

Hanging Fork Creek watershed (051002-05-180)

Geography. The Hanging Fork Creek watershed covers northwestern Lincoln County and includes adjacent parts of Casey and Boyle Counties. The land is in the outer subregion of the Bluegrass physiographic region, which is characterized by undulating terrain, moderate to rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The watershed lies partly above fractured shales through which groundwater can easily move but which stores very little water. Other sections lie over interbedded clay shales and siltstones. There are also areas of interbedded shales and limestones (these are 20% limestone; water conduction is poor because of the clay content of the shale).

Waterways. Hanging Fork Creek empties into the Dix River west of Lancaster, near Hedgeville. Among the creeks that feed it are Baughman Creek, McKinney Branch, Peyton Creek, Blue Lick Creek, White Oak Creek, Harris Creek, and Knoblick Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is almost 80% agricultural, 16% rural and wooded, and 4% residential. Three businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed creek segments in this watershed include one part of Hanging Fork Creek that does not support some or all of its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Pathogens from agricultural sources contribute to the impairment of these streams. See the 2000 Assessment Report or 2000 305(b) list and the 2002 303(d) list of impaired streams for full details.

Kentucky River Basin Management Plan, 2002. Information is from the first basin cycle (1997-2002), including the 1998-1999 monitoring effort and the 2000 Assessment Report. See kywatersheds.org or www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds for the complete Assessment Report and Management Plan.

Watershed Restoration Ranking			Watershed Protection Rank	Overall Watershed Rank	Framework Mobilization Category
<i>Observed Impacts</i>	<i>Potential Impacts</i>	<i>Combined Rank</i>			
High	High	High	Low	High	III

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 96 square miles.

Pathogens make contact recreation unsafe in Hanging Fork Creek from its mouth to Knoblick Creek (1st priority TMDL 2002).

Livestock density is substantially higher than the basin average.

Except for the Boyle County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 47 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.



Dix River Region



See the color map of this region on p. 131.

LEGEND

- Area of this watershed
- Sewage plants
- Public water supplies
- Other water withdrawals
- Locks & dams
- Cities and towns
- Rivers and larger streams
- Smaller streams
- County borders

