

WATER RESEARCH

We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local conservation districts and Farm Bureau to participate in developing water quality regulations. We request state government to include agricultural representation in the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDLs.

Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the Commonwealth should be based on documented water quality data. A state program should consider factors such as the cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.

Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally occurring substances should not be at the expense of the established water users, including agriculture.

We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support research on the BMPs established in the state water quality plan. We support producer development, implementation, and updating of individual agriculture water quality plans.

We encourage producers to have their plan certified by a qualified party, and to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the local conservation district.

We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recommend local communities take an active role in watershed research, education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural water quality plans and best management practices to address water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.

Using accurate water quality monitoring, water use needs should be addressed through research on the following:

- (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;
- (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;
- (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures and transport mechanisms; and
- (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater and springs.

We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's efforts to review all impaired streams and reassess their designation based on actual scientific data.

We encourage the Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA) to coordinate research among the agencies and evaluate water quality protection models.

We support collaborative efforts to conduct water resource research, monitoring and education efforts by state and federal agencies and the universities.

WE SUPPORT UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) EFFORTS TO COLLECT DATA ON KENTUCKY'S MAJOR WATERWAYS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN.

We oppose any voluntary water quality data being used as the sole source on which regulatory decisions are based.

We oppose the Division of Water setting TMDLs with data more than three years old.

We recommend the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services conduct research on sewage treatment systems and develop low-cost alternatives for areas where septic tanks are inefficient.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

{We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local conservation districts and Farm Bureau to participate in developing water quality regulations. We request state government to include agricultural representation in the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDLs.}

State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data. {Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the Commonwealth should be based on documented water quality data. A state program should consider factors such as the cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.}

{Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally occurring substances should not be at the expense of the established water users, including agriculture.}

Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or individual water quality plans.

{We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support research on the BMPs established in the state water quality plan. We support producer development, implementation, and updating of individual agriculture water quality plans.}

{We encourage producers to have their plan certified by a qualified party, and to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the local conservation district.}

We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the most cost effective methods without it being considered a point source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge Elimination System of the Division of Water and the federal Clean Water Act.

We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.

{We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recommend local communities take an active role in watershed research, education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural water quality plans and best management practices to address water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.}

We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive water resources development plan while giving due consideration to land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to assist local government in implementing a water and sewer resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation in the water resources planning process and request an agricultural representative on all watershed basin teams.

We recommend that the Division of Water monitor and inform local communities as to the status of their water resources and be available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a

high priority and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research, cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation purposes. **WE SUPPORT USDA MODIFYING EXISTING COST-SHARE PROGRAMS TO ALLOW FOR NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ASSESSING THE LONG-TERM AVAILABILITY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ON-FARM WATER SUPPLIES AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.** We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for commercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority, and that water remain available to them.

In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing water resources.

We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural communities.

We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.

We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are more stringent than federal protections.

We support moving Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point Source Program for agriculture and light construction to the Division of Conservation and silviculture to the Division of Forestry.

WE SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A KENTUCKY WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO SUPPORT A COORDINATED EFFORT TO MANAGE WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

WE SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GRAIN CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE CONCEPT AND COORDINATED RESEARCH EFFORTS ON WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES.

WE SUPPORT INCREASED MONITORING OF KENTUCKY'S WATER RESOURCES TO OBSERVE BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THESE RESOURCES.

WE RECOMMEND THE KENTUCKY DROUGHT MITIGATION AND RESPONSE PLAN BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE A SPECIFIC "AGRICULTURE DROUGHT MITIGATION" SECTION. WE RECOMMEND THAT IN ADDITION TO THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THAT THE USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY BE REPRESENTED ON THE KENTUCKY DROUGHT MITIGATION TEAM.

WE SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAX INCENTIVES FOR IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT.