



October 2011

# HARDIN COUNTY FOCUS



Judge/Executive  
Harry L. Berry

## Your County Recycling Program

**History:** In 2007, we partnered with Fort Knox to initiate a recycling program for Hardin County Residents. With the assistance of a small grant from the State Government, we located two trailers within the county—one on Ring Road in Elizabethtown and the other in Vine Grove on South Mill Street. As demand for the service increased and additional funding became available, we added additional trailers.

The Fort Knox Recycling Center lost their inmate labor in 2010 resulting in additional costs to our program. At that time, we purchased a tractor to pull the trailers and hired a full-time driver.

**Current Program:** Today, through a partnership with Meade County Government to process our recyclables, Hardin County expends approximately \$62,000 plus another \$16,204 in state grants to collect and transport over 400 tons of recyclables to the Meade County Recycling Center. To accomplish this, we placed recycling collection points in the following locations: Central Hardin Fire Station on Ring Road, the Hardin County Farmers' Market, Rineyville Ballpark, across the street from the Sonora Post Office, and downtown Vine Grove.

On average, the Central Hardin Fire Station site collects 16 loads per month, downtown Vine Grove collects 6 loads, Farmers' Market and Rineyville Ballpark collect 3 loads each, and the Sonora location collects 2 loads. The County Inmate Work Program enables us to efficiently maintain and operate the sites daily. We employ one full-time driver to haul approximately 30 trailer loads or 70,000 lbs per month to the Meade County Recycling Center. Last year, 54% of our recycling items were newspaper, 33% cardboard, 12% plastic, and 1% tin or aluminum.

Our recycling sites are located within a 5-mile radius of 85% of the residents of the county as indicated on the map to the right.

**Why We Recycle:** Recycling is the simplest and easiest way to preserve the earth's valuable and finite resources. It has a profound impact upon our earth and helps maintain it as a health and sustainable place for future generations. If every American household recycled just one milk jug, we would keep 200 million pounds of plastic out of America's landfills. Packaging makes up 1/3 of America's garbage. In one year the average American throws away one ton of garbage, uses and discards two pine trees in paper products. We throw away enough aluminum to rebuild all of America's commercial airlines every three months. The wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50 million homes for 29 years. It only takes a few minutes to rinse out a container and drop it by a recycling center.

