



Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority

Biennial Report for State Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

The Agriculture Water Quality Act, KRS 224.71-100 through 224.71-140, was passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. The primary objective of this act is to protect surface water and groundwater resources from pollution as a result of agriculture and silviculture activities. This legislation has elevated the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a model by developing agriculture policy and farming practices to protect the quality of the water.

The Agriculture Water Quality Act applies to all landowners with 10 or more contiguous acres engaged in agriculture or silviculture production.

Current Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority Members

Randy McCallon (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts), **Larry Thomas** (Kentucky Farm Bureau), **Amanda Gumbert** (University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment), **Charles Taylor** (Kentucky Geological Survey), **Paulette Akers** (Kentucky Division of Conservation), **Beth Williams** (Kentucky Division of Forestry), **Sarah Gaddis** (Kentucky Division of Water), **Vacant** (Kentucky Division of Public Health), **John Chism** (Kentucky Department of Agriculture), **Dean Schamore** (USDA Farm Service Agency), **Vacant** (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service), **Chris Howard** (Environmental Organizations), **Joseph Sisk** (Member-at-Large from Ag Operation), **Fred Sipes** (Member-at-Large from Ag Operation), and **Megan Bailey-Komar** (Member-at-Large from Ag Operation)

Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Plan

The Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Plan is divided into sections covering Silviculture, Pesticides and Fertilizers, Farmstead, Crops, Livestock, and Streams and Other Waters. No revisions were made to Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Statewide Agriculture Water Quality plan during this biennium. Several committees are currently in the review and revision process for their respective BMPs. These will be documented within the next biennial report.

The Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Plan is available at eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Ag%20Water%20Quality%20Authority%20Documents/Ky%20Ag%20Water%20Quality%20Plan%20December%202020.pdf.

DEVELOP AN
AgWater
QUALITY PLAN.





Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share

The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program was established by the 1994 General Assembly and responsibility of the program was given to the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Kentucky Division of Conservation, and conservation districts. The program assists agriculture and silviculture producers in Kentucky with the implementation of the Agriculture Water Quality Act. The program encourages clean water through reducing sediment loading, nutrients and pesticides in streams, rivers and lakes across Kentucky.

The program funds from FY23 and FY24 were obligated during the FY23-FY24 biennium. The Kentucky Division of Conservation received 1,841 applications requesting \$24.35 million in financial assistance for cost share projects. During this period, the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission gave formal approval on 664 applications for a total \$7.89 million. The best management practices funded through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program help reduce animal waste nutrients, prevent the loss of topsoil, and minimize sediment and other nonpoint source pollutants in Kentucky's streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater supplies.

Education and Outreach

To assist farmers in completing their Agriculture Water Quality Plan, the Authority, in partnership with the Division of Conservation and the University of Kentucky, developed an Agriculture Water Quality Plan Online Planning Tool. This allows individuals to develop their plan online, have a digital copy for their files and retrieve that version to make changes in the future. A shorter paper version was also created. Resources on completing an Agriculture Water Quality Plan are available at eec.ky.gov/AgWater. Additionally, those with livestock should complete a Kentucky Nutrient Management Plan or have a plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning tool is available from UK at www.uky.edu/bae/awqp-nmp. To date, there have been more than 4,750 individual Ag Water Quality Plans created using this online planning tool.

The AWQA and its members have partnered to do broad marketing with monthly ads in the *Soybean Sentinel* and *Farmer's Pride* magazines. Additionally, targeted marketing was done to the Boyle/Mercer County area to coordinate with a cover crop education program within the Lake Herrington watershed. Marketing and outreach were also performed by staff attending agricultural and commodity events such as the Kentucky Ag Expo, the Kentucky Commodity Conference, the Kentucky Forest Health Conference, the Kentucky Pork Producers Annual Conference, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council Annual Meeting, etc.

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