



Oldham County Conservation Notes December 2023

Introducing *Conservation Notes*

We are grateful to all who asked whether Oldham County Conservation District offered a newsletter. You inspired us to take the plunge and create this virtual space for sharing news of local conservationists and opportunities. We call it *Conservation Notes*, because we aim to keep the updates brief and timely. If you have news you would like us to share in an upcoming issue, we hope you will let us know!

[Contact Us](#)

In this Issue

- **Spotlight on Extension Agent Traci Johnson**
- **Welcome, NRCS's Logan Duke**
- **Upcoming Events and Opportunities**



Photo: Weasie Gaines

Spotlight: Traci Johnson Accepts a New Assignment in Todd County, KY

By this time, many readers have probably heard that Oldham County Agriculture Agent Traci Johnson will



soon depart for a new position in Todd County. **All are invited to attend an open house and reception for Traci on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Oldham County Extension, 205 Parker Drive in LaGrange (if you have questions, call 502-222-9453).**

On a quiet Friday afternoon in November, Traci Johnson talked with us about opportunities that drew her to Todd County and will allow her to build on Oldham County experiences.

Traci looks forward to moving closer to her extended family in west Kentucky, including an area where tobacco is still grown. Some readers may recall how families and their neighbors came together to harvest tobacco and prepare it for market.

She explains, “Even though tobacco is hard work, it is a very interesting crop from an agronomic standpoint, and the camaraderie working in it seems unique to the crop. I still remember the coal stove in my grandparents stripping room, pulling leaves, and all the story-telling that went along with it.”

Traci anticipates reconnecting with those tobacco roots as well as serving other ag enterprises. Todd County is a top vegetable producing county in Kentucky, and many growers participate in the nearby [Fairview Produce Auction](#).

Todd County is also a big grain-producing county. Over her years in Oldham County, Traci has worked with farmers to conduct field research covering a variety of crop pests. She is excited to continue serving grain crop farmers, especially through field research.

“I really am a research geek at heart,” says Traci.

Of her 19 years in Oldham County, Traci says, “I’ve learned a whole lot here. Horses are the number one ag enterprise in Oldham County. When I first arrived I only had experience with quarter horses. Fortunately, all horses have common needs and challenges when it comes to pasture and manure management.”

Traci is especially proud of working with Oldham County cattle farmers to start the Oldham County Cattlemen’s Association, now a thriving organization. When she came to the county, she looked around and saw that Henry, Trimble, and Shelby all had Cattlemen’s Associations but not Oldham.

One day, Tee Ray, owner of TNT Farms, came into the office and asked, “Why don’t we have a Cattlemen’s Association?”

That was all the prompting Traci needed to support starting the organization. This fall the Oldham County Cattlemen’s Association celebrates their 15th anniversary.

Earlier this week, a farmer visiting the Oldham County Conservation District offices described Traci’s approach to serving as a technical advisor in glowing terms, adding, “If she doesn’t know the answer, she’ll find it for you.” Indeed, many residents of the Outer Bluegrass region are better farmers and gardeners as a result of her support. Thank you, Traci!



Cooperative Extension Service
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
University of Kentucky
1000 Commonwealth Blvd
Lexington, KY 40546
Phone: 606/258-3800
Fax: 606/258-3801
www.uky.edu/extension

Welcome, Logan Duke, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service!

Logan Duke has been employed with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for five years and recently accepted a new assignment as the District Conservationist serving Henry, Oldham, and Trimble Counties.

Originally from Frankfort, KY, Logan grew up working in tobacco on his family's farm in Owen County. He later was involved in vegetable production and sales at local farmers' markets. Following high school Logan attended Western Kentucky University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy with concentrations in both Plant Science and Soil Science.

Oldham County farmers can connect with Logan or other NRCS technical advisors by contacting or visiting the Oldham County Conservation District to complete a Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) form.



Logan Duke on a hike near Mount Rainier, Washington. Photo: Isabella Quaratiello

Contact the Oldham County Conservation District

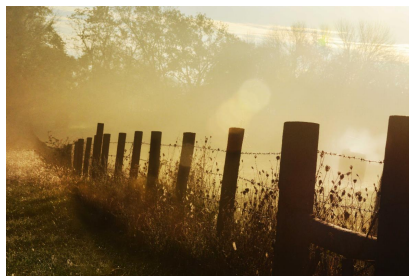


Photo: Weasie Gaines

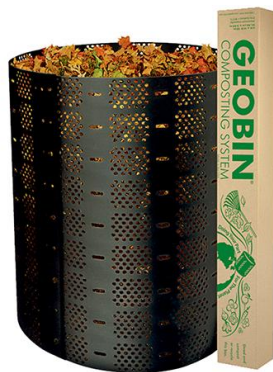
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Local Producer Trainings

Are you interested in selling produce to schools? On January 2, 2024, the [Kentucky Farm to School Network](#) will lead a workshop for farmers looking toward growing fruits and vegetables for local schools. This event is one of several pre-conference events planned in Bowling Green the day before the [Kentucky Horticulture Council's](#) annual Fruit & Vegetable Conference.



[2024 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference](#)



Free Geobins for Composting!

Why not start 2024 with a new composting bin? We still have plenty available, thanks to a collaboration with the Oldham County Public Library, Oldham County Extension, Oldham County Solid Waste/Recycling, and Oldham County Conservation District, as well as vital community volunteers.

[Contact Us](#)

A grant from the Kentucky Pride Fund enables us to provide Geobins for free. We simply ask that you watch a video and take a short quiz. Follow the link below to get started, or contact us directly.

[Geobin Composting Program](#)

Join us for
Good Idea Shop Talks
A free meet-up series for row crop and livestock producers to exchange ideas for improving on-farm soil and water resources, while protecting profitability

January 18th, January 25th, and February 1st at 11:30am CT / 12:30pm ET.
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: [HTTPS://GOODIDEAFARM.ORG/SHOP-TALKS](https://goodideafarm.org/shop-talks)

The logo for 'One Good Idea' features the text 'One Good Idea' in white inside a green speech bubble shape.

Good Idea Shop Talks

This free meet-up series is for row crop and livestock producers who want to exchange ideas and advice for troubleshooting on-farm challenges related to improving soil and water resources. It will help producers connect

Good Idea Mini-Grant Opportunity

Qualified pairs of farmers and farm advisors will compete for grants in the amount of up to \$8,000 to implement edge-of-field conservation practices and document the process via video or podcast.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED: NOV. 27, 2023 - JAN. 15, 2024

The logo for 'One Good Idea' features the text 'One Good Idea' in white inside a white speech bubble shape.

Good Idea Mini-Grants

We invite pairs of producers and farm advisors to submit proposals to implement a low-cost edge-of-field

with and learn from each other about how to be good stewards while protecting their profitability. Our first season of these weekly, virtual meet-ups will take place on Thursdays, January 18th and 25th, and February 1st at 11:30am CT / 12:30 ET.

conservation practice on the producer's operation and create a video or podcast about what they did and learned to be shared with other producers via One Good Idea. Awards are up to \$8,000. The application deadline is January 15th, 2024.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)



Photo: Weasie Gaines

[Visit our Website](#)



Oldham County Conservation District | 1002 Buckner Center Dr, Suite 4, Lagrange, KY 40031
502-902-7070 | oldhamsxcd@gmail.com | www.oldhamccd.org

[Unsubscribe oldhamsxcd@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe_oldhamsxcd@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by perry.thomas@kywater.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!