

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the March 21, 2025, business meeting. This is provided in summary form; an official record of the meeting is available in the permanent records of the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy, 107 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.



**Kentucky Agricultural Development Board  
Summary Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting  
March 21, 2025  
Franklin County Extension Office  
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY**

**Call to Order**

Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Warren Beeler presiding, called the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) regular business meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. (EDT).

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Deputy Commissioner Warren Beeler (designee for Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell), Matt Stephens (designee for Governor Andy Beshear), Dean Laura Stephenson, Dr. Marcus Bernard (designee for KSU President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo), Wayne Hunt, Kevin Fields, Mark Barker, Al Pedigo, Bobby Foree, Matt Hinton, Fritz Giesecke, Heather Graham, and Neil Denton.

Absent Members: Dr. Gordon Jones, Bobby Foree, Ashlee Chilton (designee for Secretary Jeff Noel), and Laura Sanderfur.

**Notification of Media**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler received verification from Hannah Sharp-Johnson, Board Secretary, that the media had been notified of the KADB monthly meeting.

**Welcome**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler welcomed everyone to the KADB meeting. Board members and guests participated in person.

**Approval of Minutes**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2025, board meeting.

Mr. Barker moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Dr. Bernard seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Kentucky Department of Agriculture Report**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler updated the board on activities of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

### **Executive Director's Report**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler gave an overview of his activities since the February board meeting. Lastly, Mr. Reed referenced the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount.

### **Deputy Executive Director's Report**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Bill McCloskey, KOAP Deputy Executive Director, to present the compliance and financial report to the board.

Mr. McCloskey referenced the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund State Pool Tobacco Funds (*on file*) as of February 25, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of February 25, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed the KAFC Statement of Financial Position (*on file*) as of February 28, 2025.

Mr. Sawyers moved to approve the Financial Report, as presented; Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Memo Action Items**

#### **A2021-0059      RedLeaf Biologics, Inc.**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Brian Murphy to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a second amendment to the legal agreement. The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends that the Board enter into a Second Amendment to the Agreement to:

1. In exchange for the Board waiving its right to repayment of \$43,467 due to RedLeaf failing to meet its 2024 goal of cultivating 580 acres, because RedLeaf only actually cultivated 93 acres, RedLeaf agrees to add another year of required performance to the Annual Debt Forgiveness and Repayment Schedule extending the final year through 2027.
2. The remaining Annual Grower Plan Goals shall be adjusted to:
  - a. In 2025: The Recipient shall make purchases from at least EIGHT (8) Kentucky producers and cultivate at least FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY (580) acres.
  - b. In 2026: The Recipient shall make purchases from at least TEN (10) Kentucky producers and cultivate at least ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE (1,163) acres.
  - c. In 2027: The Recipient shall make purchases from at least TWELVE (12) Kentucky producers and cultivate at least TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (2,325) acres.
  - d. In 2028: The Recipient shall make purchases from at least FIFTEEN (15) Kentucky producers and cultivate at least THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE (3,765) acres.
3. The Board shall make an up-front payment to RedLeaf of \$160,000, so that RedLeaf can conduct a pilot study on 200 acres. The Board originally reimbursed the RedLeaf \$434,670. After the first reporting year (2022), RedLeaf met its grower goals, and the Board forgave 20% of the original balance (\$86,934) reducing the outstanding balance of the forgivable loan to \$347,736. Now, RedLeaf and the Board will amend the Forgivable Loan Agreement to add \$160,000 to the current balance of the forgivable loan bring it to \$507,736. Going forward, if RedLeaf does not meet one of its grower goals, it shall repay \$63,467 annually. If it does not meet both of its goals, it shall repay \$126,934 annually.

Mr. Barker moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Deaton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2022-0016 Alliance Packing KY, LLC**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Mr. Murphy to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a request to release the security agreement. The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends to the KADB to deny the request, but instead to offer to subordinate the KADB's security interest in the collateral to Alliance Packing's prospective lender if it is necessary for the lender to extend credit to Alliance Packing.

Mr. Giesecke moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2023-0049 Murray State University Center for Agriculture Hemp**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Savanna Hill to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a budget amendment and time extension request. The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends approving the one-year time extension and budget amendment.

Mr. Hinton moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Dr. Bernard seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2024-0283 Kentucky Halal Meats, LLC**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Mr. McCloskey to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a budget amendment request to increase the amount from \$1,350 to \$1,562. Staff presented proposed terms and conditions and budget showing the correct funding request amount.

Mr. Deaton moved to approve the staff recommendation, as presented; Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**New Business**

**New Applications for Referral**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Mr. McCloskey to present the new applications for referral.

Mr. McCloskey referenced ten (10) new applications for referral.

