, having spent time in Ohio, West Virginia, and now Kentucky. He became Kentucky's State Conservationist on January 20 of this year.

Regarding any Farm Bill updates, Greg said that until the rules are written, there is still not much to know or report. Once the rules are written, the generalities of the Farm Bill will become more specific. He said the rules are being written, and folks are working hard at this. He said there are no sweeping changes as far as NRCS is concerned. Also, funding is solid and it's a good time to be in conservation.

The question was asked if the agency is using existing rules until the new ones are written. Greg responded yes.

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Reports

Next on the agenda was Conservation Innovation Grant reports. Assistant State Conservationist Deena Wheby filled in for Tim Hafner who was unable to attend. She said that Tim had asked her to remind the group of the priorities for the state CIG and deadlines for submission. She said that she had sent an email with links to both the state and national CIG opportunities and if anyone didn't get that and is interested, to let her know. She read the following Kentucky State CIG priorities from the announcement for program funding:

Cover Crops

- NRCS seeks projects that improve technology for planting into standing crops-both methodology and timing
- NRCS seeks projects that measure crop impacts when cover crops are used-identification and mitigation of voles and other pests.

Sugar Producing Tree Species

- NRCS seeks projects that create forestry BMP's for sugar producing tree species (new crop for KY).
- Energy conservation-dehydration of sap from sugar producing trees.

She said State CIG proposals are due by June 14 and the national ones are due by July 30, 2019.

Deena said that at the December 2018 State Technical Committee meeting it had been announced that a spring "show and tell" would be held for CIG and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) recipients to give reports about their findings, what worked, what didn't, lessons learned, etc. She said

that because other things came up that needed to be on today's agenda, that these reports would be limited to two CIGs and two RCPPs. She asked Brooke Gentile to introduce herself and make her presentation.

Assisting Producers Throughout Kentucky in the Transition to Organic Certification – Brooke Gentile, OAK

Brooke introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) and said that OAK had received a state CIG to assist with the Organic Transition Trainer Program. Before she got into that part of her presentation, she identified a list of 2019 Farmer Field Days (see her PowerPoint for specific topics, dates, and locations) and mentioned that the Annual Organic Farming Conference will be held in Louisville March 6-7, 2020.

She provided background information about what "organic" means and how many certified farms there are in Kentucky. In 2016, there were 105 certified organic farm operations in Kentucky. Including processors or handlers, crop, livestock and wild crop producers, she said as of May 2019, Kentucky has 244 organic operations. She said that total organic product sales for Kentucky Farms has increased from just over \$4 million in 2012 to almost \$14 million in 2017.

She said the goal of the CIG project was get more certified organic operations in Kentucky. To this end, train the trainer sessions were held. These were week-long trainings from IOIA (International Organic Inspectors Association) and were a modified version of the inspector training. Brooke discussed how the Transition Trainer Program works, saying it was a methodical process and includes building a relationship with the grower, doing an onsite assessment, working with the grower on recordkeeping, etc. She added that if a grower chooses Kentucky Department of Agriculture as a certifier it costs \$250 to certify one scope (i.e., crop), and that participation in the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program offers rebates of up to 75 percent of the cost to certify. She said Kentucky is one of the most affordable states in the nation for organic certification.

As far as the CIG, she said that OAK had received a no-cost extension to continue their efforts and that they had not expended the full grant amount. She said the grant is a 50/50 match with both parties putting in \$50,000 (a total \$100,000 project.)

She provided numbers of newly certified operations in 2017 (5 farms, 262 acres), and 2018 (8 farms, 167 acres) and said there are 32 farms (2,896 acres) pending certification for 2019.

Regarding the lessons learned from this CIG, she said that it takes time to get people on board and that farmer commitment sometimes waiver depending on a number of factors. She said follow-up is critical. She added that working with growers throughout Kentucky requires much travel time, often takes multiple visits to develop the Organic System Plan, that there is a need for ongoing farmer education, and that there are a number of factors which makes the use of technology sometimes difficult. Also, it takes very specific knowledge regarding both production and National Organic Program for trainers. Finally, at \$25 per hour, it takes a long time to spend the \$50,000 award.

For the next steps, Brooke said that they will keep doing the program and looking for professional development with partners and farmers. She said there needs to be more outreach to Western and Northern Kentucky.

She closed by saying their services are free to farmers and invited the group to attend OAK field days, the annual conference and to sign up for their monthly e-news. She had a postcard handout with the 2019 Field Days on it, as well as a card identifying more information about OAK and what they do. A copy of each of those is attached to these minutes. For more information on Brooke's presentation, a copy of that is also attached. Brooke may be reached at brooke@oak-ky.org and you can learn more about OAK at www.oak-ky.org.

The Homeplace on Green River: Inventorying and Documenting the Karst Drainage Characteristics – Charles Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey

Next on the agenda was Chuck Taylor, Groundwater Hydrologist and Head, Water Resources Section of Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, to discuss the CIG entitled "The Homeplace on Green River: Inventorying and Documenting the Karst Drainage Characteristics."

Chuck gave an overview of The Homeplace on Green River, saying it was a historic farm and a 501(C)(3) organization administered by Adair, Green and Taylor Counties. It serves as an outdoor classroom and promotes education about rural American culture and the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources. Approximately 90 acres are farmed; typically a corn-soybean rotation, with varied cover cropping and no-till practices employed.

The goal of the CIG was to demonstrate requirements of how to do edge-of-field monitoring in areas dominated by karst topography. He said this is important because 52 percent of the state is agriculture, and 55 percent is karst with much of it corresponding to ag land. Edge-of-field monitoring is important to farming to understand the effects of conservation practices on water quality and soil health.

He said that much of the Homeplace Farm is karst with sinkholes of various types and the objective of the study was to answer the question if given the presence of karst, can the Homeplace Farm be used for edge-of-field monitoring to sample and quantify concentrations/loads leaving cropped fields in surface runoff. And if so, how do the typical monitoring methods need to be modified to adapt to the karst areas.

He discussed the different ways the farm was mapped, including sinkhole inventory, LiDAR, dye-tracing, and a statistical analysis of spring hydrographs – analysis of spring rainfall-discharge responses. He showed examples of data collected by use of these techniques (see presentation), and explained the importance of the sinkhole mapping and inventory to the edge-of-field monitoring.

There were multiple findings including that in karst the edge-of-field flow path is complex and multi-faceted (involves a combination of surface and subsurface flow components); a spring is the ultimate receptor and end point for cropped field runoff (must sample there); have to delineate karst flow paths and spring catchment boundaries prior to monitoring; need a map to sinkholes, their drainage characteristics and land uses; and sampling timing and frequency needs to be based on spring's rainfall-discharge responses.

More details may be found in Chuck's attached presentation. He may be reached at charles.taylor@uky.edu. More information about Homeplace on Green River may be found at <https://www.homeplacefarmky.org/>

Greg Stone thanked both CIG presenters and said they represented well. He noted that one project represented a new technology, while the other worked to encourage adoption of a known method of farming. Greg next called on Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships Sonya Keith.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Reports

Sonya introduced herself and said that she has been in her current position since late last year, formerly serving as a watershed engineer for NRCS in Kentucky. In her new role, she has responsibility for RCPP. She said there are 15 projects in state, and Kentucky is the lead state for 12 of them.

She echoed what Greg said about not knowing a lot of details about the 2018 Farm Bill, including RCPP. She said that it is going to be funded a little differently, but details on that are not available yet. There has not been an announcement for funding, but when it does come out, the State Technical Committee will be notified. She said the two speakers today, Mark Walden and Krista Lea, represent RCPP partners well – that they are committed, understand their contribution to the effort.

Season Extension for Eastern Kentucky – Mark Walden, Grow Appalachia

Mark Walden, Grow Appalachia's Production Efficiency Advisor, introduced Grow Appalachia to the group. He said Grow Appalachia's mission is to help Appalachian growers raise as much food as possible, and to do it organically. Grow Appalachia's Director and Founder David Cooke was an Extension Specialist in West Virginia, and he recognized the need for assistance to help the people of Appalachia be successful in their desire to grow food. Mark said that they initially worked in the coal fields of Kentucky and West Virginia, but now also work in Central Appalachia in Tennessee, North Carolina and Ohio.

