



**KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND**

2011 Forums

Growing Kentucky Agriculture
agpolicy.ky.gov

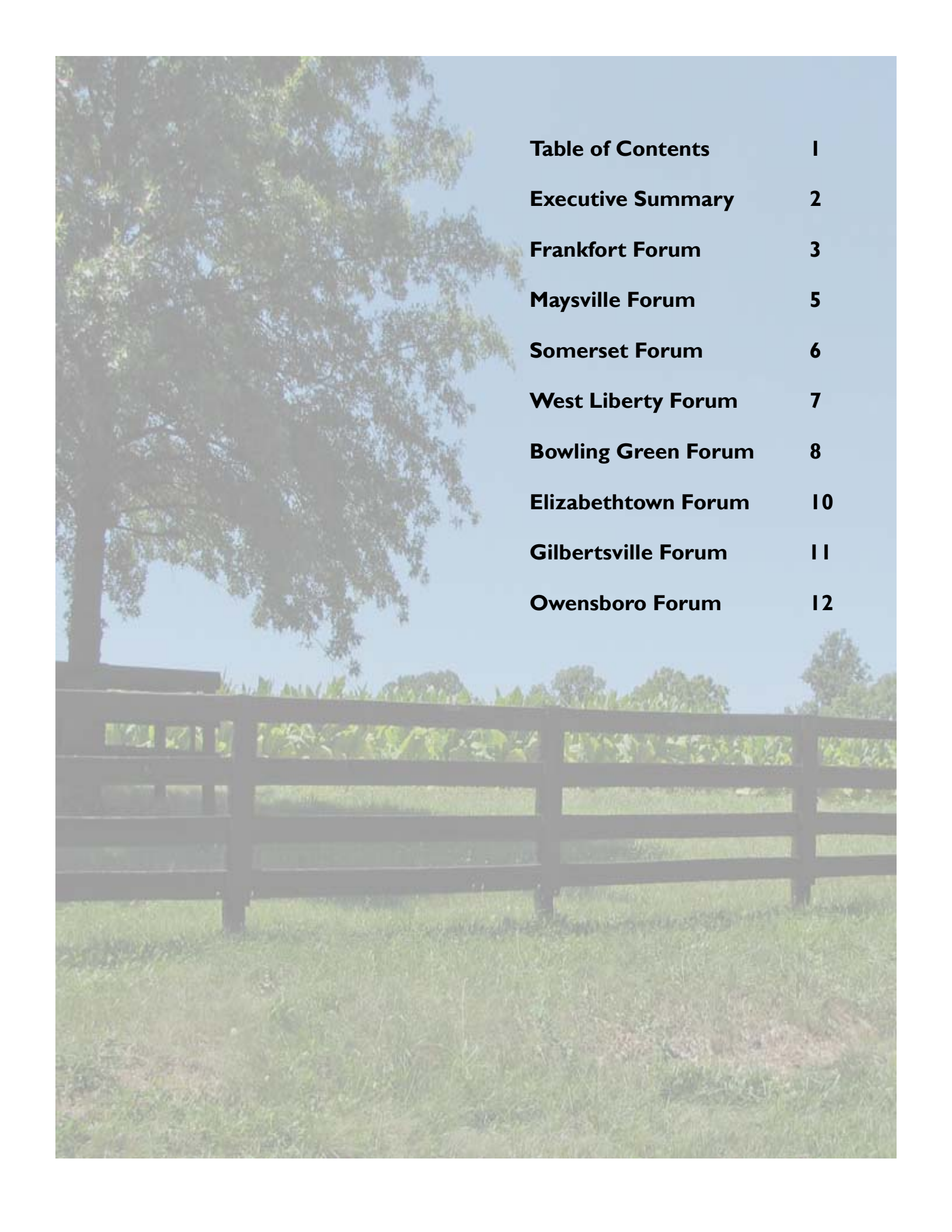


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FRANKFORT

May 19, Kentucky History Center

Adair County

- Have GOAP receive the County Cooperative Extension Newsletters.

