Little Kanawha Conservation District News

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LKCD SUPERVISORS

Calhoun County:

Dale Cunningham
304-354-6916

David Cain
304-462-7747

Ritchie County:

Ed Martin
304-869-3448

Butch Law
304-643-4438

Roane County:

David Goff
304-377-7588

Rick Mullins
304-377-5761

Wirt County:

Rose Ann Adams
304-275-3932

Roger Shaver
304-275-4313

Wood County:

Jeff Mcalfresh
304-482-8114

David Pahl
304-489-7909

Who is the LKCD?

The elected supervisors of the Little Kanawha Conservation District serve on local boards that develop and implement urban and rural conservation programs designed to protect and conserve soil, water, woodland, wildlife, and other renewable natural resources. Jeff McElfresh's bond with agriculture runs deep, rooted in the fertile soil of his upbringing. Raised on a quaint beef cattle farm in the heart of southern Wood County, West Virginia, Jeff began to cultivate the skills and values that would ultimately shape his destiny. By the tender age of 18, he embarked on his own farming odyssey, nurturing beef cattle and tobacco — an early testament to the dedication and work ethic that would define his journey and community engagement.
Throughout his years of service, Jeff's fervor for uplifting young minds and fortifying local agriculture has shone brightly.



For over a decade, he served as a 4-H volunteer leader and an active participant in the Wood County Junior Livestock Sale Committee. His unwavering commitment to empowering youth, instilling leadership skills, and fostering agricultural traditions earned him the esteemed title of West Virginia 4-H All Star — a remarkable accolade within the organization.
In 2020, Jeff's devotion to conservation and stewardship blossomed further when he was elected to the Little Kanawha Conservation District.

As Equipment Chair, he has been instrumental in aiding landowners, supporting local producers, and championing conservation practices throughout the district. With his hands-on farming experience and strong community bonds, Jeff stands as a trusted ally for those striving to safeguard and enhance natural resources.
Before fully dedicating himself to the realms of agriculture and conservation, Jeff spent 25 years with E. I. DuPont as a chemical operator, retiring in 2014. His rich tapestry of experience — interwoven with threads of farming, industry, youth development, and conservation — grants him a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie within West Virginia's agricultural landscape.
Jeff's lifelong commitment reflects his belief in nurturing natural resources, uplifting future generations, and reinforcing the agricultural bedrock that sustains rural communities. His enduring service continues to weave a meaningful impact across Wood County and within the Little Kanawha Conservation District.

Letter from the Chairman:

I am writing to bring your attention to the impact of HB5364. Under this legislation, local conservation districts have been stripped of all authority and oversight regarding local dams. This change presents a significant concern for our districts and the constituents we represent. This bill was approved in the middle of the night, during the final legislative session with few, if any of our representatives actually reading the entire bill. Previously, local district supervisors were readily available to address issues and initiate immediate action. Under the new legislation, local districts no longer have personnel on the ground, requiring direct outreach to the state agency to request support. Sadly, I cannot even tell you which agency to contact.

Removing local control from dam inspections can lead to **delayed detection, reduced responsiveness, regulatory gaps, and higher public safety risks**. Effective dam safety requires a balance between centralized oversight and local expertise, with clear protocols for when and how inspections are conducted.

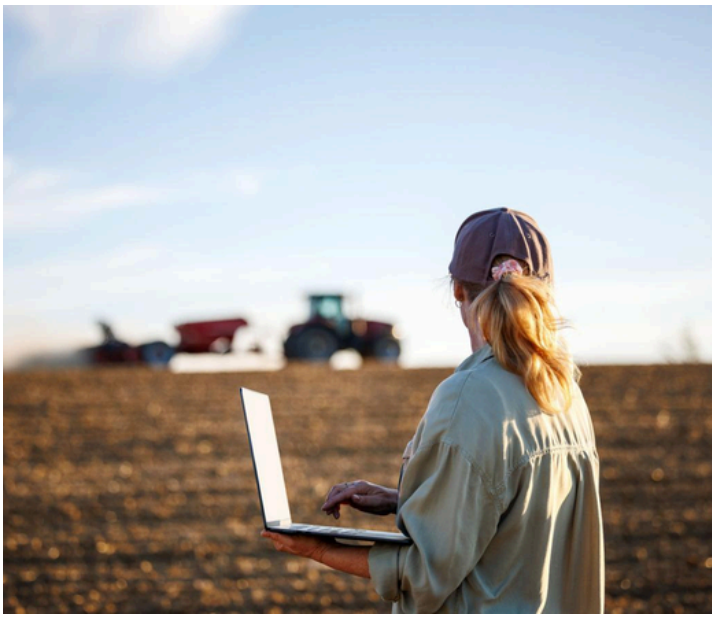
Driving around various counties this month the dams we normally oversaw are not getting mowed. Mowing a dam keeps **the embankment stable, reduces erosion, removes hazards, controls animal activity and enables early detection of problems**. It's a simple, cost-effective measure that significantly contributes to the **safety, integrity, and longevity** of the dam.