One of the needs identified was to extend the growing season from the typical late May through October. In 2012, Mark and David designed a small-scale seasonal high tunnel that was adaptive for small footprints in the hills. The first 30 high tunnels were paid for by Grow Appalachia to see if they could be successful. To determine if the program was beneficial, they compared pounds of food grown to the cost of the program. The program currently runs 85 to 99 cents a pound.

Grow Appalachia partnered with organizations that were involved in food, and gave grants to these groups as well as on-going technical support. Participants were required to attend five trainings.

With the assistance of Grow Appalachia, to date, over 2,500 families have produced over 4 million pounds of organic produce. Many participants came to the program after seeing their neighbors be successful with organic production.

Working with NRCS, it was determined that the Grow Appalachia high tunnels met the agency's technical requirements and were approved for financial assistance under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Seeing a local need larger than general EQIP was accommodating, Grow Appalachia submitted an RCPP project in 2017 and was approved.

Mark identified several partners (and their contributions) who have made this project successful including the Letcher County Farmer's Market (from which persons with a prescription from their doctor can receive produce), Good Thyme's Farm, Wolfe County Extension, OAK, Laurel County African

American Heritage Center, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, Marcella and Gary Clay Farm, East Kentucky Farmer's Conference, and the Berea Urban Farm.

He said that 82 applications have been received during two application periods and while Grow Appalachia's program focuses on organics, all applicants (organic or otherwise) will be provided equal services associated with this RCPP project. The project area includes 12 StrikeForce and Promise Zone counties (Bell, Clay, Floyd, Jackson, Johnson, Laurel, Letcher, Madison, Pike, Rowan, Whitley and Wolfe.)

Of the 82 applications, 22 were funded with the available funding. A total of \$313,008 has been obligated with a per producer average of \$14,455 per contract. Mark talked about the technical assistance support including conservation planning, design technical assistance, educational sessions and said there is an upcoming workshop planned for June 25 in Letcher County. So far, Grow Appalachia has only billed a third of the \$48,000 technical assistance included in this project (which is in year two of three.)

Mark mentioned that Pine Mountain Settlement School also has an RCPP for seasonal high tunnels and that the two entities are going to get together to conduct participant training.

He said one of the challenges of delivering this project is to get people to accept their support.

Mark was asked what partners provided. He responded that some provided money, some provided space, and some had workshop involvement.

Mark's presentation is found as an attachment to these minutes. He may be reached at mark_walden@bera.edu and you can learn more about Grow Appalachia at <https://growappalachia.bera.edu/>

Overgrazing and Soil Degradation on Kentucky Horse Farms – Krista Lea, University of Kentucky

The next presenter was Krista Lea with the University of Kentucky Forage Extension Program. She said that the goal of the equine RCPP was to reduce the grazing impacts of horses, educate horse owners, facilitate industry connections, and train NRCS staff to work with horse farmers. It was acknowledged that horses are hard on the land and resources and this project is looking at ways to help reduce the impact. She said there hasn't been a lot of horse farm training for managing grazing and resources. She added that horse owners are an underserved group as they do not seek out Cooperative Extension Service (CES) or NRCS assistance. Likewise, CES and NRCS have not been proactive in seeking out horse farms to assist. She said CES and NRCS are lacking in their skills to work with horse farmers and this project aimed to help raise that skill level.

The project includes \$300,000 financial assistance (money that will go to farmers to install conservation practices) as well as \$129,000 for technical assistance to be provided by UK. The goals include contracts on 20 horse farms, two field days, two NRCS trainings, and assistance to NRCS to modify existing standard(s) to be more inclusive for horse farmers. Three of the 20 contracts were identified as demonstration farms. These farms will host field days, trainings and tours. So far, all farm owners who have received a contract have been willing to serve as demonstration farms.

To date, 13 contracts have been entered for \$231,000 on 322 acres. There are four pending for \$40,000 and there are three applications that are being assessed for potential contracting. There has been more

interest than the project can financially accommodate, and for those farmers, technical assistance will be offered.

Krista said that while she can give number of acres, number of practices, etc., that impacts are more than that. She showed a couple of FaceBook posts from participants and told how, for one of the farmers, participation in this program has doubled their business, they've hired a part-time person, and took their first vacation in five years. This was primarily accomplished by assisting the farmer to convert a field that he had leased out for row crops into a well-managed pasture, and part of a larger grazing system.