Fayette County

- Invest in building urban farm skills and processing markets.
- Help with community kitchens and incubators.
- Invest in year round markets.
- Keep educating the public on programs and policies.
- Commit to free Kentucky; We can feed ourselves and be the “State that the Food Saved.”
- Season extension for growers (ex. hoop houses). Sustainable commercial root storage also can grow and in other places.
- Agritourism will be strong in the United States for the next generation. We need to focus more on this industry in our state.
- Many thanks to all who produced the forum; heartfelt thanks as well to those who created the great policies behind the KADF. You have changed all of us for the better.



Garrard County

- Food and product value chains are the answer. Feed to mills to farms to processing to retail.

Hardin County

- Educate young students about available opportunities in agriculture.

Jefferson County

- Increase funding for urban agriculture programs.
- There is a need for a regional processing plant for vegetables/livestock to meet the increasing need for Louisville.



Madison County

- We appreciate KADB's support of Farms to Food Banks. The program has a positive impact on the economic viability of family farms – increasing producer's incomes by providing a source of revenue for surplus and seconds. It also strengthens Kentucky's specialty crop market by increasing consumption among market segments that are traditionally underserved: low income Kentuckians. Once they try produce through our program – they're hooked!

Marion County

- Farm-to-school programs are beneficial however, implementing this program and winning over food-service coordinators is an issue. Public awareness and parental demand needs to be in place to implement change.

Mercer County

- Production agriculture is still very important.
- Keep the small farmer in mind.
- Continue impacting as many farmers as possible.
- There needs to be a statewide look at developing agricultural markets and processing plants. There is a demand for local food right now, and we need to develop more ways to make it easier for farmers to benefit from this.

Oldham County

- Should the KADF be divided differently today? Our county has very little tobacco production, but we have large agriculture revenue from the horse, crop and cattle industries. Should we have access to more funds to support our high growth county?

FRANKFORT (continued)

Shelby County

- Kentucky is a pacesetter for the nation – How can we help the KADF thrive in the future?
- Regional projects are needed to add value to farm products with an emphasis on bioenergy and delivering farm products to consumers.

Washington County

- A mobile bottling line would be most beneficial for small wineries that could be used across the whole state.

Woodford County

- Benefited from genetics program, master cattlemen's course and master grazer course.
- Opportunity to make a drastic change in marketable timber, alternative use of timber, and value added projects for wood.
- Promote the finishing of meat animals (cattle, pigs, chickens and others) in Kentucky, through development of processing facilities.
- Development of farm resources for producing the food to finish the animals and through enhancements on the demand side.
- Develop on-farm electricity generation through the use of biomass gasification of on-farm biomass especially low quality wood, but also other biomass sources.
- Do not discount the value of cost-sharing to individual farmers. That money has helped farmers and the agriculture industry immensely.
- There are 400,000 woodland residents and commercial tree farms can not earn a living. There is a gap between woodland owners and the potential need. Wood certification is also needed.
- Need to focus more on the demand side. Farmers can produce, but we need to find a way for them to get paid.
- Loan more money to restaurants or wholesale/retail outlets, so they can pay producers.
- Create a demand – pull.
- Put money into Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

Franklin County

- Reluctant to give money to outsiders.
- Greenhouses at high schools are important. Franklin Co. now has several classes.
- Teachers can use money for classrooms.
- Franklin Co. Farmers' Market has tripled its membership.

Taylor County

- Need to consider a pilot project with KBN and KDA for steroid, hormone, and antibiotic (ASH) free meat for our school kids.
- Would like to set up a farm to school program – good clean food for our schools.

Other

- Focus needs to be on program & outreach leadership in agriculture. There needs to be more collaboration with the coaches institute. Why reinvent the wheel?
- Need to put Kentucky back on map for horses.
- We need finishing of animal product process facilities, so that we keep animals in the state.
- Wood Products – UK has looked at biofuels to generate electricity for on farm use and will sell it back to the grid (already doing this in Europe).
- The cost share money has made a big difference.
- Do not take your eye off the ball. Production agriculture is still your best bet.



MAYSVILLE

May 24, Maysville Community and Technical College

Bath County

- County programs need to stay in place, but counties also need to pool money together and do regional projects.
- DNA Testing can help us select the best animals we have. Incorporate this into the genetics program. It is because of the KADF that our beef cattle are doing so well.
- This is grass country. If it's not for cattle, then how do we sell the grass?

Campbell County

- Basically the KADF offers good programs.
- Continue to support the Kentucky wine industry until they can become self sufficient (next few years we should be self sufficient).
- Agri-tourism is an important industry in Kentucky, especially northern Kentucky.
- Diversification is so important. Continue to put money in agricultural diversification programs.
- There needs to be projects on a regional basis. Boone, Kenton and Campbell work together and other counties could too if they are not already.

Fleming County

- We need big regional projects.
- We must continue, as we have done, to protect these funds from non agriculture interest groups.
- Would it be practical to invest funds in a program of training, funding and assistance in farm estate protection and planning?
- CAIP makes it possible for young farmers to get into business. The KADB needs to support DNA testing. It would give the Kentucky genetics program a leg up.
- Kentucky Proud program is GREAT.
- If it was not for those programs (CAIP) it would be really hard for young farmers.
- Need to support cattle genetics, agricultural diversification, fencing, etc.
- Applauds those who have protected the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.
- Regionalized concept for a centralized grain storage unit, so farmers without sufficient storage can hold their grain to wait for a better price. (not a coop)



Mason County

- There needs to be a broader look at the possibilities of a processing facility.
- Regional projects are important such as the grain storage co-op in Mason Co.
- Should funding end for GOAP, who would be over existing loans and keeping a record of payment? I am questioning the non-model matching/forgivable loans. This needs to be thought about.
- Need to encourage a Class I milk processor to locate in eastern Kentucky and use Kentucky milk.
- Need a local grain elevator that offers risk managed pricing.

Montgomery County

- Add DNA testing to Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund programs.

Other

- Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds need to go to farmers who grew tobacco or other crops and not for camping areas, etc.
- Need to educate consumer about opportunities to buy local.
- Why am I not able to use cattle genetics money to buy bulls to improve my herd genetics, which will help other cattlemen who buy our cattle?
- We need a choice of markets for milk, because currently milk only goes to one market.
- In the genetics program we need to include DNA testing, so that it helps us keep the good animals.
- Equine trail revitalization includes off-trail lodging opportunities for people and equine in Lewis County.
- Working to connect all these trails for equine.

SOMERSET

June 1, The Center for Rural Development

Adair County

- Innovative ideas and someone getting into a new enterprise can not get to the top in the CAIP program versus someone who has been a cattle farmer for a long time.
- Need to give more decision-making back to the county council to help direct the program.

Fayette County

- There are untapped opportunities for increasing equine farm revenue in “Non-Race” horses (ex: pleasure horses, show horses etc.).
- Create highly prestigious summer entrepreneurial boot camps for young people (29 and under) and start new agricultural related ventures. Cash awards to those with the best plans to launch new businesses.
- Continue alumni workshops for the 110 graduates of the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute – Keep them connected and involved with new ideas and information.
- Expand Coaches Institute with a focus on youth entrepreneurship.
- There has been a missed opportunity in regards to the equine industry. People are making money with horses – We have the knowledge, because of the thoroughbred industry – We need to now expand this to all horse breeds. If you are already working with cattle, it is easy to work with horses too.



Lincoln County

- Credit should go to the KADF and the CAIP programs for the improvement in our cattle industry.
- We do not always agree on everything, but we do agree that we want producers to not only cost-share, but we want them to improve their cattle and forages.
- We can continue improving forages, cattle and the horse industry.
- We have not seen the full potential of the CAIP program yet.
- We need to do a better job of sharing our agriculture successes with our county officials and community.

Pulaski County

- Pulaski County needs an agriculture/expo center for hosting events such as horse shows, livestock shows and a farmers' market to serve local 4-H youth and local farmers.
- Would like to see a focus to build Ag Expo centers for counties without Ag Expo/Equine Facilities. Pulaski County needs a multi- purpose facility.
- Thank you for leveraging funds to improve farm enterprises.
- Pulaski County does not have a facility for horses to show including beef cattle. This multi-purpose facility could be a regional project.
- KADFs need to be used for conservation easements. If not PACE, then provide seed money for counties to start a local Purchase Development Rights (PDR) program.
- Marketing and value-added programs need to be continually improved and developed to help producers obtain good return on production.

Wayne County

- Thank you to Ag Development Funds. There is still room for cattle improvement and would like to see teams that would go around to the counties and help with vaccination, castrating, etc.
- Tobacco producers should still get more points when applying for funds.
- The transformation has come from our feedstock in cattle in Kentucky. We are a leader now. This was the most effective use of KADFs and the biggest success story.

Whitley County

- Forestry in Kentucky – \$6-8 Billion – 35,000 Jobs – Woodland owners only get \$168 million back in return. Ideas: Information on the worth of certain timber is not public knowledge like corn prices, cattle and etc. You cannot compare your product with others, and woodland owners would like to be treated more fairly with market sensitive news. Would like a program that could connect this information to the public.

WEST LIBERTY

June 7, MSU Regional Enterprise Center

Breathitt County

- Offer a youth entrepreneur development program as part of county funded phase I programs.
- Encourage youth to get involved in high-value cash crops such as blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes etc.
- The KADB needs to consider more regional projects like the slaughter facility project that is currently being evaluated in Wolfe and Morgan counties.

Magoffin County

- Continue the Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds in the future and focus on growing beekeeping programs.
- Create a youth program for beekeeping.
- The Heifer Development Project in Perry County is an example of a successful regional project for early on in the KADF process and still going strong.

Menifee County

- Kentucky Horse Council should receive state KADFs to do a survey of the horse industry in Kentucky and help promote and protect the industry, so Kentucky keeps its title of "Horse Capital of the World."

Wolfe County

- Eastern Kentucky has gotten its fair share of KADF'S, but if there are any major changes keep eastern Kentucky in mind.
- Focus on Farm-to-School programs.
- Kentucky is the only state that has used this (MSA) wisely.

Other

- Save the youth of eastern Kentucky with entrepreneurship programs and let the extension offices and agents play a role.
- FSA Loans are available for FFA and 4-H students.
- FSA would like to partner with KAFC on a project in the future.
- Adult education is very important and the KADB should do whatever it takes to help farmers, including welding programs.
- Would like to see a regional heifer program.



BOWLING GREEN

June 14, Sloan Convention Center

Allen County

- We will be talking about what we saw on the 2011 Energy Bus Tour to Missouri, on how energy is created through agriculture, for years to come. Show Me Energy Cooperative has been to Bracken County and they are looking into a facility like Show Me Energy in Kentucky.
- Food vs. energy (fuel vs. food) - corn stovers can be processed into fuel.
- The KADF provides the means for innovation and diversification and it will be supported during budget talks.

Barren County

- There needs to be a regional composting site, but we need to get politics out of the equation in Barren County.
- Every County has ground for sweet corn. Has anyone looked at a sweet corn processing plant?
- Youth/CAIP application – very fair score sheet for CAIP. Need to continue scoring applications, so young farmers have a benefit.

Edmonson County

- The specialist position at University of Kentucky for winery/vineyard is being lost as of July 1 this year. It was partly funded by the KADF and is a very vital thing for our up and coming wineries in the state. Park Mammoth in our county is getting ready to start a winery and needs the expertise that UK provides.
- The \$7,500 limit on the Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Assistance Program needs to be removed or increased because it is hindering the development of composting, etc. due to the cost of starting up a compost program.
- Need a multi-purpose facility in Edmonson Co. for cattle sales, etc.