Mr. Pedigo moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Programs Recommended for Approval**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Mr. McCloskey to present the programs recommended for approval.

Mr. McCloskey referenced ten (10) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$1,724,595; one (1) Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR) totaling \$10,000; two (2) Shared-Use Equipment Program totaling \$50,694; two (2) Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP) totaling \$50,000. The total program funding is \$1,835,289.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

Mr. Fields moved to approve all programs meeting state guidelines, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Projects**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Chelsea Smither, Alexis Scheidt, & Ms. Hill to present the following projects.

#### **A2024-0247                      Three Rivers Vet Services, PLLC**

Ms. Smither referenced the above application requesting \$56,250 in state and multi-county funds to purchase a truck for large animal ambulatory service as apart of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$56,250 in state and multi-county funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

Mr. Pedigo moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **A2025-0013                      Sugarloaf Mountain Meats and Processing**

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$3,750 in state funds for funding consultation fees for a PAX Food Safety Consulting and HACCP certification and training.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant up to \$3,750 in state funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

Mr. Hunt moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **A2025-0015                      Hopkinsville Elevator Company, Inc.**

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$300,000 in multi-county funds to renew, expand, and develop rail accessibility.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$300,000 in multi-county funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

Mr. Deaton moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Barker

seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Hunt Abstained.

**Projects Recommendations for No Funding**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Becca Besok to present the following no funded project.

**A2024-0238                      Grow Farms, LLC**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$1,332,037 in state funds to improve a food distribution warehouse space.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends not funding the applicant based on the performance structure.

Mr. Hinton moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Ms. Graham Abstained.

**Pending Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated two (2) applications are pending.

A2024-0265      Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

A2024-0278      Henpecked Farms, Inc.

No action necessary on pending projects or programs.

**Closing Remarks**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler stated the KADB Application Review/Compliance Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the KADB meeting.

The next KADB meeting will be on Friday, April 18, 2025, at the Franklin County Extension Office at 9:00 a.m. (EDT).

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Deputy Commissioner Beeler entertained a motion to adjourn the March board meeting at 10:06 a.m. (EDT).

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn the March KADB meeting; Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

APPROVED DATE:

April 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Mac Beeler COS  
Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, Chair

BOARD SECRETARY:

Hannah Sharp Johnson  
Hannah Sharp Johnson, Board Secretary

- Mark Bonline

1. A detailed list of the New Applications for Referral is attached as Appendix A.
2. A detailed list of the applications funded under the listed programs is attached as Appendix B.
3. A copy of the KADB Application Review/Compliance Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix C.

### New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	Cmte.
A2025-0018	Grace Elizabeth Boyd <i>Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program</i>	Mason	ARC
A2025-0020	University of Kentucky Research Foundation- UKDRS <i>Forage Testing Equipment</i>	_ALL	ARC
A2025-0025	Bluegrass Animal Clinic <i>Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program</i>	Carter	ARC
A2025-0032	W&W Veterinary Services, PLLC <i>Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program</i>	Madison	ARC
A2025-0033	Harton Farms LLC <i>Food Safety &amp; Efficiency Incentives Program</i>	Christian	ARC
A2025-0036	Olmstead Rural Fire Department <i>Grain Rescue Equipment</i>	Logan	ARC
A2025-0037	Logan County Agricultural Extension Foundation, Inc. <i>Outdoor Arena Fencing</i>	Logan	ARC
A2025-0041	Kentucky Fresh Harvest, LLC. <i>Food Safety &amp; Efficiency Incentives Program</i>	Lincoln	ARC
A2025-0042	Barren County Board of Education <i>Agricultural Education Livestock Facility Expansion</i>	Barren	ARC
A2025-0043	The Local Butcher, LLC <i>Retail Meat Shop</i>	Taylor	ARC

## Programs Recommended for Approval

CAIP			
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0019	Letcher County Conservation District	Letcher*	\$49,287.00
A2025-0021	Robertson County Soil Conservation District	Robertson	\$276,790.00
A2025-0022	Wolfe County Conservation District	Wolfe	\$120,518.00
A2025-0023	Ohio County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.	Ohio	\$135,000.00
A2025-0026	Owen County Farm Bureau, Inc.	Owen	\$20,000.00
A2025-0028	Garrard County Farm Bureau, Inc.	Garrard	\$350,000.00
A2025-0029	Madison County Conservation District	Madison	\$280,000.00
A2025-0034	Montgomery County Conservation District	Montgomery	\$80,000.00
A2025-0038	Lawrence County Conservation District	Lawrence	\$150,000.00
A2025-0039	Bath County Conservation District	Bath	\$263,000.00
			<b>\$1,724,595.00</b>
Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)			
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0030	Madison County Conservation District	Madison	\$10,000.00
			<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Shared-Use Equipment Program			
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0031	Madison County Farm Bureau, Inc. of Madison County, Kentucky	Madison	\$29,625.00
A2025-0035	Barren County Conservation District	Barren	\$21,069.00
			<b>\$50,694.00</b>
Youth Ag Incentives Program (Youth)			
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0027	Owen County 4-H Club Council, Incorporated	Owen	\$15,000.00
A2025-0040	Bath County Cattleman Association, Inc.	Bath	\$35,000.00
			<b>\$50,000.00</b>
Total County Funds Recommended for Approval in Programs:			<b>\$1,835,289.00</b>

