

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at the November 21, 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  
November 21, 2025  
Franklin County Extension Office  
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY**

**Call to Order**

Chief of Staff Mark Bowling presiding, called the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) regular business meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. (EST).

**Roll Call**

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

Absent Members: Dean Stephenson and Matt Sawyers (designee for Governor Andy Beshear).

**Notification of Media**

Mr. Bowling received verification from Hannah Sharp-Johnson, Boards Secretary that the media had been notified of the KADB monthly meeting.

**Welcome**

Mr. Bowling welcomed everyone to the KADB meeting. Board members and guests participated in person.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bowling entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 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**

Mr. Bowling updated the board on activities of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Bowling called on Brandon Reed to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Reed gave an overview of his activities since the October board meeting. Mr. Reed referenced the 2026 CAIP Administrator Trainings and KADF 25-Year Celebration. Mr. Reed referenced the Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount. Mr. Reed referenced the KADF Farmers' Market Report. Lastly, Mr. Reed called on David Wayne to give the Farm Service Agency Report.

**Deputy Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Bowling 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 October 30, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of October 21, 2025.

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**KADB/KAFC Joint Committee on Industrial Hemp**

Mr. Bowling called on Chelsea Smither to give the KADB/KAFC Joint Committee on Industrial Hemp report.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Memo Action Items**

**KADB/KAFC Joint Committee on Industrial Hemp**

Mr. Bowling called on Ms. Smither to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a Joint KADB/KAFC Committee on Hemp recommendation.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2023-0055 Auburn University**

Mr. Bowling called on Ms. Smither to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**A2024-0070 Logan Bethel Veterinary Services, LLC**

Mr. Bowling called on Savanna Hill to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding a time extension request.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**New Business**

**New Applications for Referral**

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

Mr. McCloskey referenced five (5) new applications for referral.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Programs Recommended for Approval**

Mr. Bowling called on Sarah Charles to present the programs recommended for approval.

Ms. Charles referenced four (4) CAIP totaling \$498,690; (1) Next Generation Farmer (NextGen) totaling \$30,000; (1) Shared-Use Equipment Program totaling \$26,063; (2) Youth Ag Incentives Program (Youth) totaling \$46,200 total funding: \$600,953.00

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Requested Program Amendments**

Mr. Bowling called on Ms. Charles to present the requested program amendments.

Ms. Charles referenced three (3) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP and YAIP programs totaling \$122,800 (Jessamine, Wayne, & Nicholas 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**

Mr. Bowling called on Ms. Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Jesse Moore, and Landon Peach to present the following projects.

**A2025-0233 Kentucky State University**

Mr. Peach referenced the above application requesting \$1,400,000 in state funds over a two-year period (2026-2027) to aid in continuing its KSU Mini-Grant Program to help producers across the state.

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant’s request of \$1,400,000 in state funds over a 2-year period (2026-2027), subject to the terms and conditions.

Ms. Chilton moved to approve the committee recommendation; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Dr. Bernard Abstained.

**A2025-0237 Kentucky Community and Technical College System Foundation, Inc.**

Ms. Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$63,200 in state funds to develop and implement a comprehensive certification program for meat processing.

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant's request of \$63,200 in state funds to develop and implement a comprehensive certification program for meat processing, 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.

**A2025-0239                      University of Kentucky Research Foundation**

Mr. Moore referenced the above application requesting \$363,903 in state funds over a two-year period to support the state's Viticulture and Enology Extension Program.

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant up to \$181,952 in state funds for one year of funding, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Ms. Graham Abstained.

**A2025-0238                      Farmer's Choice, LLC**

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$1,052,910 in state funds to purchase a grain cleaner and (4) 150,000 bushel grain bins with (2) bins dedicated to organic grain and (2) bins for conventional grain.

The KADB recommends pending the application until the December board meeting for staff to review additional information.

Mr. Hinton moved to pend the application for additional information; Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program**

Mr. Bowling called on Mr. McCloskey to provide an update on eight (8) Pilot KADF Horticulture Incentives Loan Program projects.

No action necessary.

**Pending Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated two (2) applications are pending.

A2025-0232      West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC

A2025-0127      Kentucky Milk Company

No action necessary on pending projects.

**Expired/Withdrawn Applications**

Mr. McCloskey stated two (2) applications are withdrawn.

A2025-0205 EquiVentures LLC

A2025-0122 Creekside Veterinary Clinic, LLC

No action necessary on expired/withdrawn projects.

**Mr. Reed assumed chair at 9:45 a.m.**

**Presentation**

**2026 KADB Policy & Guideline Revisions Final Authorization**

Mr. Reed called on Ms. Charles and Bailey Siry-Crowder to present the 2026 KADB Policy & Guidelines Revisions for approval.

KADF Standard Operating Guidelines

Mr. Hinton moved to revise the KADF Standard Operating Guidelines, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

KADB Funding Policies and Procedures

Mr. Denton moved to set Priority Investment Areas for staff to develop guidelines, as presented; Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Ms. Graham moved to add a policy to standardize CAIP administrative entities, as presented; Ms. Chilton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Mr. Foree opposed.

Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program

Mr. Hinton moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with one revision, as presented; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program

Mr. Giesecke moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with no revisions, as presented; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program

Ms. Chilton moved to sunset the program on December 31, 2025, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Pilot Horticulture Incentives Loan Program

Mr. Barker moved to pend until December for staff to incorporate additional changes for 2026 guidelines; Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Project Guidelines: Farmers Markets

Ms. Chilton moved to reauthorize the project guidelines for 2026 with no revisions; Mr. Pedigo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Project Guidelines: Meat Processors

Mr. Hinton moved to authorize the project guidelines for 2026 with no revisions, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program (DAR)

Mr. Giesecke moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with no revisions, as presented; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Shared-Use Equipment Program

Mr. Fields moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with one revision, as presented; Ms. Sanderfur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Next Generation Farmer Program (NextGen)

Ms. Chilton moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with two revisions and to sunset by December 31, 2026, contingent upon plans to revise CAIP to include more opportunities for young/beginning farmers, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (YAIP)

Mr. Hinton moved to reauthorize the program for 2026 with three revisions, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) Standard Guidelines & Producer Application

Mr. Hinton moved to reauthorize the program for 2026, as presented; Mr. Foree seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Ms. Chilton moved to revise the every other year policy, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Mr. Hinton moved to add to an exclusion, as presented; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

Mr. Foree moved to amend the motion to clarify that the Kentucky Farm Business Analysis Program would not be included in the exclusion; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion as amended passed; Unanimous.

Ms. Chilton moved to revise the reporting requirements, as presented; Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Mr. Denton moved to revise Question #6 on the CAIP Producer Application, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Mr. Denton moved to add a new question to the CAIP Producer Application, as presented; Mr. Barker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Mr. Hinton moved to revise Question #20 on the CAIP Producer Application, as presented; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

#### County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP) Incentive Areas

Mr. Hinton moved to reauthorize the incentive areas for 2026 with four revisions, as presented; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

Dr. Jones moved to amend the motion to revise verbiage for the dairy bull requirements; Mr. Foree seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion as amended passed; Unanimous.

#### Discussion Items

Mr. Foree moved to not add cost-reimbursement percentages for each fencing type to the CAIP Fencing and On-Farm Water Incentive Area Guidelines for 2026; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

#### **Commissioner Shell assumed chair at 10:33 a.m.**

#### **Closing Remarks**

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

The next KADB meeting will be on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Franklin County Extension Office at 9:00 a.m. (EST).

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Shell entertained a motion to adjourn the November meeting at 11:40 a.m. (EST).

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

**APPROVED DATE:** December 19, 2025

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Walter Bales  
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 and Compliance Review Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix D.

