

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the October 17, 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  
October 17, 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 9:02 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), Dr. Jamie Matthews (designee for Dean Laura Stephenson), Dr. Marcus Bernard (designee for KSU President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo), Dr. Gordon Jones, Fritz Giesecke, Kevin Fields, Al Pedigo, Bobby Foree, Matt Hinton, and Heather Graham, Laura Sanderfur, and Wayne Hunt.

Absent Member: Mark Barker and 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 September 19, 2025, board meeting.

Mr. Hinton moved to approve the minutes, as presented; Mr. Giesecke 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 September board meeting. Mr. Reed referenced the Large

and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount. Lastly, Mr. Reed called upon Dr. Chad Lee for an overview of the 100-year celebration at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton.

#### **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 September 26, 2025.

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

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

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

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

#### **Memo Action Items**

A2024-0019                      P.H.A.R.M., LLC

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2024-0088                      Rowlett's Milkhouse Creamery, LLC

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

Mr. Giesecke moved to approve the staff recommendation, as presented; Mr. Hinton 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 five (5) new applications for referral.

Mr. Hunt moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees.  
Mr. Sanderfur 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 two (2) County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) applications totaling \$585,000; one (1) Next Generation Farmer (NextGen) totaling \$30,000. The total program funding is \$615,000.00.

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

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

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

Ms. Smither referenced seven (7) On-Farm Energy Program applications totaling \$71,340.00 in state funds: Breckinridge (\$10,300), Monroe (\$10,300), Rockcastle (\$10,300), Pulaski (\$10,300), Webster (\$10,300), Estill (\$10,300), and Laurel (\$10,300) counties.

Ms. Chilton moved to approve the energy projects as presented; Dr. Bernard seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Projects Recommended for Funding**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Besok, Mr. Peach, & Alexis Scheidt to present the following projects.

**A2025-0211                      Hardin County Farm Bureau of Hardin County, Kentucky**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$9,148 in state and Hardin County funds to purchase grain bin rescue equipment.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant \$9,148 in Hardin County funds for grain bin rescue equipment, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0217                      Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association, Inc.**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds to run a youth cost-share program for SAE and 4-H projects.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0223 Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$250,000 in state funds to further capitalize the Kentucky Highlands SOAR Small Farm Loan Fund.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$250,000 in state funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0226 Owen County Animal Clinic**

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$83,333 in state funds and \$16,667 in County funds as part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program to build a veterinary clinic and haul-in facility for both small and large animals.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$83,333 in state funds and \$16,667 in Owen County funds, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Projects Recommendations for No Funding**

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Ms. Besok & Ms. Scheidt to present the following no funded projects.

**A2025-0224 Santerre LLC**

Ms. Besok referenced the above application requesting \$100,000 in state funds to purchase fertilizer equipment.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the request of \$100,000 in state fund for the purchase of fertilizer processing equipment.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2025-0225 University of Kentucky Research Foundation**

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$147,000 in state funds to purchase the educational outreach and continued research of Kentucky hay production used in the equine industry.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends denying the request of \$147,000 in state funds to support the educational outreach and continued research of Kentucky hay production used in the equine industry.

Dr. Jones moved to approve the applicant's request of \$147,000 in state funds contingent on this will be their final request to the board.; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Dr. Matthews & Ms. Graham Abstained; Mr. Hunt Opposed.

**Pending Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated one (1) application are pending.

A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company

No action necessary on pending projects.

**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, November 21, 2025, at the Franklin County Extension Office at 9:00 a.m. (EST).

**Adjournment**

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**APPROVED DATE:**

11-21-2025

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

Mac 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 copy of the KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix C.
  4. A copy of the KADB & KAFC Hemp Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix D.

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## New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	COMMITTEE
A2025-0232	West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC <i>West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC</i>	Morgan	ARC
A2025-0233	Kentucky State University <i>Mini Grant Program</i>	Franklin	ARC
A2025-0237	Kentucky Community and Technical College System Foundation, Inc. <i>Meat Processing Certification Program</i>	Woodford	ARC
A2025-0238	Farmer's Choice, LLC <i>Storage Expansion</i>	Calloway	ARC
A2025-0239	University of Kentucky Research Foundation <i>Viticulture and Enology Extension Program</i>	Fayette	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>
A2025-0234	Woodford County Agriculture Advancement Council, Inc.	Woodford		\$280,000.00
A2025-0235	Scott County Soil Conservation District	Scott		\$305,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 2				\$585,000.00