I encourage you to review these changes and consider the potential implications for your local area. Contact your local representative or county commission; this law needs to be amended to allow your local conservation district authority to service the dams and get your local district supervisors' boots back on the ground.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Respectfully
Ed Martin
Chairman
Little Kanawha Conservation District

Secretary Rollins Unveils Plan to Modernize Agricultural Data Collection and Put Farmers First -
September 1, 2026



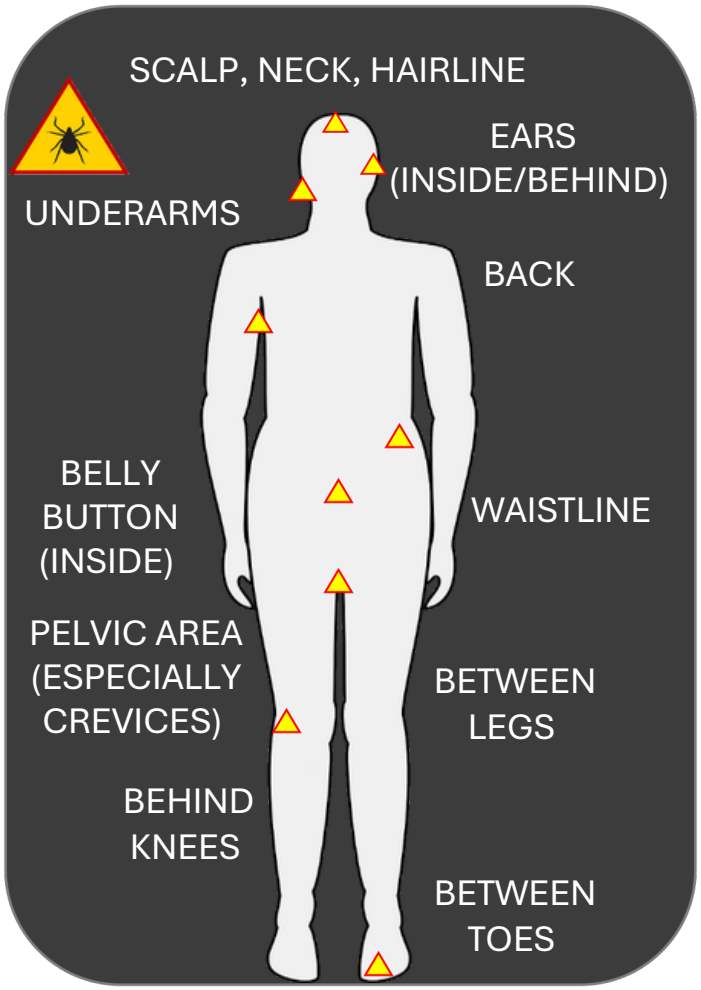
USDA Secretary Brooke L. Rollins unveiled the Department's new Data Modernization Plan at the Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa on September 1, 2026. The initiative aims to streamline data reporting for farmers, improve the quality and timeliness of agricultural statistics, and strengthen transparency and trust with producers.
The plan is built around four pillars: modernizing the data-reporting experience, enhancing acreage and yield estimation through emerging technologies, integrating USDA data and technology platforms, and expanding trust and transparency with producers. The plan was shaped by feedback gathered through a public Request for Information and listening sessions held with farmers and agricultural stakeholders nationwide.
USDA leaders emphasized that modern tools — such as satellite imagery, geospatial analysis, cloud platforms, and responsible use of AI — will help reduce reporting burdens while improving statistical accuracy. Implementation begins immediately, with USDA committing to privacy protection, clear communication, and continued engagement with producers as new approaches are evaluated.



information found at https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST TICKS?



This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40447.
March 2025. University of Vermont, Integrated Tick Management Program. Graphics courtesy of CDC and Pixabay.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PREVENT BITES

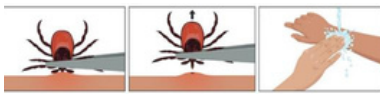
- Wear protective clothing (light-colored long pants,long-sleeve shirt,permethrin-treated) and tuck pants into socks.
- Use EPA-approved tick repellents.
- Check for ticks daily after working in the field, forest or with animals. Check animals too. Use lint roller on clothes in field after working in or near tick-infested areas.
- Shower daily in peak tick periods (spring/fall).
- Use amirror to check hard-to-see places.
- Put clothes in dryer (10 min) on high heat.

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

Disease symptoms include fever, fatigue, joint aches, muscle pain, headaches, bulls-eye rash (not always present) within 30 days of the bite. Contact medical provider for advice.

IMMEDIATELY REMOVE TICK





Grab by the head at skin surface with fine-pointed tweezers, pull straight up and wash area with soap.

Look on the Bright Side

NO MORE DROUGHT!



August Average rainfall

3.91in

25 days

Getting Your Farm Ready for Fall

A little preparation now can protect your crops, equipment, and buildings—and set you up for a successful season next year. Here are the key steps to take as fall approaches:

1. Clean Up Around the Farm

Clear away debris, dead plants, grass clippings, animal waste, scrap metal, and broken equipment from fields, walkways, and barns. Compost organic materials to improve your soil and reduce weeds. A tidy farm is safer and easier to work on.

