

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the September 19, 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
September 19, 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 9:00 a.m. (EDT).

Roll Call

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

Absent Member: Neil Denton

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 August 15, 2025, board meeting.

Mr. Foree moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Mr. Fields 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 called on Brandon Reed to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Reed gave an overview of his activities since the August board meeting. Mr. Reed referenced an article of the HempWood joins the 2025 Inc. 5,000 List as the Fastest Growing Manufacturer in Kentucky (*on file*).

Lastly, Mr. Reed referenced the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount.

KADB Program Evaluation Committee

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Mr. Hinton to give the KADB Program Evaluation Committee report.

Mr. Hinton moved to accept the committee report, as presented; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

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 August 26, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of August 26, 2025.

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Memo Action Items

A2025-0015

Hopkinsville Elevator Company, Inc

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Savanna Hill to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2024-0195

Logan Premium Meats and Processing LLC

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Hill to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2024-0169

Loretto Grain, LLC

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Hill to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Barker Abstained.

A2024-0115 Clark County Fiscal Court

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Alexis Scheidt to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2022-0190 Bluegrass AgTech Development Corp

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Scheidt to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Dean Stephenson Abstained.

New Business

New Applications for Referral

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

Mr. McCloskey referenced thirteen (13) new applications for referral.

Mr. Hunt moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees.
Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous

Programs Recommended for Approval

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Sarah Charles to present the programs recommended for approval.

Ms. Charles referenced four (4) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$487,838; one (1) Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR) totaling \$15,000; three (3) Shared-Use Equipment Program (Shared-Use) totaling \$31,625; one (1) Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP) totaling \$10,000. The total program funding is \$544,463.00.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Requested Program Amendments

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Charles to present the requested program amendments.

Ms. Charles referenced four (4) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP and YAIP programs totaling \$150,350 (Washington, Johnson, and Clark Counties).

Staff recommended approval of these amendments.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Projects Recommended for Funding

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Becca Besok and Ms. Scheidt to present the following projects.

A2025-0156 Organic Association of Kentucky

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$425,000 in state funds over a two-year period to support three core OAK programs.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant \$209,000 in state funds for one year of funding, 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.

A2025-0207 Joseph Dale Bentley

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$51,300 in state funds for the construction and expansion of a small ruminant facility.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$51,300 in state funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Projects Recommended for No Funding

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Charles and Ms. Besok to present the following projects recommended for no funding.

A2025-0196 Graves County Conservation District

Ms. Charles referenced the above application to administer a CAIP in Calloway County. Staff recommends not funding this program due to the Calloway County Agricultural Development Council assigning a low priority and not committing county funds to this application.

Ms. Sanderfur moved to approve staff recommendation for no funding, as presented; Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0206 West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy, Inc.

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$20,000 in multi-county and \$500,000 in state funds for the development of a new drone.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the applicant's request of \$520,000 in multi-county and state funds for the development of a new drone.

Dr. Jones moved to approve committee recommendation for no funding, as presented; Mr. Giesecke 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 Program projects.

No action necessary.

Pending Applications

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

A2025-0205 EquiVentures LLC

A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

No action necessary.

Closing Remarks

Deputy Commissioner Beeler 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, October 17, 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 September meeting at 10:25 a.m. (EDT).

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn the September KADB meeting; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

APPROVED DATE:

October 17, 2025

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Dean Beeler

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.
 6. A copy of the KADB On-Farm Energy meeting minutes attached as Appendix F.