Providing training to NRCS staff on working with horse farmers was also part of the RCPP. One training for 35 field personnel has been held. The participants self-identified that 88 percent of them had little or no equine experience and 29 were unaware of their potential equine client base. She said that the concept of growing grass for animals (cows or horses) is similar, but the people (farmers) are different. She said that both NRCS and CES staff know grazing, but don't know how to talk to horse farmers – that there is a cultural difference between horse farmers and cattle farmers.

The next field say will be held September 5, 2019, in Princeton, Kentucky (1013 Dripping Springs Road from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.) More information about this RCPP project may be found in her presentation which is attached to these minutes. Krista may be reached at krista.lea1@uky.edu and the UK Forage Extension website is <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/>

Greg thanked the speakers, saying these were both great examples of specialized projects. He then called for a break.

Following the short break, Greg asked each person to introduce themselves and who they represented. A list of attendees is found at the end of these minutes.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Focused Conservation Projects

Greg told the group that NRCS wants to deliver conservation programs based on local needs. He understands that conservation issues are different across the state, and not only are there different issues, there are different approaches in how to address them. He knows that local work groups have not met in several years and was looking at a way to regenerate that local input.

He said he is looking for two things: First, a conversation between NRCS and local folks to identify local needs. For this year, he has asked that it be done on an NRCS work unit basis, which encompass several counties. He has asked that the managers of each work unit have a local work group meeting. Second, as a follow-up and acknowledgement of local issues being different, he wants to do some focused conservation work. This means taking money and available staff and focus on local problems. He assured the group that it would not be all money and staff, just some.

He talked about celebrating successes and shared a story about a friend who, whenever there was something to celebrate, had a BBQ.

He said NRCS works on individual farms, but they may never be next to each other. In order to have meaningful local achievements, he said that NRCS needed to focus their efforts more to complete meaningful local achievements; to have a success that warrants a BBQ.

He said that in Oregon and West Virginia, NRCS only does EQIP through focused projects. He is not intending to take Kentucky to that level. He is looking to do some local identified projects to address concerns more fully rather than on just a “random act of conservation” level.

He said focusing can be geographic, and gave an example of a drinking water source where most upstream land activity was farming. Focusing could also be for a certain wildlife species, or resource concern. He told about a project where bird numbers have jumped after just three years of focused activity.

It is important to know what the “before conditions” are and what is desired for “after conditions”. This will identify when success has been achieved and when to have the BBQ. He is asking that local work groups identify the projects that NRCS might want to take on, identify what three to five years of funding looks like, how to measure success. Although funding will be provided for three to five years, contracts may be longer than that. He acknowledged that there is a wide range of problems to solve, and often different perspectives on how to solve similar problems based on local needs.

In Kentucky, this effort will be called “Focused Conservation Projects” (FCP). Typically, local work groups have one local work group meeting per year, but some may want to meet more often to discuss future needs and solutions.

He reiterated that not all resources will go to the FCPs. Everyone who applies for EQIP will have an opportunity to get a contract outside of FCP. He is not taking away an opportunity, he is adding an opportunity.

He asked the group if there were any questions.

Q: Regarding the three to five year projects – is that a starting point or a model?

A: It’s a model. If we bring a project to a community, we typically get interested persons in first 3 years. He prefers the shorter (3 years) funding.

Q: When will this be rolled out?

A: Local work groups are meeting now and funding will begin in federal fiscal year 2020.

Q: What percent of EQIP will be allocated?

A: We don’t know yet. We will look at what it takes to solve the problem. There is no prearranging the funding. The projects need to be scalable, but not predetermined how much it should cost. When planning the projects, don’t think money, but rather think how to solve the problem. If there is a concern that money will be shifted to one part of state, not should not be an issue. We know what we’ve historically spent in the work units and those levels will remain similar, but some portion will go to a project. The challenge will be to support the effort with people – we will need partners to help. Greg said this kind of looks like RCPP; is not really anything new. We are looking for partners who have expertise NRCS doesn’t have to help.

Q: How to find out about LWG meetings?

A: Local conservation district and local work unit managers have been asked to publicize widely. Since this is the first effort in several years to have a local work group meeting, it may take a little while to get everyone to the table. Meeting dates have been sent to Farm Bureau. OAK and UK (Woodland) also offered to help get the word out. Greg said that Sonya will share dates as known.

