

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the July 18, 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
July 18, 2025
Franklin County Extension Office
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY**

Call to Order

Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell 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: Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, Matt Sawyers (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, and Heather Graham.

Absent Member: Laura Sanderfur and Wayne Hunt

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 June 20, 2025, board meeting.

Mr. Barker moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Mr. Sawyers 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 June board meeting. Mr. Reed gave an overview of the 2023-2024 State Auditor's Office letter referencing the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy is in good standing. Mr. Reed referenced the 2025 County Council Comprehensive Plan Update Submission. Mr. Reed referenced the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar

amount. Lastly, Mr. Reed called upon Fritz Giesecke and Heather Graham to swear in under their new KADB member terms.

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 June 30, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of June 30, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed the KAFC Statement of Financial Position (*on file*) as of June 30, 2025.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the Financial Report, as presented; Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Memo Action Items

A2025-0186 Furnwood Farm LLC

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

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

Mr. Foree moved to waive the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Coverage requirement for the applicant for the 2025 Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program ; Mr. Pedigo 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 three (3) new applications for referral.

Mr. Pedigo moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees.
Mr. Fields 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 sixteen (16) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$2,101,423; three (3) Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR) totaling \$39,625; one (1) Shared-Use Equipment Program (Shared-Use) totaling \$26,063; four (4) Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP) totaling \$67,750. The total program funding is \$2,234,861.00.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

Ms. Graham 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 three (3) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP programs totaling \$426,416 (Garrard, Rockcastle, and Henry Counties).

Staff recommended approval of these amendments.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Projects Recommended for Funding

Commissioner Shell called on Chelsea Smither, Becca Besok, Leslie Monhollen, Savanna Hill, & Mary Brooke Stith to present the following projects.

A2025-0065 Dino's Farm LLC

Ms. Smither referenced the above application requesting \$400,000 in state and Gallatin County funds to purchase a meat processing facility and its equipment in Warsaw, KY.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant \$10,000 in Gallatin County funds as a cost-reimbursement grant and \$250,000 in state funds as a forgivable loan, subject to the terms and conditions.

Mr. Neil moved to approve the committee recommendation, as presented; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Barker Abstained.

A2025-0122 Creekside Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$83,333 in state funds and \$16,667 in multi-county funds to purchase new medical equipment and livestock handling facilities.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$11,056 in multi-county funds and up to \$55,280 in state funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0153 Hancock County Cattleman's Association LTD.

Ms. Monhollen referenced the above application requesting \$5,000 in Hancock County funds for the Hancock County Youth Agriculture Production Cost-Share Program.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$5,000 in Hancock County funds for the Hancock County Youth Agriculture Production Cost-Share Program subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0115 Berea College, Grow Appalachia

Ms. Stith referenced the above application requesting \$440,953 in state funds to help run the Eastern Kentucky Direct Integrated Grower Support Program (EKY-DIGS). This program helps Eastern Kentucky farmers by providing on-farm technical assistance, production planning, farmer education/networking, and connecting farmers to helpful agencies/funding opportunities.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant \$440,953 in state funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Ms. Graham Abstained.

Project Recommendations for No Funding

A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$40,250 in multi-county funds and \$40,250 in state funds for the purchase of a dairy processing equipment.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the request of \$40,250 in multi-county funds and \$40,250 state funds for the purchase of dairy processing equipment and recommends that the applicant pursue a loan through KAFC.

Dr. Jones moved to pend and refer the application to KCARD to complete their business plan. Once the business plan is successfully completed the applicant can return to the KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee; Mr. Pedigo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Pending Applications

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

A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

A2025-0064 Lowes Produce

A2025-0154 Animal Care Veterinary Center, LLC

A2025-0156 Organic Association of Kentucky

Expired/Withdrawn Applications

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

A2025-0126 The Berry Center, Inc.

No action necessary on expired/withdrawn projects or programs.

New Litigation

A2021-0054 A&W Farms, LLC

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. Murphy to give an overview of A&W Farms, LLC.

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss application A2021-0054; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

The committee entered executive session at 10:07 a.m.

Dr. Jones moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2021-0054; Ms. Chilton seconded the motion.

The committee reconvened in open session at 10:46 a.m.

The board moved to accept legal counsel and to accept Kentucky Department of Agriculture Attorney recommendations and appoint the Commissioner (or designee), Bobby Foree, & Mark Barker to have authority to make decisions.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Hinton Abstained.

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, August 15, 2025, at the Courtyard Louisville Airport Hotel at 9:00 a.m. (EDT).

