

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the June 20, 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  
June 20, 2025  
Kentucky Historical Society  
100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY**

**Call to Order**

Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell presiding, called the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) regular business meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. (EDT).

**Roll Call**

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

**Notification of Media**

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

**Welcome**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Shell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2025, board meeting.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Kentucky Department of Agriculture Report**

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

**Executive Director's Report**

Commissioner Shell called on Brandon Reed to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Reed gave an overview of his activities since the May board meeting. Lastly, Mr. Reed referenced the fiscal year 2025 Master Settlement Agreement Funds.

**Deputy Executive Director's Report**

Commissioner Shell 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 May 22, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of May 20, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed the KAFC Statement of Financial Position (*on file*) as of May 31, 2025.

Mr. Hinton moved to approve the Financial Report, as presented; Ms. Sanderfur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **KADB On-Farm Energy Committee**

Commissioner Shell called on Chelsea Smither to give the KADB On-Farm Energy Committee report.

Mr. Fields moved to accept the committee report, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Memo Action Items**

#### **Project Time Extensions**

Mr. McCloskey referenced (1) project requesting time extensions (*on file*).

Staff recommended approval of one time extension request.

Mr. Denton moved to approve the staff recommendation, as presented; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. McCloskey to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding the Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program.

Mr. Barker moved to approve the staff recommendation, as presented; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Pedigo & Ms. Graham Abstained.

#### **A2008-0440**

#### **Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. Reed to present a memorandum (*on file*). The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) Board requests the KADB to consider the transfer of \$17.5 million dollars. \$5,000,000 would be transferred into the hold account the KAFC keeps for KADB funds that it does not access without the KADB's approval. The remaining \$12,500,000 would be transferred into KAFC's unobligated account for its 2025/2026 operations, bringing its unobligated funds to \$17,369,807.

Mr. Pedigo moved to approve the transfer of \$17.5 million dollars to KAFC; Mr. Foree seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **New Business**

#### **New Applications for Referral**

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

Mr. McCloskey referenced six (6) 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**

Commissioner Shell called on Sarah Bryant to present the programs recommended for approval.

Ms. Bryant referenced twenty (20) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$2,611,768; five (5) Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR) totaling \$58,550; two (2) Next Generation Farmer (NextGen) totaling \$100,000; three (3) Shared-Use Equipment Program (Shared-Use) totaling \$37,863; three (3) Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP) totaling \$65,000. The total program funding is \$2,873,181.00.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

Mr. Giesecke moved to approve all programs meeting state guidelines, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **Requested Program Amendments**

Commissioner Shell called on Ms. Bryant to present the requested program amendments.

Ms. Bryant referenced two (2) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP programs totaling \$237,800 (Boone and Green Counties).

Staff recommended approval of these amendments.

Mr. Pedigo moved to approve staff recommendation, as presented; Ms. Chilton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program Recommendations for Funding**

Commissioner Shell called on Ms. Smither to present requests for On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program funds.

Ms. Smither referenced four (4) On-Farm Energy Program applications totaling \$34,308 in state funds: Union (\$10,300), Wayne (\$4,408), and Rockcastle (\$19,600) counties.

Mr. Hinton moved to approve the energy projects as presented; Ms. Sanderfur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Projects Recommended for Funding**

Commissioner Shell called on Ms. Smither, Becca Besok, Landon Peach, Savanna Hill, & Alexis Scheidt to present the following projects.

**A2025-0091 FoodChain, Inc.**

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$75,822 in state funds and \$75,000 in multi-county funds to open a neighborhood green grocery.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$22,823 in county funds matched by state funds with a two-year lease extension, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Ms. Graham Abstained.

**A2025-0113 Cornett Enterprises, LLC**

Ms. Smither referenced the above application requesting \$3,750 in state funds for a GAP audit, food safety software, and consulting as a part of the Food Safety & Efficiency Incentives Program.

