

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board at December 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
December 19, 2025
Franklin County Extension Office
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY**

Call to Order

Deputy Commissioner Warren Beeler presiding, called the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) regular business meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. (EST).

Roll Call

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

Absent Members: Mark Barker and Laura Sanderfur.

Notification of Media

Deputy Commissioner Beeler received verification from Hannah Sharp-Johnson, Boards 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 November 21, 2025, board meeting.

Ms. Graham 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 November board meeting. Mr. Reed referenced the Large and

Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program total projects to date and dollar amount. Lastly, Mr. Reed referenced the KADF 2026 Approved Guideline Revisions.

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 December 1, 2025.

Mr. McCloskey reviewed Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund County Balances (*on file*) as of December 1, 2025.

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Memo Action Items

A2024-0261 Cowan Community Action Group, Inc

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2023-0276 Jemstar Properties

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

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Hinton Abstains.

Pilot Horticulture Incentives Loan Program

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Sarah Charles to present a memorandum (*on file*) regarding the above referenced program guidelines reauthorization for 2026.

Ms. Graham moved to reauthorize the Pilot Horticulture Incentives Loan Program guidelines for 2026, 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 four (4) new applications for referral.

Mr. Pedigo moved to refer the submitted applications to the appropriate committees;

Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Programs Recommended for Approval

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

Ms. Charles referenced four (1) CAIP totaling \$223,000; total funding: \$223,000.00

Staff recommended approval of these applications.

Mr. Denton moved to approve all programs meeting state guidelines, as presented; Mr. Hinton 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 one (1) county requests for additional funds for existing CAIP program totaling \$20,587 (Daviess Counties).

Staff recommended approval of these amendments.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Projects Recommended for Funding

Deputy Commissioner Beeler called on Savanna Hill and Jesse Moore to present the following projects.

A2025-0238 Farmer's choice, LLC

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

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding county funds matched by state funds with the difference in a participation loan up to \$150,000, subject to the terms and conditions.

Mr. Hinton moved to fund the applicant in multi-county funds with the option of a KADF participation loan, not to exceed a total of \$250,000. Mr. Pedigo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0247 Sunnyside Egg Co. LLC

Ms. Hill referenced the above application requesting \$120,387 in state funds to scale regenerative egg production.

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding county funds matched by state funds up to \$89,443, subject to the terms and conditions.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0250 Owensboro Catholic Schools

Mr. Moore referenced the above application requesting \$658 in Daviess County funds to purchase grow lights and heat mats for their greenhouse.

The KADB Application Review and Compliance Committee recommends funding the applicant up to \$658 in Daviess County 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 Recommendations for No Funding

A2025-0127 Kentucky Milk Company

Becca Besok referenced the above application requesting \$25,000 in multi-county funds and \$25,000 in state funds for the purchase of a dairy processing equipment.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends not funding the application due to limited producer impact. The KADB Application Review & Committee recommends the applicant pursue a loan through KAFC.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Mr. Foree Opposed.

A2025-0249 Grown Up Harvest Grocery, Inc.

Mr. Moore referenced the above application requesting \$197,000 in state funds to build an expansion inaugural location such as 2,500 square-foot indoor farmers market and grocery in Louisville Nulu neighborhood.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends not funding the application due to limited producer impact.

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

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

A2025-0248 Red Haven Farm, LLC

Alexis Scheidt referenced the above application requesting \$387,277 in multi-county and state funds to construct the Red Haven Country Store, a rural retail hub connecting local producers with the community.

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee recommends not funding the application due to limited producer impact.

Mr. Foree moved fund the applicant up to \$70,000 in multi-county funds; Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

Pending Applications

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

A2025-0232 West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC

No action necessary on pending projects.

Expired/Withdrawn Applications

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

A2025-0252 Greater Louisville Behavioral Health Center, Inc

No action necessary on expired/withdrawn projects.

Presentations**A2024-0220 Kentucky Horticulture Council**

Ms. Graham moved to approve second year of funding, as presented; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Dr. Burdine Abstains.

A2024-0228 Kentucky Beef Network

Mr. Foree moved to approve second year of funding, as presented; Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Dr. Burdine Abstains.

A2024-0227 Kentucky Dairy Development Council

Mr. Fields moved to approve second year of funding, as presented; Mr. Hinton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

A2024-0222 Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Mr. Giesecke moved to approve second year of funding, as presented; Ms. Chilton seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed; Unanimous.

Closing Remarks

Deputy Commissioner Beeler 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, January 16, 2026, at the Franklin County Extension Office at 9:00 a.m. (EST).

Adjournment

There being no further business, Deputy Commissioner Beeler entertained a motion to adjourn the December meeting at 11:22 a.m. (EST).

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn the December KADB meeting; Dr. Bernard seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion Passed; Unanimous.