#### Next Generation Farmer (NextGen)

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0236	Scott County Soil Conservation District	Scott		\$30,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 1				\$30,000.00

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$615,000.00**

## APPENDIX C: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2025
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Franklin County Extension Office
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Brandon Reed
<b>Attendees:</b>	Committee Members: Al Pedigo, Ashlee Chilton, Wayne Hunt, Fritz Giesecke, Kevin Fields, Matt Hinton, Bobby Foree, Heather Graham, Laura Sanderfur, Dr. Jones, Dr. Bernard (KSU) Dr. Jamie Matthews (UK), and Warren Beeler (KDA)  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, Jeff Parman, Kylie Davis, and Chelsea Smither
<b>Minutes Issued By:</b>	Alexis Scheidt
<b>Meeting Call to Order:</b>	10:17 a.m. EDT
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	1:37 p.m. EDT

### Agenda Items:

The Application Review & Compliance Committee reviewed one withdrawn application A2025-0205, one pending application, A2025-0127, and five new applications, A2025-0232, A2025-0233, A2025-0237, A2025-0238, and A2025-0239

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0205, A2025-0127, A2025-0232, A2025-0233, A2025-0237, A2025-0238, and A2025-0239; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

*The committee entered executive session at 10:17 a.m.*

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0205, A2025-0127, A2025-0232, A2025-0233, A2025-0237, A2025-0238, and A2025-0239; Mrs. Graham seconded the motion.

*The committee reconvened in open session at 12:19 p.m.*

1. A2025-0205      EquiVentures LLC
  - a) The applicant decided to withdraw their application prior to the committee meeting.
2. A2025-0127      Kentucky Milk Company (**pending**)
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended pending the application.



## APPENDIX C: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

3. A2025-0232 West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$83,333 in State funds and up to \$16,667 in County funds as part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program to construct a new cattle working facility at their clinic.

4. A2025-0233 Kentucky State University

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$1,400,000 in state funds over a 2 year period (2026-2027) to aid in continuing its KSU Mini-Grant Program to help the producers across the state.

Dr. Bernard abstained.

5. A2025-0237 Kentucky Community & Technical College

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$63,200 in state funds.

6. A2025-0238 Farmers Choice, LLC

- a) The committee unanimously recommended funding county funds matched by state funds with the difference in a participation loan, up to \$500,000.

7. A2025-0239 University of Kentucky Research Foundation

- a) The committee unanimously recommended refunding \$181,952 for one year of program funding. The committee encouraged the applicant to seek additional income sources. Fritz Giesecke motioned to fund the project. Dr. Jones amended the motion to fund the project for two years at half of the requested amount. Dr. Jones further amended the motion to fund the project for one year up to \$181,952. Wayne Hunt seconded the motion.

*Dr. Jamie Matthews and Heather Graham abstained.*

### Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.

## APPENDIX D: KADB/KAFC Hemp Committee Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 31, 2025
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Chelsea Smither
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Committee Members:</b> Wayne Hunt, Dr. Kenny Burdine, Mark Barker, Bobby Foree, and Lori Noel.</p> <p><b>KOAP Staff:</b> Bill McCloskey, Chelsea Smither, Hunter Jones, Sarah Charles, and Bailey Siry-Crowder.</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Doris Hamilton (KDA) and Greg Wilson (HempWood).</p>
<b>Minutes Issued By:</b>	Chelsea Smither
<b>Meeting Call to Order:</b>	9:00 a.m. EST
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	9:27 a.m. EST

<b>Agenda Items:</b>
<p>1. KDA Hemp Update</p> <p>a) KDA representative, Doris Hamilton, provided the committee with an update on the hemp industry in Kentucky. No action was taken.</p> <p>2. Review of KADB/KAFC Hemp Committee Policy</p> <p>a) The committee reviewed the provided memo of KADB/KAFC Hemp Committee Policy decisions to date.</p> <p>3. Recommendations</p> <p>a) The committee unanimously agreed to make no changes to the KADB/KAFC Hemp Policy.</p> <p>The current policy reads as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The KADB and KAFC will consider funding hemp applications from universities or public-private partnerships in two areas:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To support education of the agricultural community and farmers on hemp production from business planning to final processing; and,</i></li> <li><i>Genetic research and variety development.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li><i>The KADB and KAFC will consider applications for loans on a participation basis.</i></li> <li><i>Hemp shall be an eligible crop for CAIP and the Next Generation Farmer Program; however, hemp seeds, clones and seedlings are ineligible for cost-share.</i></li> </ol> <p>Adjournment</p> <p>a) Committee adjourned in acclamation.</p>