Dan Olsen, US Forest Service Supervisor, made the comment that he has seen focused efforts work, and these efforts have enabled other work to address other problems elsewhere.

Greg asked committee if this sounded good. No negative feedback was received.

Greg next called on Deena Wheby to introduce the topic of Source Water Protection.

Source Water Protection

Identifying Priority Areas for NRCS Conservation Programs – Deena Wheby, NRCS

Deena said that if you look in the 2018 Farm Bill for the words “source water protection” that you will find it in several places. She said that two were of particular interest but that only one would be discussed today. One is Section 1244, “Source water protection through targeting of agricultural practices” and the other is Section 12400, “Grassroots source water protection program”. She said the first is an effort to protect source water through a targeting of conservation practices through existing programs and would be what she talked about to the committee. The other is a program authorized since the 2008 Farm Bill that has authorized funding but she had no more information on this. She did not know which agency is responsible for it. She mentioned that it was in the same section as the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program.

Today, she was going to introduce the source water protection through targeting of agricultural practices. She said although the rule has not been written, that the agency has received guidance on actions that need to be accomplished by September 30, 2019.

From the Farm Bill language, Deena identified that the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture will “encourage practices that relate to water quality and water quantity that protect source waters for drinking water....while also benefitting agricultural producers.” Also, that each state needs to identify local priority areas and offer producers increased incentives and higher payment rates than otherwise offered. She said that the Farm Bill says that at least 10 percent of all conservation program funding (except Conservation Reserve Program) will go towards this effort. She said all programs include EQIP, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (ACEP) and other programs – so this won’t just be an EQIP effort.

She said that the guidance from the NRCS national headquarters instructed states, by September 30, 2019, to identify priority areas (entire or portions of already identified source water protection areas (SWPA)) and that these areas should have a protection plan, in addition to an assessment that characterizes the source water, identifies areas of concern, potential threats, and describes source water protection goals and an action plan for implementation.

She said that there will be more guidance to come on identifying priority practices for the increased payment rates and the 10 percent targeting.

She said that today is just the introduction to the topic and that there will be a meeting later this summer for those interested in this topic to come together to identify and recommend priority areas to NRCS.

In her introduction of the next presenter, Deena said that Rob Blair, Kentucky Division of Water's Source Water Protection Coordinator, would educate us on the topic of source water protection.

Source Water Protection in Kentucky – Rob Blair, Kentucky Division of Water

Rob opened his presentation by discussing the steps of source water protection planning including ensuring the planning committee has community representation, the need for delineation of protection zones and an inventory to identify potential contaminants, the development of management strategies, contingency planning, and strategies for implementation. He said the reasons for protecting source water include health-based impacts to drinking water such as elevated nutrients, increased turbidity and pathogens, and that these lead to significant impacts which ultimately result in increased drinking water treatment costs, which are passed on to the consumer.

He discussed an Ohio River example showing the impacts of excessive nutrients, saying that these situations can shut down systems for days. He said that the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Source Water Protection overlap.

Regarding public water supplies, Rob said that ground water and surface water were previously thought of as separate. In recent years, however, they have been brought together, and now source water protection includes both.

He said that in Kentucky, there are about 100 public drinking water systems that rely on ground water, serving 400,000 to 500,000 persons, mostly in the western part of the state and along the Ohio River. Surface water sources account for nearly 200 water supplies serving a population of about 4 million across the state.

Rob said that in the late 1990s-early 2000s, source water protection was in the forefront, but since that time the responsibility had been spread out among different staffs. Now, the Kentucky Division of Water has centralized the responsibility under one umbrella. He said that there is a lot of room for partnerships – reestablishing old relationships and fostering new ones. He said a lot of the older plans need to be updated and new plans were in the works for new systems.

He said that the Kentucky Area Development Districts (ADD) coordinate regional planning for water supplies and source water protection and were good sources for collaboration and information. Other collaborators and partners include EPA and Region 4 states, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, Drinking Water Advisory Council, Kentucky Rural Water Association, and USDA – Rural Development.