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0114 Spencer County Fair Board**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$30,000 in Spencer County funds for upgrades to the Spencer County fairgrounds.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$30,000 in Spencer County funds for upgrades to their fairgrounds, subject to the terms and conditions.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Ms. Sanderfur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0116 Miller Rockbridge Farms LLC**

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$37,402.12 in state funds and \$15,000 in Monroe County funds to build an education barn.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$52,402 in multi-county funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Barker Abstained.

**A2025-0120 Thompson Family Farm LLC**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$13,840 in Mercer County funds to set up a sheep buying station at their farm.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding \$13,840 in Mercer County funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0123 Sprig Aerospace, LLC**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$20,000 in multi-county funds and \$760,000 in state funds for the development of a new drone.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$20,000 in multi-county funds only, subject to the terms and conditions.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Project Recommendations for No Funding**

**A2025-0117 City of Albany**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$1,000,000 in state funds to perform a design of a water treatment plant and update the aging infrastructure, pump malfunctions, and extensive leaks.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the request due to this project not aligning with the mission statement of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0118 KLNWTR.LLC /REMI**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$5,000,000 in state funds for the development of their new tiling system.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the request of \$5,000,000 in state funds for the development of a new tiling stem due to the project being a private equity venture.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Pending Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated four (4) applications are pending.

A2025-0064 Lowes Produce

A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

A2025-0065 Dino's Farm LLC

A2025-0122 Creekside Veterinary Clinic, LLC

**Expired/Withdrawn Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated one (1) application was withdrawn.

A2024-0278 Henpecked Farms, Inc.

No action necessary on expired/withdrawn projects or programs.

**Presentations**

**Karen Karp & Partners**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. Reed to introduce presenters Brian DeCorte and Shayna Cohen to present an overview and recommendations of the KADF evaluation.

**Closing Remarks**

Commissioner Shell stated the KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the KADB meeting.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Shell entertained a motion to adjourn the June meeting at 12:14 p.m. (EDT).

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn the June KADB meeting; Ms. Sanderfur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**APPROVED DATE:**

July 18, 2025

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

[Signature]

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, Chair

**BOARD SECRETARY:**

[Signature]

Hannah Sharp-Johnson, Board Secretary

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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 detailed list of requested Program Amendments is attached as Appendix C.
  4. A copy of the KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix D.

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## New Applications for Referral

| APP #      | APPLICANT   | COUNTY  | COMMITTEE |
|------------|---|---------|-----------|
| A2025-0126 | The Berry Center, Inc.<br><i>Dry Ice Machine</i>  | Henry   | ARC       |
| A2025-0127 | Kentucky Milk Company<br><i>Dairy Processing Equipment</i>  | Henry   | ARC       |
| A2025-0153 | Hancock County Cattleman's Association LTD.<br><i>Hancock County Youth Agricultural Production Cost Share Program</i> | Hancock | ARC       |
| A2025-0154 | Animal Care Veterinary Center, LLC<br><i>Large &amp; Food Animal Veterinary Incentives</i>                            | Adair   | ARC       |
| A2025-0155 | Berea College, Grow Appalachia<br><i>The Eastern Kentucky Direct Integrated Grower Support Program</i>                | Madison | ARC       |
| A2025-0156 | Organic Association of Kentucky<br><i>OAK Programs</i>  | _ALL    | ARC       |

