



Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy

For Immediate Release

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Gov. Beshear Names Ridley Executive Director of Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 28, 2020) Gov. Andy Beshear appointed Dorsey Ridley of Henderson, a former bank president and state lawmaker who operates a family farm and who most recently served as director of legislative services for the governor, to serve in the role of executive director for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP).

"Dorsey has been an advocate for Kentucky families and farms for decades and I appreciate his willingness to continue to serve the people of the commonwealth," Gov. Beshear said. "His experience as a banker lending to farmers to grow or sustain their operations, operating a family farm growing corn in Western Kentucky and as a lawmaker including his time on the agriculture committee will be invaluable to the GOAP and the Kentuckians it serves."

"Agriculture has always been a significant part of my life and it is an honor to serve in this capacity," said Ridley. "I thank the Governor for this opportunity to grow and positively impact our agriculture industry. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund supports our farmers, communities and statewide economy."

Ridley has a long-standing record of public service. Previously, Ridley served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994 and the State Senate, as senate caucus chair, from 2004 to 2018. Ridley proudly represented Caldwell, Crittenden, Henderson, Livingston, Union and Webster counties. Additionally, Ridley sat on the Senate Agriculture Committee for 15 years. Professionally, Ridley has been employed by Independence Bank, as regional business development director and former president of Independence Bank in Henderson. Independence Bank currently is the largest agricultural lending community bank in Kentucky.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University, Ridley received his B.S. in business and agriculture. Reared working on a family cattle farm, Ridley is a lifelong advocate for the agriculture industry. Ridley is married to Glenn Hodge Ridley. They are the parents of four adult children and enjoy two granddaughters.

The GOAP, established in 1998, provides grants, incentives and low-interest loans through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund to help farmers and agribusinesses innovate and grow. The office provides a direct link between the Governor and one of Kentucky's most important industries, agriculture. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation are administered by the GOAP.



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Read about other key updates, actions and information from Gov. Beshear and his administration at governor.ky.gov, kycovid19.ky.gov and the Governor's official social media accounts [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Gov. Andy Beshear and the General Assembly continue to make great strides toward lessening Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing a portion of Kentucky's Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement Funds into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF).

To date, the KADF investments total more than \$630 million in an array of county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises. These funding approvals, made possible by the KADF, represent just a few of the more than 6,400 projects approved, since the inception of the program in January 2001.

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