APPROVED DATE:

January 14, 2026

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Ernie Zehr
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.
 5. A copy of the KADB Application and Compliance Review Committee meeting minutes attached as Appendix E.

New Applications for Referral

APP #	APPLICANT	COUNTY	COMMITTEE
A2025-0253	Owensboro Farmers Market, Inc. <i>Commercial Kitchen</i>	Daviess	ARC
A2025-0254	Washington County Board of Education <i>Agriculture Lab</i>	Washington	ARC
A2025-0255	Green River Area Agent Association <i>Leadership Program</i>	_ALL	ARC
A2025-0257	Gate Keeper Cattle Company, LLC <i>Processing & Retail Building</i>	Union	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>
A2025-0256	Jackson County Cattlemen's Association	Jackson		\$223,000.00
Total Recommended for Funding: 1				\$223,000.00
Total County Funds Recommended for Approval: \$223,000.00				

Requested Program Amendments

App #	A2025-0067
Applicant Name	Green River Area Beef Improvement Group, Inc. (Daviess County)
Original Amount Approved	\$100,000
Execution Date	06/03/2025
Requested Change	<p>The applicant requests an <u>additional</u> \$20,587 in Daviess 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 \$120,587.</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>

APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Meeting Date:	December 19, 2025
Meeting Location:	Franklin County Extension Office
Meeting Chair:	Brandon Reed
Attendees:	<p>Committee Members: Wayne Hunt, Al Pedigo, Warren Beeler (KDA), Bobby Foree, Heather Graham, Kevin Fields, Dr. Jones, Matt Sawyer, Dr. Bernard, Kenny Burdine (Designee for Dean Laura Stephenson), Ashlee Chilton, Fritz Giesecke, Neil Denton, and Matt Hinton</p> <p>KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Jesse Moore, Sarah Charles, Rachel Cowherd, Hannah Johnson, Bailey Siry-Crowder, and Landon Peach</p>
Minutes Issued By:	Savanna Hill
Meeting Call to Order:	12:00 p.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	1:33 p.m. EDT

Agenda Items:
<p>The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee reviewed applications A2025-0253, A2025-0254, A2025-0255, and A2025-0257.</p> <p>Mr. Sawyer moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss application A2025-0257 and discussed strategic planning; Mrs. Graham seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee entered executive session at 12:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mrs. Chilton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to vote on application A2025-0257; Mr. Denton seconded the motion.</p> <p><i>The committee reconvened in open session at 1:30 p.m.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A2025-0253 Owensboro Farmer's Market, Inc. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$45,000 in Daviess County funds to build a commercial kitchen.

APPENDIX D: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Agenda Items:

2. A2025-0254 Washington County Board of Education
 - a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant up to \$100,000 in Washington County funds to construct an agricultural lab.

3. A2025-0255 Green River Area Agents Association
 - a) The committee recommended funding up to \$12,900 in multi-county funds for a leadership program.

Heather Graham & Kenny Burdine abstained.

4. A2025-0257 Gate Keeper Cattle Company, LLC
 - a) The committee unanimously recommended funding the applicant multi-county funds matched by state funds up to \$110,000 and encouraged the applicant to apply for a KAFC loan.

Adjournment:

Committee adjourned in acclamation.

APPENDIX E: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Meeting Date:	December 19, 2025
Meeting Location:	Franklin County Extension Office
Meeting Chair:	Brandon Reed
Attendees:	<p>Committee Members: Wayne Hunt, Fritz Giesecke, Matt Hinton, Kevin Fields, Heather Graham, Kenny Burdine (Designee for Dean Laura Stephenson), Bobby Foree, Dr. Jones, Ashlee Chilton, Al Pedigo, and Neil Denton</p> <p>KOAP Staff: Brandon Reed, Bill McCloskey, Brian Murphy, Savanna Hill, Alexis Scheidt, Becca Besok, Chelsea Smither, Bailey Siry-Crowder, Alandria Lee, Rachel Cowherd, Hannah Johnson, Jeff Parman, Jesse Moore and Landon Peach</p>
Minutes Issued By:	Savanna Hill
Meeting Call to Order:	8:00 a.m. EDT
Meeting Adjourned:	8:48 p.m. EDT

Agenda Items:

The KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee reviewed application A2025-0238.

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), to discuss applications A2025-0238; Mr. Fields seconded the motion.

The committee entered executive session at 8:05 a.m.

1. A2025-0238 Farmer's Choice, LLC

- a) The committee discussed the application, reviewed the additional documents presented and decided to proceed with the recommendation from the November KADB Application Review & Compliance Committee meeting. No action was needed.

Mrs. Chilton moved to adjourn into open session, pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (g), Mr. Giesecke seconded the motion.

The committee reconvened in open session at 8:48 a.m.

Adjournment:

APPENDIX E: Application Review & Compliance Committee Minutes

Agenda Items:
Committee adjourned in acclamation.