



KENTUCKY SHINES!! NOVEMBER 2007

This is a great way to get to know your co-workers and what is happening in our sister counties.

Who's in the "Limelight"!

Tracy Yocum – Carroll County Conservation District



Hello, my name is Tracy Yocum. I was born in Indiana to a loving family of 3 children. My parents are still living and I know I am very fortunate. I now reside in Carrollton and live on a 241 acre farm with my husband of 12 years, Clay. He works on the farm but also has a factory job. We have 2 girls, 3 dogs and 2 cats. Brittany is 11 and our oldest daughter Megan has blessed us with our first granddaughter named Gracie. She is very sweet if I do say so myself!!!

I first started working in a temporary position with the FSA Agency in the year 2000. Then an opportunity became available with the Carroll County Soil Conservation District. The District only needed an Administrative Secretary for 20 hours a week. So I was chosen for the position. Then the Eagle RC & D Council needed an Administrative Secretary. That was when Theoda Franklin was the RC & D Coordinator. I was chosen for that position, also. So actually I work 20 hours for the District and 20 hours for Eagle RC & D. With promoting all the programs such as the State Cost Share, Arbor Day Tree Observance, Soil and Water Stewardship Dinners, Art and Writing Contest; you can see I have a full plate. We also promote the NRCS programs: EQIP, WHIP, GRP, etc. as well as taking care of RC & D Council business. Carroll County, last year, had the winning art entry for Area 5. We are very proud of the artwork of Katie Hearn. We have 6 schools that participate in the contest annually. It is time consuming but very well worth it. Each year, I try to represent Carroll County with a display at the KACD Convention, please stop by and say hello.

I am entering my second term as Area 5 Representative for the KACDE. I am very proud to be a part of this organization. I do my best to make sure all of the Area 5 district employees get the information to keep them informed of what is going on with the KACDE at all times. But I do love to help the farmers find programs that provide them with solutions to problems they may face. Farming is not like it used to be and it is very hard on the farmer now that times have changed. If a farmer comes into my office and he completes an application for an incentive program then gets accepted, finishes the practice and I can present him with a check to help offset his expenses, I AM AS HAPPY AS HE IS!

I do put aside my agency family for awhile when I can take my daughter, Brittany to her softball games. She played on a traveling softball team and we have traveled to several counties to show our support to her and the team. Win or lose she plays her heart out and gives it her all. They are only little once and I do not want to miss out on anymore than I have to by working ~ that's why I look forward to coming home and cuddling with Gracie!

Awards Chairperson Comments: Tracy is a KACDE Member and also serves as Area 5 Representative, we are proud to have her on our team.

Jennifer Hardwick – Russell County Conservation District



My name is Jennifer Hardwick and I have been employed by the Russell County Conservation District, since October 2006. I also serve on the activity committee and the professional development committee for KACDE. I am married to Scotty Hardwick and we have one son, Aydan Cole. Aydan just turned 3, and he is the boss of the house. He has a passion for the outdoors and loves horses (or any type of animals). We have 1,000 plastic animals in one basket!

I love to spend time with my family. I grew up on a farm, growing soybeans, corn, and wheat. We also have beef cattle. I always told my Mom when I was younger that I would never marry a farmer. She always spent so many lonely nights in the spring and fall by herself, when Dad was in the fields. I did not marry a farmer, but somehow my father seems to have turned him into one. Scotty now loves the fields more than ever.

I love working with the landowners of Russell County. The district has become very active in environmental education. Environmental Education is a passion of mine. The district works with approx. 2,000 students throughout our county, teaching them the importance of our natural resources, soils, and wildlife. We held our first tree give away in March. The district also held the first annual event; "Eco Conservation Field Day" for all 5th grade students in the county. I helped develop a state/national curriculum "Biologist in Training" Program in conjunction with the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. This curriculum meets the Kentucky Core Content and is available at all southeast hatcheries. So if your schools are looking for a free, fun, and educational field trip, a day at our hatchery doing the BIT program is excellent. I came from a conservation background and a love for teaching. Working for the Russell County Conservation District allows me to experience both passions at one job.

Awards Chairperson Comments: Jennifer is a KACDE Member and also serves on KACDE committees and SECDEA committees and we are proud to have her on our team.



KACDE TEAMWORK MAKES EVERYONE A "SHINING" STAR

Wanda J. Gilbert – Awards Committee Chairperson