



2026 APPROVED GUIDELINE REVISIONS

The following are changes approved at the November 21, 2025, meeting of the KADB, which go into effect 1/1/2026.

KADF Standard Operating Guidelines:

Added to the following language to II.D. Other Requirements for Council Membership:
“Members from the CAIP Administrative Entity must be limited to two board/executive leadership members (does not apply to those who are general members of the entity).”

Projects & State Programs

Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program:

GUIDELINES:

Reauthorized for 2026

Revised B.1. to read “Only one individual per household and/or business may apply for the Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program **as a one-time lifetime limit, retroactive to 2022.**”

Large and Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program:

GUIDELINES:

Reauthorized for 2026. No changes.

On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program:

*This section applies **ONLY** to the state energy program. It is not relevant to the CAIP energy incentive area.*

GUIDELINES:

Sunsets 12/31/2025.

Pilot Horticulture Incentives Loan Program:

GUIDELINES:

Reauthorization and revisions to be announced at a later date.

Project Guidelines:

Farmers Markets – Reauthorized for 2026. No changes.

Meat Processors – Reauthorized for 2026. No changes.

County Programs

Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program (DAR):

Reauthorized for 2026. No changes.

Shared-Use Equipment Program:

Reauthorized for 2026

Revised 10. to read “Disposal of the equipment within a **3-year** period from the execution of the legal agreement requires approval by KADB staff with a pro-rated amount being paid back or trade-in value documented and deducted from requested amount in an application for new equipment.”

Next Generation Beginning Farmer Program (NextGen):

Reauthorized for 2026

Revised the lifetime limit to \$25,000

Added new question as Question 10, adjusting numbering accordingly:

“Have you completed a Farm Service Agency crop acreage report for your operation for the most recent reporting year? *Administrator may request documentation.*”

(5) Yes (0) No

Sunsets December 31, 2026, contingent upon plans to revise CAIP to include more opportunities for young/beginning farmers.

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (YAIP):

STANDARD GUIDELINES:

Reauthorized for 2026

Revised the educational component by increasing number of hours to six (6)

Revised E. Reporting Requirements for annual reporting

Revised the livestock purchase requirements to read “*Participants purchasing any type of breeding livestock must provide a copy of health papers when requesting reimbursement. Participants purchasing breeding heifers must submit Heifer Affidavit to certify that all heifers purchased have been developed following the minimum guidelines outlined by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s “Herd Builders” replacement heifer program (Appendix A). **Breeding heifers under the age of 12 months may submit genomic testing in lieu of the 12-month age requirement.**”

County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP):

STANDARD GUIDELINES:

Reauthorized for 2026

Revised IV.B.7. to read “Counties may choose to limit eligible producers to receive funding every other year. This rule applies to **Farm Serial Numbers (FSNs) and to** anyone within the same household; **FSNs and/or** members of the same household are excluded from receiving funds in the program year following a funding approval.

- a. This decision must be indicated at time of application and included in the Legal Agreement with the KADB.
- b. All producers must be notified of this county policy at the time of application.
- c. It is the administrative entity’s responsibility to verify eligibility and monitor compliance if this policy is adopted by the county.”

Added the following language to Exclusions as 6. (adjusting numbering accordingly):
VI.C. “6. Reimbursements for repairs, routine maintenance, beautification/cosmetics, and/or renewal of annual subscriptions are not eligible for cost-share.”

Revised reporting requirements for annual reporting

PRODUCER APPLICATION:

Revised Question 6 to include agriculture exemption license number: “Did you file a schedule F, schedule C, and/or 4835 (IRS tax forms) for agricultural purposes in the previous year **or do you have an agriculture exemption license number?**”

Added new question as Question 10, adjusting numbering accordingly:

“Have you completed a Farm Service Agency crop acreage report for your operation for the most recent reporting year? *Administrator may request documentation.*”

(5) Yes (0) No

Revised Question 20 to include additional events: “Have you hosted an on-farm demonstration, field day, or informational workshop **or presented about agriculture/your operation at a school, field day, or informational workshop** within the last 24 months? If yes, what type & date of event.”

CAIP INCENTIVE AREAS:

Agricultural Diversification:

A. Commercial Horticulture Production:

Revised 1. Seeds, seedlings, spores, cuttings, vegetable transplants potted, rooted cuttings, plants, and scion/rootstock combinations in conformance with UK recommendations. *Excludes hemp (seeds, seedlings, clones, etc.) and tobacco (seeds, transplants, etc.)* cost-reimbursement percent to 50%

Revised 6. Plastic or plasticulture supplies and plastic laying equipment; materials, as allowed in the federal organic regulations 205.206 and 205.601 (<https://go.usa.gov/xe5xE>), for suppression of weed growth, soil temperature moderation, or soil moisture conservation in organic production cost-reimbursement percent to 50%

Animal, Large:

A. Cattle – Beef & Dairy:

Revised dairy bull requirements to read A.1.a.v. “Dairy: Use the Lifetime Net Merit Index when selecting

1. This score is an economic index based on milk, fat, protein, somatic cell score, productive life, daughter pregnancy rate, calving ability, udder, feet and legs, and body size.
2. Semen purchased from artificial insemination (AI) organizations must be from bulls in the upper 20% for their respective breeds.
3. Natural service bulls must **be** in the upper 20% for their respective breeds for the Net Merit Index.”

Forage & Grain Improvement:

Removed from Forage, Pasture, and Grain Production – seed hopper/tender