**Programs Recommended for Approval**

**CAIP**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0240	Menifee County Beef Producers, Inc.	Menifee		\$81,644.00
A2025-0241	Hardin County Conservation District	Hardin		\$100,000.00
A2025-0242	Northern Kentucky Cattle Association, Inc.	Boone		\$117,046.00
A2025-0243	Fleming County Conservation District	Fleming		\$200,000.00
<b>Total Recommended for Funding: 4</b>				<b>\$498,690.00</b>

**Next Generation Farmer (NextGen)**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0244	Fleming County Conservation District	Fleming		\$30,000.00
<b>Total Recommended for Funding: 1</b>				<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**Shared-Use Equipment Program**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0246	Barren County Conservation District	Barren		\$26,063.00
<b>Total Recommended for Funding: 1</b>				<b>\$26,063.00</b>

**Youth Ag Incentives Program (YAIP)**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Program Administrator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
A2025-0245	Fleming County Conservation District	Fleming		\$25,000.00
A2025-0251	Nicholas County Conservation District	Nicholas		\$21,200.00
<b>Total Recommended for Funding: 2</b>				<b>\$46,200.00</b>

Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: **\$600,953.00**

**Requested Program Amendments**



**App #** A2025-0085 (CAIP)  
**Applicant Name** Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association, Inc.  
**Original Amount Approved** \$100,000  
**Execution Date** 06/06/2025  
**Requested Change** The applicant requests an additional \$70,000 in Jessamine County funds for the *CAIP Program*. The request received a high 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 \$170,000.

**Recommend Approval**



**App #** A2025-0100 (YAIP)  
**Applicant Name** Wayne County Agriculture Development Council, Inc.  
**Original Amount Approved** \$15,000  
**Execution Date** 06/02/2025  
**Requested Change** The applicant requests an additional \$15,000 in Wayne County funds for the *YAIP Program*. The request received a high 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 \$30,000.

**Recommend Approval**



**App #** A2025-0149 (CAIP)  
**Applicant Name** Nicholas County Conservation District  
**Original Amount Approved** \$218,343  
**Execution Date** 07/21/2025  
**Requested Change** The applicant requests an additional \$37,800 in Nicholas County funds for the *CAIP Program*. The request received a high 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 \$256,134.

**Recommend Approval**



## APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 21, 2025
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Franklin County Extension Office
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Brandon Reed
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>Committee Members: Heather Graham, Bobby Foree, Mark Barker, Dr. Gordon Jones, Laura Sandefur, Dr. Marcus Bernard (KSU), Ashlee Chilton, Wayne Hunt, Al Pedigo, Fritz Giesecke, Kevin Fields, Neil Denton, and Matt Hinton</p> <p>KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Sarah Charles, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Bailey Siry-Crowder, Jesse Moore, Alandria Lee, and Landon Peach</p>
<b>Minutes Issued By:</b>	Landon Peach
<b>Meeting Call to Order:</b>	12:02 p.m. EDT
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	2:22 p.m. EDT

<b>Agenda Items:</b>	
<p>The Application Review &amp; Compliance Committee six new applications A2025-0250, A2025-0127, A2025-0248, A2025-0247, A2025-0249, and A2025-0252.</p> <p>Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0127, A2025-0248, A2025-0247, A2025-0249, and A2025-0252; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The committee entered executive session at 1:41 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on applications A2025-0127, A2025-0248, A2025-0247, A2025-0249, and A2025-0252 ; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The committee reconvened in open session at 2:15 p.m.</i></p> <p>1. A2025-0250      Owensboro Catholic Consolidated School Systems, Inc</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$658.49 in county funds.</p>	

## APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

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### Agenda Items:

2. A2025-0127     Kentucky Milk Company, LLC
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended not funding the applicant due to limited county impact.
  
3. A2025-0248     Red Haven Farm, LLC
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended not funding the applicant.  
*Mark Barker Abstained.*
  
4. A2025-0247     Sunnyside Egg Co., LLC
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant county funds matched by state funds up to \$89,443.
  
5. A2025-0249     Grown Up Harvest Grocery Store
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended not funding the applicant due to limited producer impact.
  
6. A2025-0252     Greater Louisville Behavioral Health Center, Inc
  - a) The committee unanimously recommended withdrawing the application due to the applicants request via email to withdraw due to the status of the Kentucky Composting Council.

### Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.