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Shell entertained a motion to adjourn the July meeting at 10:55 a.m. (EDT).

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn the July KADB meeting; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

APPROVED DATE:

August 15, 2025

PRESIDING OFFICER:

A. Shell
Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, Chair

BOARD SECRETARY:

Hannah Sharp-Johnson
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.
 5. A copy of the KADB Program Evaluation Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix E.

New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	COMMITTEE
A2025-0164	Pennyrile Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. <i>Community Garden</i>	Christian	ARC
A2025-0166	Graves County Farm Bureau, Inc. <i>Graves County Farm Bureau, Inc.</i>	Graves	ARC
A2025-0189	Jarrod Cornett <i>Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program</i>	Laurel	ARC

Programs Recommended for Approval

CAIP

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0162	Pendleton County Agricultural Diversification Association, Inc.	Pendleton		\$175,981.00
A2025-0163	Christian County Conservation District	Christian		\$150,000.00
A2025-0165	Hickman County Conservation District	Hickman	State	\$45,500.00
A2025-0167	Graves County Conservation District	Graves		\$37,526.00
A2025-0168	Metcalfe County Conservation District	Metcalfe		\$191,565.00
A2025-0170	Warren County Conservation District	Warren		\$135,658.00
A2025-0171	Bullitt County Conservation District	Bullitt		\$82,500.00
A2025-0172	McCracken County Soil Conservation District	McCracken		\$124,831.00
A2025-0176	Pike County Conservation District	Pike	State	\$40,000.00
A2025-0177	County Agriculture Investment Program Council Inc.	Russell		\$208,224.00
A2025-0178	Laurel County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.	Laurel		\$157,500.00
A2025-0180	Taylor County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.	Taylor		\$125,000.00
A2025-0181	LaRue County Beef Cattle Association, Inc.	LaRue		\$125,000.00
A2025-0187	Hart County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.	Hart		\$250,000.00
A2025-0188	Twin Lakes Cattle Association, Corporation	Clinton		\$110,222.00
A2025-0191	Elliott County Conservation District	Elliott		\$141,916.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 16				\$2,101,423.00

Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0174	Taylor County Conservation District	Taylor		\$14,625.00
A2025-0175	Hart County Soil Conservation District	Hart		\$15,000.00
A2025-0190	Bourbon County Fiscal Court	Bourbon		\$10,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 3				\$39,625.00

Board Meeting *Any applications marked with "State" indicates a portion of the program is funded from the "State Funds Support to Counties with Limited Allocation Initiative."

Programs Recommended for Approval

Shared-Use Equipment Program				
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0169	Metcalfe County Conservation District	Metcalfe		\$26,063.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 1				\$26,063.00
Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP)				
<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0173	McCracken County Soil Conservation District	McCracken		\$10,600.00
A2025-0179	Taylor County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.	Taylor		\$15,350.00
A2025-0182	Warren County 4-H Foundation Inc.	Warren		\$35,000.00
A2025-0183	Fayette County 4-H Council, Inc.	Fayette		\$6,800.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 4				\$67,750.00

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$2,234,861.00**

Requested Program Amendments

App #	A2025-0028
Applicant Name	Garrard County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Original Amount Approved	\$350,000
Execution Date	04/04/2025
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$42,000 in Garrard 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. 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 \$392,000.</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>

App #	A2025-0078
Applicant Name	Rockcastle County Conservation District
Original Amount Approved	\$148,590
Execution Date	05/05/2025
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$120,416 in Rockcastle 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. 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 \$269,006.</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>

App #	A2025-0108
Applicant Name	Henry County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.
Original Amount Approved	\$20,000
Execution Date	05/30/2025
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$264,000 in Henry 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. 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 \$284,000.</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>

APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

Meeting Date:	July 18, 2025
Meeting Location:	Franklin County Extension Office
Meeting Chair:	Brandon Reed
Attendees:	<p>Committee Members: Al Pedigo, Ashlee Chilton, Bobby Foree, Fritz Giesecke, Heather Graham, Matt Hinton, Dean Laura Stephenson (UK), Warren Beeler (KDA), Dr. Marcus Bernard (KSU), Matt Sawyers, 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, Bailey Siry-Crowder, and Landon Peach.</p>
Minutes Issued By:	Becca Besok
Meeting Call to Order:	11:45 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	12:44 p.m. EDT

Agenda Items:
<p>The Application Review Committee reviewed applications A2025-0164, A2025-0166, A2025-0064, A2025-0156 (pending), A2025-0189, and A2024-0265 (pending).</p> <p>Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0064, A2025-0156 (pending), A2025-0189, and A2024-0265 (pending); Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The committee entered executive session at 12:07 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2025-0064, A2025-0156 (pending), A2025-0189, and A2024-0265 (pending); Mr. Beeler seconded the motion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The committee reconvened in open session at 12:40 p.m.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A2025-0164 Pennyrile Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$2,500 in Christian County Funds for a community garden. 2. A2025-0166 Graves County Farm Bureau

APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

Agenda Items:

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$5,000 in Graves County Funds for grain bin safety harnesses.

