



Guiding Principles for Board Action

The Board is committed to the goals and priorities of *Kentucky's Long-term Plan for Agricultural Development*. Projects and programs that advance these goals and priorities will be its top priority.

The Board proposes the following statements for the purpose of precipitating discussion of ways the Board can accomplish its goal of expanding the economic base of agriculture in Kentucky.

1. Kentucky should follow the following investment philosophy:

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board will invest monies from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and effect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities, and agriculture across the state through stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products, and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms and farm products.

2. The Board must view its options and actions over the long run and cannot solve all the problems or take advantage of all opportunities.
3. The Board should invest in programs on a pilot basis to prove or disprove the advisability of promoting a particular program statewide.
4. The Board should focus on facilitating success in areas with the potential to reach the most farmers.
5. Pilot programs should be large enough to be commercially viable. The emphasis must be on doing what we do well and be limited to a certain geographical area of the state, until they are proven viable, and then expanded to all the state as funds become available.
6. The Board believes that clusters of a particular type of activity, large enough to be economically viable and support the infrastructure necessary for the success of the program, offer the best opportunity to develop new or better self-sustaining agricultural activity.
7. The Board believes that farmer-owned agri-businesses may be an important vehicle to promote and sustain new and/or improved farm activity.
8. The Board will consider proposals submitted by individuals that have high potential for growth and potential to include other farmers in the future.
9. An emphasis for county programs should be the support of on-farm investment in Board program areas.
10. The object of the Board is to develop self-sustaining programs; therefore, the Board will not support long-term subsidy of production.

11. The Board prefers capital investments. However, it believes that processing, storing and marketing new products is the area where the farmer needs a substantial amount of help on a start-up basis, but business plans must provide for the eventual elimination of assistance in these areas.
12. The Board will consider proposals to enhance existing farm enterprises, the production of new farm products, development of new markets, expansion of existing markets, and any other areas identified by a member or members of the Board as having potential for growth.
13. The Board should define as a priority the development of agriculture businesses and agricultural entrepreneurship, including continuing support of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development.
14. The Board should define as a priority the development of agriculture businesses and agricultural entrepreneurship, including support of agriculture entrepreneurship programs as stipulated in KRS 248.717.
15. The Board will seek programs to enhance the viability of young farmers and part-time farmers in agriculture.