2026 CAIP Incentive Area Guidelines:
FORAGE & GRAIN IMPROVEMENT

*These guidelines represent one of 11 incentive areas within the **County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP)** to provide Kentucky agricultural producers cost-share assistance on practices that increase net farm income and opportunities to try new/innovative technologies or systems that improve farm efficiency and productivity.*

Funded participants shall adhere to all local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

Incentive Area Limitations:

- Self-propelled vehicles/equipment are **not** eligible for cost-share, including but not limited to tractors, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, skid steers, etc.
- Any type of mowing equipment is **not** eligible for cost-share, including but not limited to bush hogs, hay mowers, discbines, haybines, mower-conditioner, etc.
- Reimbursements for repairs, routine maintenance, beautification/cosmetics, and/or renewal of annual subscriptions are **not** eligible for cost-share.
- **Beginning in 2010**, all transport equipment was removed as eligible cost-share items from all incentive areas. This exclusion includes trailers, wagons, and carts with the primary function of transportation.

A. Forage, Pasture, and Grain Production

Prerequisites:

- Only Certified, Plant Variety Protected (PVP) or Proprietary varieties will be acceptable for cost-share (see list of approved varieties).
  In addition, these varieties should have documented performance in university trials such as those conducted by the UK College of Agriculture, Food & Environment. Other varieties will be considered with documentation of performance upon written request to UK through the County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- The variety must be specified on the receipt.
- **A soil test**, taken within the last 12 months, shall be conducted and recommendations followed prior to seed application.
- **Clover:** If soil pH is below 5.0, then clover seeding should be delayed by six (6) months after lime application. **Alfalfa:** If soil pH is below 5.5, then seeding must be delayed by one year after limestone application.

Eligible Cost-share Items:

1. **Forage/Pasture Seed: Only varieties specified in the Seed List (Appendix A) are eligible. 50%**
   - **a. Clover – red and white**
   - **b. Alfalfa**
   - **c. Summer Perennial Forages**
     i. Bermuda grass
     ii. Big Bluestem
     iii. Eastern Gamma Grass
     iv. Caucasian Bluestem
     v. Indiangrass
     vi. Lespedeza
     vii. Switchgrass
   - **d. Cool Season Forages**
     i. Endophyte-free Fescue
     ii. Festulolium
     iii. Kentucky Bluegrass
     iv. Novel Endophyte Fescue
     v. Orchardgrass
     vi. Timothy
   - **e. Other Crops for FORAGE and GRAZING purposes only**
     i. Annual Ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum)
     ii. Barley
     iii. Brassicas (i.e. turnips)
     iv. Buckwheat
     v. Cereal rye (Secale cereale)
     vi. Corn (less than 10 acres)
     vii. Oats
     viii. Sorghum-Sudangrass
     ix. Soybean
     x. Sudangrass
     xi. Triticale
     xii. Wheat

2. Inoculants for legume seeds and for ensiling **50%**
3. Hay testing, hay moisture tester **75%**
4. Specialized spraying equipment *(not self-propelled)*, including weed wiper/wicker **50%**
5. Broadcaster seeder/spreader **50%**
6. Custom Services: Seeding; Spraying for pasture/hayland weed suppression *(excludes chemicals)* **50%**
7. **Rental** of no-till drill, pasture renovator, spray equipment, or any item listed in Section B. **50%**
8. Rental of land clearing equipment or custom land clearing services for agricultural purposes, *seeding is not required* **50%**
   Note: Participants intending to use this cost-share item who also participate in USDA programs should contact FSA to ensure compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance, which is required for USDA program compliance. FSA will forward requests to NRCS for evaluation.
9. Rotational Grazing Starter Kit: Can include solar charger, temporary ground rod, up to 100 temporary/moveable posts, high conductivity polywire/fencing, voltmeter/fence tester, grazing stick, electric fencing manual **75%**
10. Cost of participation in a master-level agricultural education program (e.g. Master Grazer, etc.) **75%**

Exclusions/Limitations:

- Soil test must be followed, but cost-share is not allowed on fertilizer or soil amendments.
- Only labor provided through a custom seeding service is eligible for reimbursement, labor for using rental equipment is not reimbursable.

B. Commodity Handling and Forage Equipment

Prerequisites:

- Commodity Handling & Forage Equipment recipients are required to retain ownership and maintenance of equipment for at least five years.
- Producers shall retain adequate insurance coverage to replace any and all equipment funded through this program. *Proof of insurance may be requested by the program administrator at the time of reimbursement or during a site visit.*

Eligible Cost-share Items*:**

1. Bale accumulators **50%**
2. Bale kickers **50%**
3. Bale wrappers/forage baggers **50%**
4. Baler retro-fitting for netting systems **50%**
5. Concrete/portable feed bunks **50%**
6. Elevators and augers **50%**
7. Front end loader and/or attachments **50%**
8. Hay applicator systems **50%**
9. Hay forks/spears **50%**
10. Hay rake **50%**
11. Hay rings **50%**
12. Hay tedder **50%**
13. Hay unroller attachment **50%**
14. Mechanical bale loaders **50%**
15. No-till drill **50%**
16. Roller-crimper **50%**
17. Scales/scale kit for grain cart (retro-fitting) **50%**

**Cost-share is also available for rental of any equipment listed in Section B.*

*****See Incentive Area Limitations on page 1 for exclusions.***

Appendix A: Seed Varieties

(Updated as necessary)

Varieties of approved species (see A. 1.) are updated by UK Agronomy as requested or new varieties are shown to meet UK's performance standards.

For the most up-to-date list of seed varieties eligible for use with this program visit https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/documents/2026-Program-Guidelines-Applications/ADF_APP_caip_forage_seedlist.pdf:

Note: Consideration should be given to applicable seeding dates as referenced in AGR-18 "Grain and Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky" http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR18/AGR18.pdf