

Help Protect Kentucky's Rivers and Streams... Become a KWA Member Today!



Kentucky Waterways Alliance
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Louisville, KY 40206

Congratulations!

Brad and Karen Hines and Family were recently recognized by Kentucky Farm Bureau as one of three finalists for the Outstanding Young Farm Family award. Brad and Karen have installed several BMPs to improve the water quality around their farmland and plan to do more. Please congratulate Brad and Karen when you see them!



Get Involved!

Follow the Bacon Creek Watershed Council on Facebook! The Council will be meeting during the fourth week of October. We hope to host a Septic Workshop, and to plan future community events as well. Possibilities include a creek



cleanup, rain barrel painting and auction, and we're open to other ideas as well. Come get involved!

Let's Clean Bacon Creek Together!

The News *from* Bacon Creek

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After helping fund the replacement of two septic systems and the installation of a handful of agricultural best management practices last

year, the Bacon Creek Watershed Council and Kentucky Waterways Alliance are back with more funding from Kentucky Division of Water for projects in the upper watershed.

We have a new grant for more septic tank pump-outs, repairs, or replacements up to a total of \$6,000 for each project.

Has it been more than five years since you had your septic tank pumped out? Does your septic system have a pipe into the creek? Do you notice standing water over your septic tank? If so, then we'd love for you to apply! For our septic work, we pay 80% of the cost of the work, not including permit fees.

We also have funding to help install agricultural best management practices that focus on water quality improvements. In the past few years, we've worked with farmers to install stream or pond fencing, stream crossings, heavy use area protection and more. For the agricultural work, we pay 75% of the costs, and farmers are expected to contribute 25% of expenses through financial, labor, or equipment match.

Please apply if you're interested!



NEW BMP FUNDING!

Let's Clean the Creek together!

We have more funds for septic pump outs, repairs, and replacements, and for agricultural BMPs that improve water quality. Go to: <http://wp.me/P3csII-1d> or the **Bonnieville City Hall** for more information.

The New Backyard Habitat Program



KWA is the state affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation, or NWF. One of NWF's initiatives is to get citizens, schools, businesses and others to install native plant gardens that provide wildlife habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, and other critters.

The idea is to add more ecological value to



Kevin Cole / Flickr

the landscape. A garden of native plants provides better food and cover for wildlife than non-natives. With a few small additions, it can also provide water and shelter for wildlife. Plus, native plants require little fertilizer and much less water than annuals or a regular lawn.

After putting in the plants, NWF asks folks to apply to make the garden a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The certification has a number of nice perks, including a one year NWF membership and discounts on NWF merchandise.

Through a joint effort with NWF, we are starting a Kentucky *Certified Backyard Habitat* Program. Why would an organization about water be doing this?

It's really simple: we know that what happens on the land affects the water.

We've already set up a website for the program and plan to have more information in the coming months.



Tom Potterfield / Flickr

What is a Harmful Algal Bloom?

Excess phosphorus and nitrogen from lawn and agricultural fertilizer can run off the land when it rains. Failing or poorly maintained septic systems can also leach nutrients.

When these excess nutrients flow into our waterways, they feed the growth of algal blooms. As these spread, they can suffocate fish and aquatic species. Some algal blooms produce toxins; these blooms are referred to as **harmful algal blooms**.



Why do they matter?

Human contact with harmful algal blooms can lead to rashes, sore throats, and breathing difficulty. Swallowing the toxins can even cause organ failure or death, especially in pets and livestock.

Over the past several years, these blooms have occurred in many Kentucky lakes. Last summer, a harmful algal bloom formed along 600 miles of the Ohio River.

Harmful Algal Blooms



What can be done?

The first step is to reduce nutrients entering our waterways. Cities must do their part and deal with wastewater. Our work fixing septic tanks and keeping livestock out of ponds and creeks help to reduce nutrient loads. There are plenty of other conservation farming practices like grass swales and buffers that help, too! For larger operations, developing and implementing a nutrient management plan is a must!

