in this issue >>>

Issue
FIVE

SERVING CALHOUN, RITCHIE, ROANE, WIRT, AND WOOD COUNTIES

The Little Kanawha Conservation District and You

current topics >>>

If you missed previous AgEP sign-up periods, don't worry, here's your chance to catch the next one!

Sign Up Begins:
April 27th ,2020
Ends:
May 11th, 2020

For more information about the program and/or obtain an application please contact The Little Kanawha Conservation District office at (304) 422-9088. Ext. 121 or stop by the office:

91 Boyles Lane, Parkersburg, W.V. 26104
677 Ripley Road, Ste 2, Spencer, WV 25276

West Virginia AgEP

Agricultural Enhancement Program will provide opportunities for demonstration of site- specific agricultural best management practices and the education of agricultural operators about innovative management and conservation practices and methods. AgEP supports implementation of new/ innovative best management practices. Conservation District has discretion related to the evaluation and funding of these types of practices.

Conservation Best Management Practices

AgEP's mission is to assist the agricultural cooperators of West Virginia Conservation Districts with the voluntary implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands in order to conserve and improve land and water quality. The program offers technical and financial assistance as an incentive to implement suggested best management practices. Additional practice options will be determined by each Conservation District to best address the needs of the district.

"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end contribute the most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

The intent of AgEP is to be a simple user-friendly program in order to encourage participation. Overall program primary objectives include the reduction of nutrients and sediment from entering the waters of the State and increasing farm profitability and sustainability. Each conservation district has the ability to modify the program to address specific agricultural issues in its area.

1st JUNIOR ENVIROTHON IN WEST VIRGINIA

You don't want to miss this! LKCD host first Junior Envirothon! Come be a part of the event!

West Virginia Envirothon

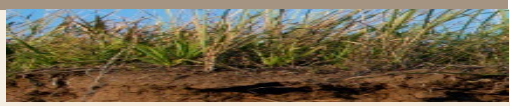
Learn to Earn!

1st Place- $300
2nd place- $200
3rd place- $100

Prizes will be awarded to the top three highest scoring teams to be used by the classroom organization.

SAVE THE DATE

September 3, 2020



Junior Envirothon

The Junior Envirothon is a team based natural resources competition for middle school students. Students who participate learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real world environment problems. The program is field- oriented, community based and gives students an opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

Who can participate?

Teams can be created through school clubs, classes, home school groups, 4-H groups, scout groups, local nature centers etc. The only requirements are that teams consist of 3-7 middle school students, ages 10 to 14 and one adult advisor/ chaperone.

What do teams do?

These teams of middle school students are tested on their knowledge of natural resources- forestry, wildlife, and pollinators. Students visit "in-the-field" test stations where written and hands-on problem solving is required. The event is competitive, but education is the bottom line.

How does a team register?

*Registration deadline is **August 3, 2020.** Registration forms can be mailed to:*

Little Kanawha Conservation District
ATTN: 2020 Junior Envirothon
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104

KNOCK OUT MULTIFLORA ROSE/ AUTUMN OLIVE WEEDS!

Do you have a lot about Multiflora Rose/ Autumn Olive Weeds on your land? Are you interested in helping learn how to identify and remove them? Or, are you just interested in learning more? Join us for a Field Day Event to inform cooperators about the proper removal of Multiflora Rose/ Autumn Olive.

Landowners, are invasive weeds such as multiflora rose/ autumn Olive invading your property? Don't let these invasive plants decrease the value of your land and interfere with your pasture lands, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Arm yourself with the knowledge you need to protect your property from these invaders.

The Little Kanawha Conservation District and The Farm Bureau are partnering together to host a Multiflora Rose/ Autumn Olive Control Demonstration.
This workshop will help you to identify the worst invasive plant in West Virginia and discover how these invaders are disrupting the native habitat. Learn biological, mechanical and chemical ways to control invasive multiflora rose/ autumn olive.

SAVE THE DATE!!

April 25th, 2020 @ 10a.m.

Location:

Norma Davis
3625 Mountain Drive
Pennsboro, WV 26415

Head North towards WV-74N
3.4 miles turn left WV-74N

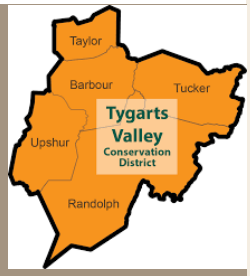
Free lunch provided!

