

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the August 15, 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  
August 15, 2025  
Courtyard Louisville Airport  
819 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY**

**Call to Order**

Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell presiding, called the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) regular business meeting to order at 9:00 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, Laura Sanderfur, and Wayne Hunt.

Absent Member: Heather Graham, Matt Hinton, and Bobby Foree.

**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 July 18, 2025, board meeting.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Dr. Bernard 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 July board meeting. Mr. Reed gave an overview of the 2025 County Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Reed referenced the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount. Lastly, Mr. Reed called upon David Beck to give an overview and welcome of behalf of the Kentucky Exposition Foundation.

### **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 July 28, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of July 24, 2025.

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

Mr. Pedigo moved to approve the Financial Report, as presented; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **KADB Program Evaluation Committee**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. Pedigo to give the KADB Program Evaluation Committee report.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Memo Action Items**

#### **A2023-0127 University of Kentucky Research Foundation – Equine Hay Production Program**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. McCloskey to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a four-month time extension.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Dean Stephenson Abstained.

#### **4% County Agricultural Development Council Administrative Funds (FY26)**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. McCloskey to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a 4% County Agricultural Development Council Administrative Fund. Staff recommends approval of \$4,500 in county funds for Clay & Taylor Counties as part of the 4% County Agricultural Development Council Administrative Funds.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **A2025-0064 Lowes Produce**

Commissioner Shell called on Brian Murphy to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding reconsideration of proposed terms and conditions.

Mr. Denton moved to approve recommendation, as presented; Mr. Barker 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. Giesecke moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees.  
Mr. Pedigo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous

### **Programs Recommended for Approval**

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

Mr. McCloskey referenced three (3) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$254,873; three (3) Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR) totaling \$34,400; two (2) Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP) totaling \$25,100. The total program funding is \$314,373.00.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Requested Program Amendments**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. McCloskey to present the requested program amendments.

Mr. McCloskey referenced two (2) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP and YAIP programs totaling \$7,600 (Caldwell and Anderson Counties).

Staff recommended approval of these amendments.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

### **Projects Recommended for Funding**

Commissioner Shell called on Savanna Hill, Mr. McCloskey, & Landon Peach to present the following projects.

#### **A2025-0154                      Animal Care Veterinary Center, LLC**

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$60,191 in state funds and \$12,038 in multi-county funds to purchase a truck and a vet box as part of the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$60,191 in state funds and \$12,038 in multi-county funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**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, September 19, 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 August meeting at 10:26 a.m. (EDT).

Mr. Hunt moved to adjourn the August KADB meeting; Mr. Stephens seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**APPROVED DATE:**

9-19-25

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

W. B. Buel

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.

**A2025-0164****Pennyrile Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.**

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$2,500 in Christian County funds for a community garden.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding up to \$2,500 in Christian County funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0166****Graves County Farm Bureau, Inc.**

Mr. McCloskey referenced the above application requesting \$5,000 in Graves County funds to purchase a grain bin safety harness.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$5,000 in Graves County funds for a grain bin safety harness, to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0189****Jarrold Cornett**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$3,750 in state funds for consultation fees as part of the Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program.

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program**

Commissioner Shell called on Mr. McCloskey to provide an update on six (6) Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Programs projects.

No action necessary.

**Pending Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated three (3) applications are pending.

A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company

A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

A2025-0156 Organic Association of Kentucky

No action necessary.

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## New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	COMMITTEE
A2025-0205	EquiVentures LLC <i>Equine Database Platform</i>	Scott	ARC
A2025-0206	West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy, Inc. <i>Drone Development</i>	Ballard	ARC
A2025-0207	Joseph Dale Bentley <i>Small Ruminant Production Facility</i>	Lewis	ARC

### Programs Recommended for Approval

#### CAIP

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0193	Carlisle County Conservation District	Carlisle	State	\$112,739.00
A2025-0197	Lyon County Conservation District	Lyon	State	\$60,000.00
A2025-0199	Perry County Conservation District	Perry	State	\$82,134.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 3				\$254,873.00

#### Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0194	Marion County Fiscal Court	Marion		\$15,000.00
A2025-0201	Mercer County Fiscal Court	Mercer		\$15,000.00
A2025-0202	Spencer County Fiscal Court	Spencer		\$4,400.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 3				\$34,400.00

#### Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0203	Spencer County Conservation District	Spencer		\$5,100.00
A2025-0204	Mercer County 4-H Council, Incorporated	Mercer		\$20,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 2				\$25,100.00

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$314,373.00**

## Requested Program Amendments

<b>App #</b>	<b>A2024-0235 (YAIP)</b>
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Caldwell-Lyon Cattlemen's Association, Inc. (Caldwell County)</b>
Original Amount Approved	\$10,000
Execution Date	12/03/2024
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$2,600 in Caldwell County funds for the <i>YAIP 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 \$12,600.</p> <p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>
<b>App #</b>	<b>A2025-0150 (CAIP)</b>
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Anderson County Conservation District</b>
Original Amount Approved	\$109,943
Execution Date	07/02/2025
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$5,000 in Anderson 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 \$114,943.</p> <p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>

## APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	August 15, 2025
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Courtyard Louisville Airport
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Mark Bowling
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>Committee Members: Mark Bowling (KDA), Dr. Laura Stephenson (UK), Matt Stephens, Marcus Bernard (KSU), Laura Sanderfur, Dr. Gordon Jones, Kevin Fields, Mark Barker, Ashlee Chilton, Al Pedigo, Fritz Gieske, and Neil Denton</p> <p>KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Chelsea Smither, Bailey Siry-Crowder, Hunter Jones and Landon Peach</p>
<b>Minutes Issued By:</b>	Landon Peach
<b>Meeting Call to Order:</b>	10:42 a.m. EDT
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	3:07 p.m. EDT

<b>Agenda Items:</b>
<p>The Application Review and Compliance Committee reviewed three pended applications A2024-0265, A2025-0127, and A2025-0205 and applications A2025-0206, A2025-0156, and A2025-0207.</p> <p>Mr. Bowling moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee entered executive session at 2:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mr. Fields moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2025-0206, A2025-0156, A2025-0207, and A2024-0265; Mr. Bernard seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee reconvened in open session at 2:59 p.m.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A2024-0220     Kentucky Horticulture Council             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The applicant provided an update on their six-month report to the committee.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. A2024-0228     Kentucky Beef Network             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The applicant provided an update on their six-month report to the committee.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## APPENDIX D: Application Review and Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

3. A2024-0227      Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Inc  
a) The applicant provided an update on their six-month report to the committee.
4. A2024-0227      Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
a) The applicant provided an update on their six-month report to the committee.
5. A2025-0127      Kentucky Milk Company (**Pending**)  
a) The committee pended the application previously. No action was needed.
6. A2025-0205      EquiVentures LLC (**Pending**)  
a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application until October.
7. A2025-0206      West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy, Inc  
a) The committee unanimously recommended denying the applicants' request for funding.
8. A2025-0156      Organic Association of Kentucky  
a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$209,000 in state funds for one year of funding for OAK program positions.
9. A2025-0207      Joseph Dale Bentley  
a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$51,300 in state funds for the construction and expansion of a small ruminant facility.
10. A2024-0265      Kentucky Halal Meats, LLC (**Pending**)  
a) The committee unanimously recommended inviting the applicant to attend the September Committee Meeting and provide an update.

### Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.