## APPENDIX B:

Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund

### Programs Recommended for Approval

| CAIP                              |  |               |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <u>Application</u>                | <u>Program Administrator</u>                             | <u>County</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Funds Requested</u> |
| A2025-0101                        | Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District      | Jefferson     | State        | \$49,400.00            |
| A2025-0124                        | Cumberland County Conservation District                  | Cumberland    |              | \$119,777.00           |
| A2025-0125                        | Adair County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.               | Adair         |              | \$164,000.00           |
| A2025-0128                        | Mercer County Conservation District                      | Mercer        |              | \$182,220.00           |
| A2025-0129                        | Allen County Conservation District                       | Allen         |              | \$120,000.00           |
| A2025-0130                        | Trigg County Soil Conservation District                  | Trigg         |              | \$60,000.00            |
| A2025-0131                        | Boyle County Conservation District                       | Boyle         |              | \$115,000.00           |
| A2025-0133                        | McCreary County Farm Bureau of McCreary County, Kentucky | McCreary      | State        | \$31,122.00            |
| A2025-0135                        | Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association (LCCA)            | Lincoln       |              | \$206,000.00           |
| A2025-0136                        | Barren County Conservation District                      | Barren        |              | \$258,510.00           |
| A2025-0138                        | Grant County Cattlemens Association, Inc.                | Grant         |              | \$190,000.00           |
| A2025-0139                        | Hancock County Conservation District                     | Hancock       |              | \$80,498.00            |
| A2025-0140                        | Gallatin County Farm Bureau of Gallatin County, Kentucky | Gallatin      |              | \$140,000.00           |
| A2025-0141                        | Nelson County Conservation District                      | Nelson        |              | \$84,950.00            |
| A2025-0146                        | Carter County Conservation District                      | Carter        |              | \$114,475.00           |
| A2025-0149                        | Nicholas County Conservation District                    | Nicholas      |              | \$218,343.00           |
| A2025-0150                        | Anderson County Conservation District                    | Anderson      |              | \$109,943.00           |
| A2025-0151                        | Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, Inc             | Franklin      |              | \$122,867.00           |
| A2025-0152                        | Whitley County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.             | Whitley       | State        | \$47,000.00            |
| A2025-0159                        | Bourbon County Beef Cattle Association                   | Bourbon       |              | \$197,663.00           |
| Total Recommended for Funding: 20 |  |               |              | \$2,611,768.00         |



## APPENDIX B:

Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund

### Programs Recommended for Approval

#### Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

| <u>Application</u>               | <u>Program Administrator</u>          | <u>County</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Funds Requested</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| A2025-0132                       | Boyle County Conservation District    | Boyle         |              | \$15,000.00            |
| A2025-0134                       | Lincoln County Fiscal Court           | Lincoln       |              | \$15,000.00            |
| A2025-0144                       | Nelson County Fiscal Court            | Nelson        |              | \$15,000.00            |
| A2025-0147                       | Franklin County Conservation District | Franklin      |              | \$8,750.00             |
| A2025-0161                       | Fleming County Fiscal Court           | Fleming       |              | \$4,800.00             |
| Total Recommended for Funding: 5 |                                       |               |              | \$58,550.00            |

#### Next Generation Farmer (NextGen)

| <u>Application</u>               | <u>Program Administrator</u>           | <u>County</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Funds Requested</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| A2025-0142                       | Nelson County Conservation District    | Nelson        |              | \$25,000.00            |
| A2025-0158                       | Bourbon County Beef Cattle Association | Bourbon       |              | \$75,000.00            |
| Total Recommended for Funding: 2 |  |               |              | \$100,000.00           |

#### Shared-Use Equipment Program

| <u>Application</u>               | <u>Program Administrator</u>          | <u>County</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Funds Requested</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| A2025-0112                       | Nicholas County Conservation District | Nicholas      |              | \$17,738.00            |
| A2025-0145                       | Pulaski County Conservation District  | Pulaski       |              | \$11,650.00            |
| A2025-0160                       | Pulaski County Conservation District  | Pulaski       |              | \$8,475.00             |
| Total Recommended for Funding: 3 |                                       |               |              | \$37,863.00            |

#### Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP)

| <u>Application</u>               | <u>Program Administrator</u>           | <u>County</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Funds Requested</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| A2025-0137                       | Barren County Conservation District    | Barren        |              | \$20,000.00            |
| A2025-0143                       | Nelson County Conservation District    | Nelson        |              | \$5,000.00             |
| A2025-0157                       | Bourbon County Beef Cattle Association | Bourbon       |              | \$40,000.00            |
| Total Recommended for Funding: 3 |  |               |              | \$65,000.00            |