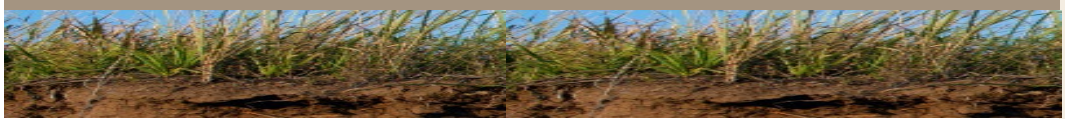
For more information

Please contact Little Kanawha Conservation District @ (304) 422-9088

Call to make resverations but it is not required.

Don't want to miss, Tygart's Valley Conservation District demonstrating their equipment on Multiflora Rose/ Autumn Olive. You can even call the Tygart's Valley CD and ask to rent the equipment with the operator.





Autumn olive: An invasive West Virginia brush

Autumn olive *(Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb.)* is a large deciduous shrub capable of forming dense thickets in West Virginia pastures. Native to eastern Asia, it was introduced to North America in the 1800s. Individual plants may reach heights of 20 feet and can easily be distinguished by their leaves, which have a lustrous silvery appearance on their lower surface and are arranged alternately to the stem. Autumn olive displays a vivid white bloom in early spring, and its growth habit may provide refuge for certain wildlife. A bush honeysuckle called Tartarian honeysuckle *(Lonicera tartarica L.)* can often be mistaken for autumn olive; however, its leaves are more oval, oppositely arranged and are not silvery on either surface.

What problems does it cause?

Autumn olive is one of the most common invasive brush species in the state. If left unmanaged, it is capable of significantly affecting pasture productivity. It may reduce the water, nutrients and sunlight available for desirable plant species and may considerably depreciate the productive area of a pasture. Dense thickets of autumn olive can be an eyesore and may serve as a source of undesirable weed seeds to nearby pastures and farms.

How can it be controlled?

While new infestations of younger autumn olive plants may be controlled within a growing season, a persistent approach covering multiple (three to five) years may be required to control well-established stands. A combination of mechanical and chemical methods is recommended when feasible.

Mechanical control

Understanding the physiology of autumn olive is important for appropriately timing a control method. The ultimate goal is to kill the root system, because it can sprout new growth if left viable. The roots expend energy during spring months when the plant works to reestablish its canopy. At this time, the predominant flow of stored sugars (the plant's energy reserves) is in the upward direction into new shoots and leaves.

– continued on page 3 –

Table 1. Herbicides used in pasture for control of autumn olive.

Common Name	*Trade Name*	*Application Method*	*Application Rate (Product)*
Glyphosate	Roundup® (≥4 pounds/gallon), several formulations	Directed foliar, cut stump	Foliar: 2 to 3% solution Cut-stump: 20 to 25% solution
Fluroxypyr + triclopyr	PastureGard® HL	Foliar	1% solution
Picloram + 2,4-D	Tordon® RTU	Cut-stump	Full strength
Picloram + 2,4-D	Grazon® P+D	Foliar	2% solution
Tebuthiuron	Spike® 20P	Directed soil	¾ ounce per 100 square feet
Triclopyr	Remedy® Ultra	Foliar, basal bark, cut-stump	Foliar: 1-2% solution Basal bark, cut-stump: 20% in oil
Triclopyr + 2,4-D	Crossbow®	Foliar, basal bark, cut-stump	Foliar: 2% solution Basal bark, cut-stump: 5% in oil

Autumn olive: An invasive West Virginia brush

– continued from page 2 –

Taking advantage of this timing can make mechanical control methods, such as girdling, prescribed burns, bush-hogging and cutting, more successful. Likewise, a young autumn olive shrub may be grubbed most effectively in the spring, after the plant leafs out fully, by removing the entire root system when the soil is moist. Such well-timed mechanical methods leave the roots compromised and potentially unable to produce new shoots. Any sprouts appearing after mechanical removal should be treated with herbicides to achieve proper kill.

Chemical control

The herbicides effective for autumn olive control are systemic by nature (Table 1). Like with mechanical controls, optimal herbicide effectiveness is achieved when well-timed applications take advantage of the seasonal changes in the plant's physiology. When systemic herbicides are applied later in the season when the flow of sugars is downward toward the roots, better translocation of chemicals to the root system may be facilitated. Choosing the proper herbicide, timing, method and rate of application will determine treatment success. Repeated applications during successive growing seasons may be required in some instances.