- 3. A2025-0064 Lowe's Produce
 - a) The committee unanimously recommended funding up to \$127,797 in state funds in the form of forgivable loan over 5 years.

- 4. A2025-0156 Organic Association of Kentucky
 - a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application for additional information.

- 5. A2025-0189 Jarrod Cornett
 - a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$3,750 in state funds for consulting services, staff coaching and training support, preparation for field audit inspections, document creation and review, design and implementation, and the development of standard operating procedures as part of the Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program.

- 6. A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC
 - a) The committee pended the application previously. No action was needed.

Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.

APPENDIX E: KADB Program Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	July 23, 2025
Meeting Location:	KOAP via Zoom Meeting ID: 847 8528 7567
Meeting Chair:	Brandon Reed
Attendees:	Committee: Heather Graham, Matt Hinton, and Al Pedigo KOAP Staff: Sarah Bryant, Bill McCloskey, Leslie Monhollen, Brian Murphy, Brandon Reed, Alexis Scheidt, and Bailey Siry-Crowder Guests: Dr. Darrh Bullock
Minutes Issued By:	Sarah Bryant
Meeting Call to Order:	9:30 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	11:59 a.m. EDT

Agenda Items:

I. Update on Online Beef Assessment Tool/Beef Systems Analyzer

- a. Dr. Bullock gave an update on the Beef Systems Analyzer. The updates made from the most recent application (A2024-0263) have been implemented. The Committee discussed its implementation in CAIP and decided to encourage its use for the education component for 2026 and emphasize that producers should review their recommendations with their extension agent. The Committee will continue to discuss future requirements but wants to take a slow approach. The Committee requested Dr. Bullock present the updates to the analyzer to extension agents at the annual KOAP/UK CES Partnership Panel to get feedback and then revisit in the future.

II. KK&P Recommendation Discussion

- a. The Committee discussed potentially adding lifetime limits in CAIP. They considered implementing limits by household. KOAP Staff will continue to develop potential ways to track lifetime limits.
- b. The Committee discussed the various CAIP administrative entities in the state. The Committee discussed the benefits of county conservation districts administering CAIP and encouraged KOAP Staff to begin working to standardize CAIP administration across the state.
- c. The Committee discussed KK&P's two-prong county program approach and sunseting current programs.
 1. The Committee recommends sunseting the Next Generation Farmer Program in December 2026, giving KOAP Staff a year to work on a plan to revise CAIP to include more opportunities for young/next generation farmers.
 2. The Committee discussed the benefits and issues with the Youth Agricultural Incentives Program. The Committee agreed that sunseting this program would need further discussion.
 3. The Committee discussed the Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program. They agreed that sunseting this program would need further discussion and a longer-term period if rescinded. They also discussed the benefits and potential of regional composting facilities and requested KOAP Staff to conduct research about composting programs with the Energy and Environment Cabinet.
 4. The Committee recommends sunseting the On-Farm Energy Incentives Program in December 2025.

APPENDIX E: KADB Program Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes

III. CAIP Discussion for 2026 Guideline Changes

- a. After discussion, the Committee recommended not adding limestone as an eligible cost-share item in CAIP.
- b. KOAP Staff explained the request for inclusion of Farm Serial Numbers in the every other year rule in CAIP. The Committee recommends Farm Serial Numbers be excluded from receiving funds every year if the county utilizes the every other year rule (similar to households) for 2026. The every other year rule would then exclude members of the same household and the same farm serial number from receiving funds in the program year following a funding approval.
- c. KOAP Staff discussed the tiered system in CAIP and how it has been working for administrators. The Committee discussed reviewing the incentive area guidelines in 2026 to potentially remove or change 25% items and ensure that the 75% items align with the goals of the KADB.

IV. Other

- a. The Committee recommends revising the KADF Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program guidelines for 2026 to add a retroactive one-time lifetime limit.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025, at 9:30 AM EDT via Zoom