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$2,873,181.00**

## Requested Program Amendments

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>App #</b>             | <b>A2024-0255</b>  |
| <b>Applicant Name</b>    | <b>Northern Kentucky Cattle Association, Inc.</b>  |
| Original Amount Approved | \$99,164   |
| Execution Date           | 12/20/2024   |
| Requested Change         | <p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$20,800 in Boone County funds for the <i>CAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council.</p> <p>This is the first request for an amendment to this application number.</p> <p>The term of the program shall remain 12-months from the execution date of the original agreement.</p> <p>Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$119,964.</p> <p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>  |
| <b>App #</b>             | <b>A2025-0063</b>  |
| <b>Applicant Name</b>    | <b>Green County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.</b>  |
| Original Amount Approved | \$63,000   |
| Execution Date           | 05/12/2025   |
| Requested Change         | <p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$217,000 in Green County funds for the <i>CAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council.</p> <p>This is the first request for an amendment to this application number.</p> <p>The term of the program shall remain 12-months from the execution date of the original agreement.</p> <p>Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$280,000.</p> <p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p> |

## APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting Date:</b>          | June 20, 2025  |
| <b>Meeting Location:</b>      | The Kentucky Historical Society  |
| <b>Meeting Chair:</b>         | Brandon Reed   |
| <b>Attendees:</b>             | <p>Committee Members: Al Pedigo, Ashlee Chilton, Bobby Foree, Fritz Giesecke, Heather Graham, Matt Hinton, Dr. Jamie Mathews (UK), Warren Beeler (KDA), Wayne Hunt, Dr. Marcus Bernard (KSU), Laura Sanderfur, Dr. Gordon Jones, Mark Barker, Kevin Fields, and Neil Denton.</p> <p>KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Chelsea Smither, Bailey Siry-Crowder, and Landon Peach.</p> |
| <b>Minutes Issued By:</b>     | Alexis Scheidt   |
| <b>Meeting Call to Order:</b> | 2:04 p.m. EDT  |
| <b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>     | 4:00 p.m. EDT  |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Agenda Items:</b>  |
| <p>The Application Review Committee reviewed applications A2025-0126, A2025-0153, A2025-0122 (pending), A2025-0127 (denied), A2025-0154, A2025-0064 (pending), A2025-0065, A2025-0155, A2025-0159 (pending), and A2024-0265 (pending).</p> <p>Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0126, A2025-0153, A2025-0122 (pending), A2025-0127 (denied), A2025-0154, A2025-0064 (pending), A2025-0065, A2025-0155, and A2025-0159 (pending); Dr. Bernard seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee entered executive session at 3:19 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mr. Beeler moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2025-0126, A2025-0153, A2025-0122 (pending), A2025-0127 (denied), A2025-0154, A2025-0064 (pending), A2025-0065, A2025-0155, and A2025-0159 (pending); Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee reconvened in open session at 3:55 p.m.</i></p> <p>1. A2025-0153 Hancock County Cattleman's Association LTD<br/> a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to</p> |

## APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

\$5,000 in Hancock County Funds for the Hancock County Youth Agricultural Production Cost Share Program.

2. A2025-0122 Creekside Veterinary Clinic

- a) The committee pended the application previously. No action was needed.

3. A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company

- a) The committee unanimously recommended denying the applicant's request for funding and recommended the applicant pursue a loan through KAFC.  
*Mr. Foree Abstained.*

4. A2025-0154 Animal Care Veterinary Center

- b) The committee unanimously recommended funding the application contingent on the applicant receiving all county funding.

5. A2025-0064 Lowe's Produce

- a) The committee pended the application previously. No action was needed.

6. A2025-0065 Dino's Farm LLC

- a) The committee recommended funding the applicant \$10,000 in Gallatin County funds as a cost-reimbursement grant and \$250,000 in state funds as a forgivable loan. They denied the applicant's request for \$140,000 in state funds as a participation loan and referred them to KAFC.

7. A2025-0155 Berea College, Grow Appalachia

- a) The committee unanimously recommends funding the applicant \$440,953 in state funds.  
*Dr. Matthews and Ms. Graham abstained.*

8. A2025-0159 Organic Association of Kentucky

- a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application for additional information.  
*Dr. Matthews and Ms. Graham abstained.*

9. A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

- a) The committee pended the application previously. No action was needed.

### Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.