Appropriately timed control methods will be most effective in managing autumn olive.

Use a foliar herbicide application to wet the entire canopy without allowing the droplets to drip. Directed applications of herbicides containing the active ingredients glyphosate (Roundup®, etc.), triclopyr (Remedy® Ultra, Crossbow®), fluroxypyr (PastureGard® HL) and picloram (Grazon® P+D) are especially effective for this purpose. Other herbicides, such as 2,4-D and dicamba, provide suppression of autumn olive. Foliar applications of systemic herbicides are especially effective in the months of July through September when there is adequate moisture in the soil. Late spring also is a suitable window for application.

Of the herbicides listed, glyphosate is non-selective and will cause injury to surrounding grasses and other vegetation; therefore, it should be applied as a directed spray to the target plants. If using glyphosate, use a coarse spray with an air-mix nozzle to avoid drift while providing sufficient foliar coverage.

To control larger plants, basal or cut-stump applications are recommended. For basal applications, apply a triclopyr herbicide mixed with high grade mineral oil or No. 2 diesel oil around the bark of a standing plant to a height of 12 to 18 inches above the soil. Follow the instructions on the herbicide label regarding type of sprayer and spray volume required. Basal applications may be carried out year-round, except when snow or rain prevent the spray from being applied all the way to the ground.

Herbicides containing glyphosate or triclopyr also are recommended for cut-stump applications. Using a sponge, brush or sprayer, apply the herbicide solution to the entire cut surface immediately after cutting. In addition, certain ready-to-use formulations may be used to conveniently treat small areas. A liquid formulation containing picloram and 2,4-D (Tordon® RTU) is effective as a cut-stump treatment.

A pelleted formulation containing tebuthiuron (Spike® 20P) may be broadcast directly over soil in the vicinity of autumn olive stems. Care should be taken not to apply this herbicide to areas prone to runoff. Application of this herbicide during early spring, prior to active growth and rainfall, will provide the best results.

Biological control

An effective and sustainable strategy to manage autumn olive is to graze goats and cattle on the affected pasture. Goats prefer brushes such as multiflora rose; however, they also can browse the foliage of autumn olive, especially when they are young. They can defoliate areas infested with brushes that offer limited access to humans.

Livestock tend to trample and forage on brushes when their grazing is confined to a tighter area. Such targeted grazing by goats contained using a solar-powered temporary step-in fence has proven to be effective, particularly to control smaller brushes. Various types of fencing materials, such as poly wire, electric tape and electric netting, are available.

Once brush is under control, create and maintain a dense canopy of forage and employ rotational grazing. This will help the forage out-compete new autumn olive seedlings and prevent the shrub's reestablishment.

Forage Sampling Available

Forage quality is a measure of the nutrient value available from pasture or hay. The forage quality needed is based on the nutrient requirement of the livestock consuming the forage. Forage low in nutrient value will not meet the needs of livestock having a high nutritional requirement and, if fed to that animal, the animal will not perform as expected and may become unhealthy. Forage high in nutrient value when fed to an animal having a low nutritional requirement will make the animals gain more than needed and will be wasted compared to feeding it to animals having a high nutritional requirement.

The LKCD offers a conservation specialist to come out and sample your fields or get a core from your hay bales for a small charge of $25 per trip. The fee covers using there equipment, making the visit to your farm, and bagging, packaging and mailing the samples. Oh, did I mention the Little Kanawha Conservation District also pays for two of your samples. Then you just pay for what type of testing you are wanting done from either Basic or Protein and fiber for the rest of your samples. Hay bales can be sampled 30 days after being baled. Fermentation needs to be completed, which is usually 3 weeks after being baled.

The samples will be analyzed, and the results will be sent to you as well as the Little Kanawha Conservation District. We supply assistance to Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood counties. If you are in these counties and would like to schedule an appointment for the District Conservation Specialist to assist you in taking advantage of this farm management opportunity for the small fee of $25, call the Little Kanawha Conservation District at (304) 422- 9072, Ext. 122. We will be happy to arrange a time that is convenient for you.

Forage is cheaper than concentrates/supplements.

"A forage test will tell you how good the hay is and how much you can afford to pay for it" *Gary Naylor

Don't Wait! Take advantage of the 2 free samples, provided by LKCD!!

Why should I Soil test?

