

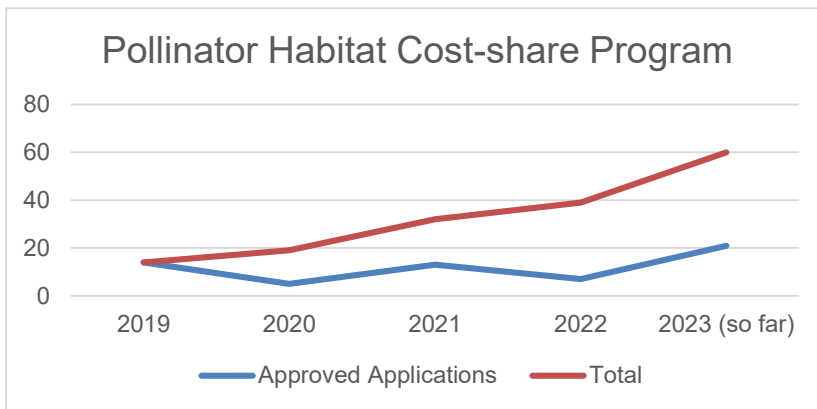
Memorandum

To: Oldham County Fiscal Court
From: Mary Lowry, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Oldham County Soil & Water Conservation District
Date: June 16, 2023
Re: Summary of Updates for June 20th Meeting



Images by Weasie Gaines and OCCD

We look forward to providing a snapshot of recent progress toward fulfilling our mission *to help protect Oldham County's natural resources by working hand in hand with government agencies, industry, schools, businesses, and individual landowners.*



Pollinator Habitats: This spring, the Board of Supervisors approved 21 applications for our native [pollinator habitat cost-share program](#). Successful applicants are eligible for 50% reimbursement, up to \$150, for the cost of supplies and plants needed to plan and plant a wildflower garden that supports pollinators. This brings the total to 60 approved applications since the program began five years ago. We also partner with Friends of Currys Fork and others to maintain the Main Street Community Pollinator Garden.

Annual Tree Giveaway: We held our [2023 tree giveaway](#) on March 4th at the Springs Park Pavilion. The event was scheduled to run from 9:00am – noon, but we gave away all 2450 trees by 11:00am (with a maximum of 10 seedlings per household).

Soil Testing Vouchers: In partnership with UK Extension, we have issued 309 [vouchers for soil sample testing](#) during the first half of 2023. Last year we issued a total of 312 vouchers.



Backyard Composting:

We continue to promote [Geobin composting](#) as one way to keep nutrients in our yards and on our farms. To develop this program, we collaborated with the Oldham County Public Library, Oldham County Extension Office, Oldham County Solid Waste/Recycling, and community volunteers. In 2023, 34 people have participated, with a total of 388 participants since the 2020 start.

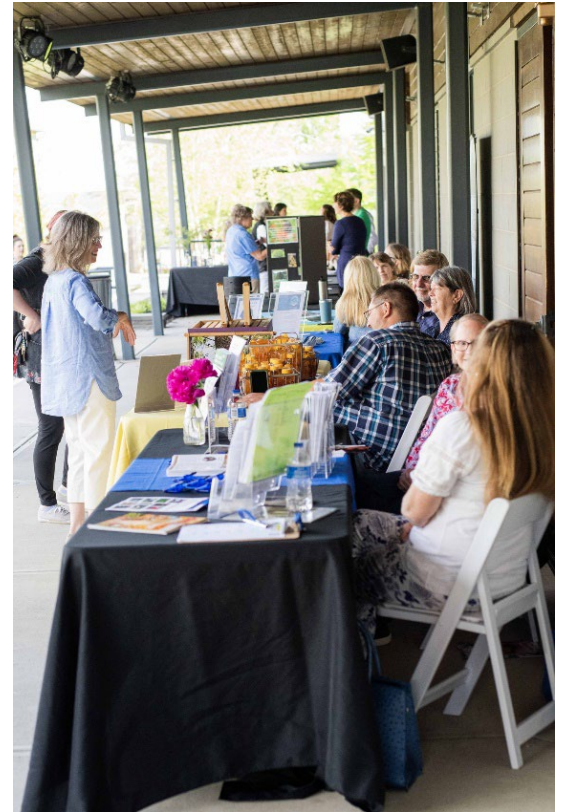
Rain Barrels: During the past two months, in partnership with [Currys Fork Watershed](#) and the Fiscal Court, we distributed 110 rain barrels to Oldham County residents at a [greatly reduced cost per barrel](#).

Board of Supervisors: Mary Lowry, Chair; Bert Pearson, Vice-chair; Rosalind Streeter, Secretary/Treasurer; Boyd Johnson, Supervisor; Kristopher Kelley, Supervisor; Melissa Ledford, Supervisor; and Weasie Gaines, Supervisor
Staff: Perry Thomas, PhD, District Program Coordinator
oldhamccd.org | oldhamswcd@gmail.com | 502-222-5123

Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony: On May 15th we recognized 2022-2023 award recipients during an evening event at CityPlace. Festivities began on the terrace and lawn, with 12 partner organizations tabling and families playing corn hole. During dinner, Mary Lowry introduced Bryan Jacobs, Research Soil Scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Becca Trueman, Mississippi River Basin Watershed Coordinator with Quantified Ventures, as guest speakers focused on “local soil and watershed stewardship.”

The awards ceremony was kicked off by Greta Steverson, Supervisory District Manager with the NRCS, presenting Bert Pearson with the 2023 Outstanding Cooperator Award.

Tanya Watson announced recipients of the [2023 H. Glenn Watson Scholarships](#) (\$1,500 each): high school seniors Emily Knabel and Anthony Passafiume. Finally, Rosalind Streeter recognized winners in the [2022 Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests](#) (some shown at left).



Environmental Grants: This spring the District once again received \$7,500 from the [Kentucky Division of Conservation](#) to contribute toward the costs for deceased animal removal.

State Cost-share: The Conservation District serves as administrator of [Kentucky State Cost-share](#) grants of up to \$20,000 per producer. Earlier this year, David Shupe and William Wakefield received grants to defray costs of installing agricultural best management practices that protect water quality, such as redirecting runoff from barnyards and fencing livestock out of ponds (pictured here on the Shupe Farm).



La Grange Farmers' Market: On April 22nd we joined local farmers and artisans for the opening market of the season to celebrate Earth Day, encourage use of reusable water bottles, and promote backyard composting. We return this week to recognize [Pollinator Week](#) (June 19 – 25) and continue raising awareness about the importance of planting native species.

County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) and Youth Agricultural Investment Program (YAIP): We are in the process of applying to be the [CAIP and YAIP Administrator](#) for Oldham County. About \$65,000 is available to the County for grants of up to \$5,000 per producer.

Currys Fork Watershed: We look forward to expanding our support of action steps recommended in the [Currys Fork Watershed Plan](#), including partnerships with those already providing [watershed education and outreach](#).