2. Harvest and Store Summer Crops

Pick warm-weather crops like tomatoes, peppers, and onions before the frost hits. Preserve extra produce by canning, freezing, drying, fermenting, or making jams and jellies so you'll have food through winter.

3. Get Equipment Ready for Storage

Clean all machinery thoroughly and check for rust or damage. Then prepare each part for winter:

- Fuel: Drain tanks or add an appropriate stabilizer.
- Batteries: Store partially charged batteries in a warm location.
- Tires: Maintain proper pressure; use jacks if equipment will sit for long periods.
- Covers: Use quality covers to protect machines from moisture and dust.

4. Check and Maintain Storage Buildings

Clean out grain bins, silos, and storage sheds. Remove old grain and debris, repair leaks, and make sure aeration or heating systems are working properly. Keep entrances and pathways clear.

5. Control Weeds and Field Debris

Clear weeds and leftover plant material from fields, fence lines, ditches, and edges to help prevent pests and diseases from spreading.

6. Plan Next Year's Planting

Review this year's yields and soil health to plan your crop rotation. Fall is a great time to plant cool-season vegetables such as beets, radishes, spinach, kale, and Brussels sprouts. You can also plant onions, garlic, fruit trees, and spring bulbs so they get the cold period they need.

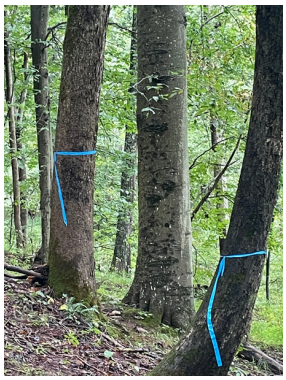
7. Prepare for Changing Weather

Make sure your emergency plans are up to date. Keep generators, chainsaws, and livestock supplies ready. Monitor frost forecasts and know the temperature limits of your crops.

8. Protect Perennials and Tender Plants

Add mulch to garden beds to insulate roots. Dig up and store tender tubers, like dahlias and begonias, before the first hard frost.









On Friday, September 11th, the West Virginia Division of Forestry hosted an FFA Forestry Contest at the scenic Mountwood Park, where crisp air and early hints of autumn set the perfect backdrop for a day of learning and competition. The Little Kanawha Conservation District was invited to attend and proudly provided lunch for all participants and volunteers, offering a welcome break and a chance for everyone to connect and recharge. Dave Pahl, a newly elected LKCD supervisor, joined in the day's activities and assisted in handing out awards as the event came to a close.

West Virginia Conservation Agency employees, Cort Martin and Lisa McCray, were also on hand to support the event, helping coordinate logistics and ensuring the contest ran smoothly from start to finish. Ravenswood earned top honors after an impressive showing. Congratulations to the winners on a job well done!

All contestants demonstrated tremendous effort and dedication throughout the day. Participants completed a written exam and navigated multiple field stations designed to test both their forestry knowledge and their ability to make practical, real-world decisions. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to tackle each challenge made the event both exciting and memorable.
A big congratulations to everyone who took part in the contest! Your hard work and positive energy played a key role in making the day a great success!



Dave Pahl (LKCD Supervisor), Raylee Whited, Hannah Miihlbach, Jeremy Miihlbach, and Logan Thomas



First Place: Raylee Whited



Second Place: Hannah Miihlbach



Third Place: Declan Ferrell

FREE NOTARY SERVICES

Available at the Little Kanawha Conservation District Parkersburg Office

Congratulations

Sesquicentennial Farm

Townsend Farm
Ewing Farm

Century Farm

Garrison Farm
Depue Farm



Farm Fresh Dates to Remember

September 26	Harvest Moon Arts & Crafts Festival - Parkersburg City Park
October 8-11	Black Walnut Festival - Spencer, WV
October 10	Little Kanawha Conservation Distirct Annual Dinner Banquet
October 9-10	Mansion by Candlelight - Blennerhassett Island
October 17	Glow on the O - Vienna, WV
October 23-24	Women in Agriculture Conference WVU Campus Morgantown, WV
November 1	Wirt Co. FFA Beef BBQ Wirt Co. High School Elizabeth, WV
November 14	Wings of Wonder (avian educational program) - North Bend State Park

Follow us on FaceBook for the latest events

Little Kanawha Conservation District
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Equipment Rental

Lime Spreader 2-ton		$85 per day
	4-ton	$100 per day
Cone Fertilizer Spreader		$15 per day
Weed Wiper		$50 per day
ATV Seeder		$15 per day
Soil Probe		$25 deposit

- Rentals receive inspection prior to and after use.
- Misuse will be subject to additional charges.

Supplies

Float Valve Assembly- Barrel		$98.50
	- Pan	$127.00
Replacement Poppet		$25.00
Replacement Arm - Straight		$50.00
	- Bent	$54.00
Copper Pipe w/ Clamp		$24.00
Filter Fabric	per foot	$1.15
	per roll	$432.00
Catch Basin / Spring Box		
	18"x24"	$50.40
	18"x30"	$63.00
	18"x36"	$75.60
Tree Tubes		$5.00
Blue Bird Boxes		$21.00

Prices are subject to change without prior notice