Hart County

- Pushing for diversification.
- Dead Animal Removal – Would like to propose a ratio system for the \$7,500 grant for each county. Each county will verify the previous year number of dead animals and the grants will be pro-rated as to the number of dead animals in each county and the county will receive based on the number. Example: If a county has 100 dead animals and another county has 800 dead animals, they will receive the grant based on the ratio. It makes no sense to give each county the same grant because some counties have more of a need than others.

Logan County

- The KADF has “helped build a faster horse.” Would like to see the KADF build the “Apple Computer” of agriculture.
- Would like to see a Triangle Research Park, like in North Carolina here in Kentucky - an “Agriculture Research Park” that brings young people into the state. Marion Co. is building an agricultural industrial park and West Liberty is building one for processing.
- Cellulose has a large potential. There is a research project in Germany – public money, pilot size project (facility can be leased out).
- Can we build pilot project private / public funds like the one in Germany for a cellulose plant? We need to create an atmosphere in Kentucky that we can attract companies like this to Kentucky.
- Logan County Board is progressive and built a farmers’ market pavilion with glass front (multi-purpose facility – with riding arena, booked through 2014). They also have miscanthus growing in the county.

BOWLING GREEN (Continued)

Todd County

- A percentage of county funds need to go for regional projects.
- There is a need for a KADF young farmer program to get young folks into farming.
- We are not attaching to the young folks in each community and we need to cultivate this group more.
- There needs to be a forum to promote and share what the KADF is and what's been done to get the publics input. What can be done for the communities?
- Ag tech and leadership development needs to be statewide.
- To obtain diversity, add others to the local county councils.

Warren County

- Open to regulatory off sets or education programs that affect farmers – “Cap & Trade” type infrastructure.
- Create a reserve for farmers that could be tapped into when extraordinary circumstances happen.
- Record processes for projects across the state that are a necessary need, but do not have a competitive nature. So, everyone doesn't have to recreate the wheel.
- Sweet corn and cabbage production is important and a co-op may need to be reinvented for this. It was not the right time for the other co-ops that failed.
- Bio Fuels – Amazing scientific research and innovation at EKU.
- Mesonet System – there are 58 Stations across the state –added soil moisture testing with KADFs for Hart County and other counties.
- Looking for project to provide value-added data products for farmers (example: phone apps to capture wind speed) real time information for farmers.

Other

- Bringing youth in is important and the KADB needs to continue working with economic development cabinet.

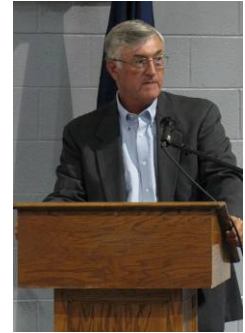


ELIZABETHTOWN

June 15, Pritchard Community Center

Breckinridge County

- The CAIP program is wonderful.
- Would like to have two sign-up periods for CAIP rather than one.
- The education that we allow the extension agents to provide to the producers is extremely important to continue.



Hardin County

- Allow farmers to invest in field tilling cost-share practices.
- Can anything be done through the KADF to help with the purchase of farmland for young farmers, including existing farms or the ability to expand? (Most land is being sold for development at development prices.)
- Continue to be diligent in approving projects that have “long-term” consequences in enhancing and preserving the viability of Kentucky’s agriculture especially through regional type investments that involve processing, marketing or handling.

LaRue County

- Would like a place to share ideas online in a forum type setting.



Marion County

- Agriculture is an economic development tool. Continuing to focus on infrastructure is extremely important and maintaining the rural economy. Value-added enterprises are also very necessary.
- The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund is about the quality of life to rural Kentucky. The fund has had a direct impact to rural Kentucky and agriculture.
- Agriculture lending programs are important. Look at programs that limit net worth.

Shelby County

- Applauds the dairy processing plant concept. Matching KADFs are important for this project.
- Thanked legislators for the milk commission legislation.
- There could be opportunities to look at working with processing plants to make Kentucky Proud Milk.