He said there are overlaps and commonality with agriculture including monitoring, analysis of water use and information needs, drought mitigation and response (statewide plan and how to use locally), communication and outreach, as well as the Ag Water Quality Authority and the nutrient reduction strategy.

Rob identified several sources from which to obtain available data such as GIS shapefiles for protection areas and potential contaminants, as well as the Kentucky Geography Network website for Division of Water Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) and Wellhead Protection Areas and contaminant source inventories. The GIS shapefiles can be downloaded for free at the Kentucky Geography Network. Rob can also provide subsets of these GIS files if people only need information for local areas. In lieu of GIS, one can use the Kentucky Watershed Viewer located at <https://watermaps.ky.gov/>

Source water protection or well head protection plans are available from the local water system, the ADD, or Division of Water. If anyone needs water system contact information, it can be requested from Division of Water.

In closing, Rob identified several recent national and local events that highlight the need for source water protection including the Elk River (WV) spill, harmful algal blooms on the Ohio River, state and local land use proposals, and increased treatment costs. He said that no one group can do it alone, that it must be a group effort from the local level to the federal level. He said each system is unique and needed an individualized approach in planning.

More information, including several maps, may be found in Rob's presentation which is attached to these minutes. He may be reached at robert.blair@ky.gov or 502-782-6893.

Comments and Announcements from the Group

Greg thanked Rob for his presentation. He asked if there were any announcements from the group. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Kentucky State Technical Committee Meeting Attendees

6/5/2019

Name	Organization
Rob Blair	KY Division of Water
Tyler Reagan	KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Meredith Scales	KY Dairy Development Council
Dan Olsen	US Forest Service
Joni Nelson	Kentucky State University
Chuck Taylor	Kentucky Geological Survey
Ben Koostra	Limestone & Cooper and TSP
Mark Walden	Grow Appalachia
Paulette Akers	Kentucky Division of Conservation
Dave Maples	Cattlemens Association
David Chinn	Monty's Plant Food Co.
Glynn Beck	Kentucky Geological Survey
Jack Stickney	KY Rural Water Association
John Webb	KY Division of Water
Billy Thomas	UK Forestry & Natural Resources
Jeff Jones	USDA Rural Development
Wesley Jarette	TASK Inc.
Doug Wilson	TASK Inc.
Danna Baxley	TNC-KY
Brooke Gentile	Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)
Doug Hines	USDA-NRCS
Suzanne Ince	Taylor Co. Conservation District
Tom Daniel	Nutrien Ag Solutions
Renee Laurent	Governor's Office of Ag Policy (GOAP)
Harold Duckworth	TASK Inc.
Henry Duncan	KY Woodland Owners Association
Cliff Drouet	Office of Surface Mining (OSM)
Owen Ronald	Bluegrass Land Conservancy
Thomas Ochuodho	UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
Dan Figert	KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Andy Radomski	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Krista Lea	University of Kentucky Forages
J. Brent Harrel	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Greg Halich	University of Kentucky
Greg Stone	USDA-NRCS
Sonya Keith	USDA-NRCS
Deena Wheby	USDA-NRCS

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Welcome and Introductions

Greg Stone

NRCS State Conservationist

9:15 a.m.

State Conservationist Comments and Farm Bill Updates

Greg Stone

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Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Reports

Introduction of CIG

Tim Hafner

NRCS State Resource Conservationist

- Assisting Producers Throughout KY in the Transition to Organic Certification
- The Homeplace on Green River, Inventorying and Documenting the Karst Drainage Characteristics

Brooke Gentile

Organic Association of Kentucky

Charles Taylor

University of Kentucky

10:15 a.m.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Reports

Introduction of RCPP

Sonya Keith

NRCS Assistant State Conservationist

- Season Extension for Eastern Kentucky
- Overgrazing and Soil Degradation on Horse Farms

Mark Walden

Grow Appalachia

Krista Lea

University of Kentucky

10:45 a.m.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Focused Conservation Projects

Greg Stone

11:15 a.m.

Source Water Protection

- Identifying Priority Areas for NRCS Conservation Programs
- Source Water Protection in Kentucky

Deena Wheby

NRCS Assistant State Conservationist

Robert Blair

Kentucky Division of Water

11:45 p.m.

Comments/Announcements from Group Wrap Up

Group

Greg Stone