New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	COMMITTEE
A2025-0184	Phillip Michael Flood <i>On-Farm Energy Poultry</i>	Breckinridge	Energy
A2025-0211	Hardin County Farm Bureau of Hardin County, Kentucky <i>Grain Bin Rescue Equipment</i>	Hardin	ARC
A2025-0217	Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association, Inc. <i>4-H/FFA Cost Share Project</i>	Jessamine	ARC
A2025-0221	Merit Farms of Kentucky, LLC <i>On-Farm Energy Poultry</i>	Monroe	Energy
A2025-0223	Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation <i>SOAR Revolving Loan Fund</i>	Laurel	ARC
A2025-0224	Santerre LLC <i>Asian Carp Organic Fertilizer Program</i>	McCracken	ARC
A2025-0225	University of Kentucky Research Foundation <i>UK Equine Hay Production Program</i>	Fayette	ARC
A2025-0227	Eric Shafer <i>On-Farm Energy Timber</i>	Rockcastle	Energy
A2025-0228	Bosch Berries Kentucky Operation Corp <i>On-Farm Energy Horticulture</i>	Pulaski	Energy
A2025-0229	Kyle Lancaster d/b/a Lancaster Poultry <i>On-Farm Energy Poultry</i>	Webster	Energy
A2025-0230	Appalachian Crafts Farm and Gradens <i>On-Farm Energy Horticulture</i>	Estill	Energy
A2025-0231	Sustainable Harvest Farm LLC <i>On-Farm Energy Horticulture</i>	Laurel	Energy

Programs Recommended for Approval

CAIP

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0148	Graves County Conservation District	Fulton	State	\$46,000.00
A2025-0209	Edmonson Co Cattleman Association Inc.	Edmonson		\$50,000.00
A2025-0218	Shelby County Farm Bureau, Inc.	Shelby		\$320,000.00
A2025-0219	Marshall County Conservation District	Livingston	State	\$71,838.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 4				\$487,838.00

Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0216	Washington County Fiscal Court	Washington		\$15,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 1				\$15,000.00

Shared-Use Equipment Program

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0214	Washington County Conservation District	Washington		\$11,625.00
A2025-0215	Washington County Farm Bureau, Inc.	Washington		\$8,000.00
A2025-0222	Estill County Conservation District	Estill		\$12,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 3				\$31,625.00

Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0208	Edmonson County 4-H Club LLC	Edmonson		\$10,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 1				\$10,000.00

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$544,463.00**

Requested Program Amendments

App #	A2025-0054 (CAIP)
Applicant Name	Washington County Conservation District
Original Amount Approved	\$120,000
Execution Date	04/29/2025
Requested Change	The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$88,600 in Washington County funds for the <i>CAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council. 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. Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$208,600. Recommend Approval

App #	A2025-0056 (YAIP)
Applicant Name	Washington County Conservation District
Original Amount Approved	\$20,000
Execution Date	04/29/2025
Requested Change	The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$14,500 in Washington County funds for the <i>YAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council. 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. Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$34,500. Recommend Approval

App #	A2025-0076 (CAIP)
Applicant Name	Johnson County Agricultural Advancement Council, Inc.
Original Amount Approved	\$68,000
Execution Date	05/07/2025
Requested Change	The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$32,250 in Johnson County funds for the <i>CAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council. 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. Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$100,250. Recommend Approval

Requested Program Amendments

App #	A2025-0104 (CAIP)
Applicant Name	Clark County Conservation District
Original Amount Approved	\$135,000
Execution Date	05/28/2025
Requested Change	The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$15,000 in Clark County funds for the <i>CAIP Program</i>. The request received a <u>high</u> priority from the County Council. 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. Approval of this request would bring the program total to \$150,000. Recommend Approval

APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Meeting Date:	September 19, 2025
Meeting Location:	Franklin County Extension Office
Meeting Chair:	Brandon Reed
Attendees:	Committee Members: Al Pedigo, Ashlee Chilton, Wayne Hunt, Fritz Giesecke, Kevin Fields, Matt Hinton, Bobby Foree, Heather Graham, Mark Barker, Laura Sanderfur, Dr. Jones, Dr. Bernard, Matt Sawyers, Dr. Stephenson and Warren Beeler KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Bailey Siry-Crowder, Hunter Jones, Hannah Johnson, Jesse Moore, Alandria Lee, and Rachel Cowherd
Minutes Issued By:	Savanna Hill
Meeting Call to Order:	10:40 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	1:06 p.m. EDT

Agenda Items:
The Application Review & Compliance Committee reviewed two pending applications A2025-0205 and A2025-0127, and two new applications A2025-0211 and A2025-0217. 1. A2025-0205 EquiVentures LLC a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application. 2. A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application. 3. A2025-0211 Hardin County Farm Bureau a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up \$9,148 in Hardin County funds to purchase grain rescue equipment. <i>Mark Barker abstained</i> 4. A2025-0217 Jessamine County FFA a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds for a 4-H/FFA Cost Share Program.

APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Agenda Items:

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0226, A2024-0265, A2025-0223, A2025-0224, and A2025-0225; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

The committee entered executive session at 12:22 p.m.

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2025-0226, A2024-0265, A2025-0223, A2025-0224, and A2025-0225; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

The committee reconvened in open session at 12:58 p.m.

5. A2025-0226 Owen County Animal Clinic

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the application contingent on county funding secured.

Mark Barker abstained.

6. A2024-0265 Kentucky Halal Meats LLC

- a) The committee unanimously recommended that the applicant withdraw their application.

7. A2025-0223 KY Highlands Investment Corporation

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$250,000 in state funds to further capitalize the Kentucky Highlands SOAR Small Farm Loan Fund.

8. A2025-0224 Santerre LLC

- a) The committee unanimously recommended denying the application.

9. A2025-0225 University of Kentucky Research Foundation

- a) The committee unanimously recommended denying the application.

Dr. Stephenson and Heather Graham abstained.

Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.

APPENDIX E: KADB Program Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	September 17, 2025
Meeting Location:	KOAP via Zoom Meeting ID: 869 0744 0424
Meeting Chair:	Sarah Charles
Attendees:	Committee: Heather Graham, Matt Hinton, Dr. Gordan Jones, and Al Pedigo KOAP Staff: Sarah Charles, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Jesse Moore, Landon Peach, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, and Bailey Siry-Crowder
Minutes Issued By:	Sarah Charles
Meeting Call to Order:	9:30 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	11:24 a.m. EDT
Agenda Items: I. Update on Online Beef Assessment Tool/Beef Systems Analyzer a. KOAP Staff discussed feedback from the annual KOAP/UK CES Partnership Panel about the Beef Systems Analyzer. The Beef Systems Analyzer was more well received than the previous year and agents anticipate using it in their educational programs in 2026. II. 2026 KADB Planning Questionnaire a. The Committee made several suggestions for revisions to the 2026 KADB Planning Questionnaire as well as adding committee recommendation notations to each question. The Committee recommends approving the questionnaire as revised for the KADB to complete by October 17, 2025. III. Review of Additional Items to be Included in Questionnaire a. The Committee discussed the eligibility of the seed tender and felt that it could be contradicting the transportation equipment exclusion but wanted the KADB to review and decide if it should be removed as an eligible item in CAIP. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation. Next Meeting: TBD	

APPENDIX F: On-Farm Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	October 1, 2025
Meeting Location:	Zoom Meeting
Meeting Chair:	Bill McCloskey
Attendees:	KOAP Staff: Bill McCloskey, Chelsea Smither, and Brian Murphy. Advisory: Doug Overhults and Josh Bills.
Minutes Issued By:	Chelsea Smither
Meeting Call to Order:	9:04 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	9:38 a.m. EDT
<u>New Applications:</u> 1. A2025-0184 Phillip Flood The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install vent doors for a poultry operation. 2. A2025-0221 Merit Farms of Kentucky, LLC The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install heaters for a poultry operation. 3. A2025-0227 Eric Shafer The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install solar panels for a timber operation. 4. A2025-0228 Bosch Berries Kentucky Operation Corp The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install greenhouse LED lights for a horticulture operation. 5. A2025-0229 Kyle Lancaster dba Lancaster Poultry The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install a heat exchanger for a poultry operation. 6. A2025-0230 Appalachian Crafts Farm & Gardens The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$9,540 in state funds to install solar panels for a horticulture operation. 7. A2025-0231 Sustainable Harvest Farm LLC The committee unanimously recommended funding the request of \$10,300 in state funds to install solar panels for a horticulture operation. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation. Next meeting: February 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.	