Washington County

- KADFs need to be used for a dairy processing (value-added) plant.
- Create a new market for dairy farmers by selling milk to schools.

GILBERTSVILLE

June 21, Kentucky Dam Village SRP

Ballard County

- We need a regional riverport in Wickliffe, KY.
- Need to develop some kind of state program to mitigate problems with dairy/hog lagoons from defunct operations.
- Model programs have run their course.
- Use county money for a revolving loan fund in each county. Each county could build up a large base for a loan pool.
- Grain farming has saved Ballard Co.



Franklin County

- The Chamber of Commerce is a huge supporter of the KADF. One of the Chamber's top 5 goals is for Kentucky to be competitive in global initiatives through the Kentucky World Trade Center chaired by Governor Martha Lane Collins. We want to work more with agriculture and agri-businesses across the state. Would like to work with the KADF more closely to achieve global access – exports / imports.
- Wants to see debt service moved back to the general fund so agriculture has more money.

Graves County

- It is good to know that someone in government is trying to look out for the farmers on a local level.
- This fund helped us on our family farm with an expense we had after applying with our extension office for a grant.
- As an alternative view – enhance county programs, work on a bigger project.
- Still a lot in Graves County to be done with model programs.
- Plenty of room for enhancing programs.

Livingston County

- Thank you for KADFs continued support through the Kentucky Dairy Development Council. Programs have been leveraged through the markets it has created.
- Increase education for young dairy farmers.
- The dairy industry has stayed steady because of help from the KADF.

Lyon County

- We appreciate Kentucky Proud marketing and products.
- A market facility improvement fund outside of new construction would be helpful. There is a high interest in local products.
- Helping people understand modern agriculture is important – not sure how funds could do this.

Marshall County

- Used energy money for poultry houses and would like to see more funds used for these energy type projects.

Other

- Exports are very important and a 2009 study shows tremendous untapped markets. We need to be bringing in the right people to identify markets that are all around us.
- Pennyrile and Purchase ADD have strategic plans that include agriculture.

OWENSBORO

June 22, Daviess Co. Cooperative Extension Office

Daviess County

- Mentor program is needed to help young farmers by connecting retiring farmers with new farmers.
- The KADF programs have been great! Under certain circumstances more money needs to be available as the Board grows its assets.
- Do not put any more money into fertilizer and tiling. We are plowing new ground in agriculture. Agriculture is doing pretty well, and we will do those things anyway.
- We need jobs and economic development is very important.
- All agriculture groups need to come together like they did in the very beginning of the process. This fund would not be here if it wasn't for all the groups coming together.
- Reprioritization of county comprehensive plans needs to take place.
- Daviess County has worked on a youth cost-share program.
- Need to come up with programs with low interest rates for young farmers not ones that are already established.
- Have the Kentucky Proud program focus more on the Kentucky farmer.
- Look at increasing support for farmers' markets. The KADB put a cap of \$25,000 for infrastructure. Is this going to stay like this?
- We have everything we need in front of us to be successful, so we just need to relook at our long range plans to reprioritize.
- Low-interest loans for young farmers are very important.



Estill County

- The KADF has benefitted farmers greatly. Areas of potential growth include forestry and energy production and or reduction.

Henderson County

- Would like more KADFs available for equine initiatives.
- Work with economic development to attract something agricultural to the area.
- Educational programs for college students.
- More regional on-farm production trials.



Union County

- Thank you for the Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds and what they have done for the Little Kentucky Smokehouse project.

Other

- Money is drying up for research, etc. because of the economy. Funding universities to do trials would help including research row crops, grains and corn.
- Concern that cash rent is increasing and we need to educate the land owners that are not involved in agriculture.
- Prorating is a big issue. The education aspect is the most important including technology. We need key people to keep the farmers educated.
- We have an aging population and need a transition program for older farmers to work with younger farmers.
- Continue supporting leadership programs.
- We need to put a face on the Kentucky farmer.



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