- **Know your soil.** Soil testing is an important diagnostic tool to evaluate nutrient imbalances and understand plant growth.
- **Understand.** The most important reason to soil test is to have a basis for intelligent application of fertilizer and lime.
- **ph.** Testing allows homeowners to adjust soil pH to the optimum range (6.0-7.0), which makes nutrients more available for plant growth.
- **Protection of our environment.** Avoid contaminants that can enter our surface and ground waters by over-application of phosphorous or nitrogen fertilizers.
- **Cost savings.** Why apply what you don't need? Soil test results provide information about the soil's ability to supply nutrients to plants for adequate growth and are the basis of deciding how much lime and fertilizer are needed.

DON'T GUESS- SOIL TEST

Get your pastures and gardens tested today!

If you plan to apply for our lime cost share program, you will need to submit a current soil sample to us that is less than three years old. You can take these samples yourself or LKCD has a conservation specialist that will come out and take the samples for you with a charge of $25 per trip. The fee covers using there equipment, making the visit to your farm, and bagging, packaging and mailing the samples. This way you will be ready when the sign-ups begin. The WVU Soil Testing Lab will test the soil for free and send the results to you and your local extension office. The best time to sample is early spring or late summer. Avoid taking samples when the soil is wet. Gardens should be sampled every fall, crop fields every 1-2 years, pasture 3-4 years and lawns every 4 years. You should wait 3 or more months after applications of lime or fertilizer to retest. Using a spade, auger or soil probe take multiple (12-15) soil samples down 2-4 inches from each filed. Remove any grass, debris or rocks and place all samples from each field in a separate bucket. Crumble and mix the samples and allow them to air dry. Then place 1-2 cups of soil from each field in separate Ziploc bags. Fill out an information sheet for each sample and attach it to the corresponding bag.

Send your samples to:
WVU Soil Testing Lab, PO Box 6108, Morgantown WV 26505.
For information sheets and more, visit soiltesting.wvu.edu or contact your local extension office or the LKCD office at (304) 422-9072 Ext. 122


Equipment Rental

No till Drill:
Requires a $50.00 Deposit
$15.00 Acre

Before you can rent equipment, you must have completed an "Equipment Rental Form" and pay a deposit, checks or money orders only. You may now pick up equipment for rental at JSC Enterprises in Spencer, WV or at Little Kanawha Conservation District.

Grass Works Weed Wiper:
Requires a $50.00 Deposit
$50.00 a day
(Unit can be pulled with a tractor or ATV)

New 2 Ton in Spencer!

2 Ton Lime Spreader:
Requires a $50.00 Deposit
$50.00 a day

4 Ton Lime Spreader
Requires a $70.00 Deposit
$70.00 a day

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104
Phone: 304-422-9072
Email: eleanor.porter@wv.usda.gov
Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/wv

News Release

USDA Announces Updates for Honeybee Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced updates to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These updates include changes required by the 2018 Farm Bill as well as discretionary changes intended to improve the administration of the program and clarify existing program requirements. ELAP was previously administered based on FSA's fiscal year but will now run according to the calendar year. Producers are still required to submit an application for payment within 30 calendar days of the end of the program year. This is not a policy change but will affect the deadline. The signup deadline for calendar year 2020 losses is January 30, 2021.

Starting in 2020, producers will have 15 days from when the loss is first apparent, instead of 30 days, to file a honeybee notice of loss. This change provides consistency between ELAP and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which also has a 15-day notice of loss period for honey. For other covered losses, including livestock feed, grazing and farm-raised fish losses, the notice of loss deadline for ELAP will remain 30 days from when the loss is first apparent to the producer.

Program participants who were paid for the loss of a honeybee colony or hive in either or both of the previous two years will be required to provide additional documentation to substantiate how current year inventory was acquired.

If the honeybee colony loss incurred was because of Colony Collapse Disorder, program participants must provide a producer certification that the loss was a direct result of at least three of the five symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder, which include:

- the loss of live queen and/or drone bee populations inside the hives;
- rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hives, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended;
- absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
- absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
- at the time of collapse, varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline.

For honeybees, ELAP covers colony losses, honeybee hive losses (the physical structure) and honeybee feed losses in instances where the colony, hive or feed has been destroyed by a natural disaster or, in the case of colony losses, because of Colony Collapse Disorder. Colony losses must be in excess of normal mortality.

ELAP also provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and farm-raised fish including for feed and grazing losses. It covers losses because of eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires on federally managed lands. ELAP also covers losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.