\* Indicates a portion of the project is funded from the "State Funds To Support to Counties with Limited Allocation initiative."



## APPENDIX C: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 21, 2025
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Franklin County Extension Office
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Brandon Reed
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Committee Members:</b> Wayne Hunt, Al Pedigo, Heather Graham, Neil Denton, Kevin Fields, Matt Sawyers, Fritz Giesecke, Mark Barker, Matt Hinton, Dr. Laura Stephenson (UK), Dr. Marcus Bernard (KSU), and Warren Beeler (KDA).</p> <p><b>KOAP Staff:</b> Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Chelsea Smither, Bailey Siry-Crowder, Hannah Johnson, and Jeff Parman.</p>
<b>Minutes Issued By:</b>	Chelsea Smither
<b>Meeting Call to Order:</b>	10:17 a.m. EDT
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	1:28 p.m. EDT

### Agenda Items:

The Application Review Committee reviewed amendments for A2021-0257 and A2023-0049 then applications A2025-0043, A2025-0036, A2025-0037, A2025-0018, A2025-0025, A2025-0032, A2025-0042, A2024-0265 (pending), A2025-0020, A2025-0033, A2025-0041.

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2023-0049 and applications A2025-0043, A2025-0036, A2025-0037, A2025-0018, A2025-0025, A2025-0032, A2025-0042, A2024-0265 (pending), A2025-0020, A2025-0033, A2025-0041; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

*The committee entered executive session at 12:43 p.m.*

Dr. Bernard moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2023-0049 and applications A2025-0043, A2025-0036, A2025-0037, A2025-0018, A2025-0025, A2025-0032, A2025-0042, A2024-0265 (pending), A2025-0020, A2025-0033, A2025-0041; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

*The committee reconvened in open session at 1:20 p.m.*

## APPENDIX C: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

1. A2021-0257     University of Kentucky Research Foundation
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended approving the time extension and budget amendment to extend the project to October 2027 and allowing the remaining balance to be used to support the project.  
*Dr. Stephenson & Mrs. Graham abstained.*
2. A2023-0049     Kentucky State University
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended approving the budget amendment to reallocate a total of \$91,577.67 unspent year 1 funds into Subawards to Farmers category.  
*Dr. Bernard abstained.*
3. A2025-0043     The Local Butcher, LLC
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended denying the application due to limited producer impact and being unable to justify giving grant funding to a stand-alone retail business. The committee encourages the applicant to apply for a KAFC loan.  
*Mrs. Graham abstained.*
4. A2025-0036     Olmstead Rural Fire Department
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding up to \$20,500 in multi-county funds to purchase grain rescue equipment.
5. A2025-0037     Logan County Extension District Board
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding up to \$7,000 in Logan County funds to purchase fencing to enclose their outdoor arena.
6. A2025-0018     Grace Elizabeth Boyd
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$28,277 in state and Mason county funds to purchase a truck for large animal practice as a part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.
7. A2025-0025     Bluegrass Animal Clinic
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$59,026 in state and multi - county funds to purchase a truck and portavet as a part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.

## APPENDIX C: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

8. A2025-0032    W&W Veterinary Services
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant \$66,241 in state and Madison County funds to upgrade their large animal handling facility as a part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.
9. A2025-0042    Barren County Board of Education
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$212,675 in county funds to expand their livestock facility to include a meat processing area to increase educational opportunities.
10. A2024-0265    Kentucky Halal Meats, LLC (pending)
  - a. The application is already pending due to no current updates regarding this project, so no action was necessary at this time.
11. A2025-0020    University of Kentucky Research Foundation
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$35,048 in state funds for hay testing equipment.  
*Dr. Stephenson & Mrs. Graham abstained.*
12. A2025-0033    Harton Farms
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$3,750 in state funds for food safety consulting for a GAP audit and food safety plan as a part of the Food Safety & Efficiency Incentives Program.
13. A2025-0041    Kentucky Fresh Harvest
  - a. The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$3,750 in state funds for food safety consulting to prepare for a third-party audit as a part of the Food Safety & Efficiency Incentives Program.  
*Mr. Barker abstained*

### Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.