For more information on ELAP visit farmers.gov/recover or contact your FSA County Office. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

USDA Announces Details of Risk Management Programs for Hemp Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of two programs that protect hemp producers' crops from natural disasters. A pilot hemp insurance program through Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) provides coverage against loss of yield because of insurable causes of loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain or Cannabidiol (CBD) oil and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage protects against losses associated with lower yields, destroyed crops or prevented planting where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. Producers may apply now, and the deadline to sign up for both programs is March 16, 2020.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

NAP provides coverage against loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain, seed or CBD for the 2020 crop year where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available.

NAP basic 50/55 coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases. The 2018 Farm Bill allows for buy-up levels of NAP coverage from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Pilot Insurance Program

The MPCI pilot insurance is a new crop insurance option for hemp producers in select counties of 21 states for the 2020 crop year. The program is available for eligible producers in certain counties in Alabama, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. Information on eligible counties is accessible through the USDA Risk Management Agency's Actuarial Information Browser.

Among other requirements, to be eligible for the pilot program, a hemp producer must have at least one year of history producing the crop and have a contract for the sale of the insured hemp. In addition, the minimum acreage requirement is 5 acres for CBD and 20 acres for grain and fiber. Hemp will not qualify for replant payments or prevented plant payments under MPCI.

This pilot insurance coverage is available to hemp growers in addition to revenue protection for hemp offered under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection plan of insurance. Also, beginning with the 2021 crop year, hemp will be insurable under the Nursery crop insurance program and the Nursery Value Select pilot crop insurance program. Under both nursery programs, hemp will be insurable if grown in containers and in accordance with federal regulations, any applicable state or tribal laws and terms of the crop insurance policy.

Eligibility Requirements

Under a regulation authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and issued in October 2019, all growers must have a license to grow hemp and must comply with applicable state, tribal or federal regulations or operate under a state or university research pilot, as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Producers must report hemp acreage to FSA after planting to comply with federal and state law enforcement. The Farm Bill defines hemp as containing 0.3 percent or less tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry-weight basis. Hemp having THC above the federal statutory compliance level of 0.3 percent is an uninsurable or ineligible cause of loss and will result in the hemp production being ineligible for production history purposes.

For more information on USDA risk management programs for hemp producers, visit farmers.gov/hemp to read our frequently asked questions. For more information on the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program, visit USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services' website to read their frequently asked questions.

Mill Run Farm Service Agency Announces Count Committee Election Results

The Mill Run U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over and the ballots have been counted.

Daniel Stephens of Washington was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) #3.

Jeffry McElfresh of Belleville will serve as the first alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2020 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Mill Run FSA office at 304-422-9072.

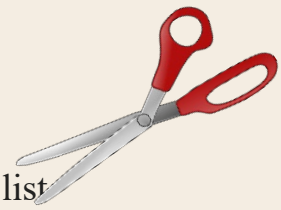
Questions? Contact us!

Be sure to contact the people below for answers or help with your conservation questions and concerns. They are the District's representatives, are ready to help you.

Calhoun County	*Dale Cunningham (304) 354-6916*
Ritchie County	*Ivan Banks (304) 628-3659* *Mike Nichols (304) 659-2399*
Roane County	*Sam Sheets (304) 927-3658* *Thanh Ashman (304) 761-8980*
Wirt County	*Roger Shaver (304) 275-4313* *Roseann Adams (304) 275-3932*
Wood County	*Bob Buchanan (304) 210-5206* *Dexter Graham (304) 863-5429*

To report any STREAM BLOCKAGE, please contact Kim Neal at (304) 872-4302

Help keep The Little Kanawha Conservation District and You mailing list up to date. Indicate your choice and complete the coupon below. Return it to the Little Kanawha Conservation District, 91 Boyles Lane, Parkersburg, W.V. 26104.



_____ Please add me to the mailing list

_____ Please remove me from the mailing list

_____ Perfer Email

Email Address: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

District Supervisors

Calhoun County

Dale Cunningham

Ritchie County

Ivan Banks

Mike Nichols

Roane County

Sam Sheets

Thanh Ashman

Wood County

Bob Buchanan

Dexter Graham

Wirt County

Roseann Adams

Roger Shaver

Items we currently have for sale are:

Geo Textile
Catch Basin
Blue Bird Boxes
Concrete Lids
Plates and Bolts
Tree Tubes & Ties
PVC Pipe
Float Valves

Call the Little Kanawha Conservation District for availability and current prices at (304) 422-9072

LITTLE KANAWHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg WV 26104