

# **Futures of Farming Conference Miami University February 28, 2009**



## **Kentucky Agricultural Council “A Pathway for Kentucky’s Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007-2012 Strategic Plan**

### **Planning Process: Timeline / Steps**

- March 15, 2007: Governor convenes 450+ leaders for Kentucky Ag Summit
- May 2, 2007: Initial Task Force Meeting
- Additional Task Force meetings:
  - July 12, 25, Aug. 16, Nov. 9, 2007
- October 2007, 2007: 6 Public Forums held
- December 17: Plan adopted, Goes public
- June, 2008 : Governor endorses plan

## “Overarching Values”

### STRATEGIC GOALS

- Increase net farm household incomes
- Improve quality of life for rural communities

### CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- “Stay the course” on ADF funding and initiatives
- Education, for youth and farmers
- Ensure a future for young people in agriculture
- Ag as vital component of Economic Development

## Commitment to Implementation

- All Kentucky agricultural interests will work together for **implementation** of Plan
- Individual Ag organizations to incorporate Plan’s priorities & actions into *OWN* plans
- Living document concept
- Need for report card, updating

# Planning Process: Participation

- AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky
- Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association
- Center for Rural Development
- Commodity Growers Cooperative
- Community Farm Alliance
- Council for Burley Tobacco, Inc.
- Eastern Kentucky University Department of Ag
- Farm Credit Services
- Jackson Purchase Agricultural Credit Association
- Kentucky Agricultural Development Board
- Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
- Kentucky Agricultural Resource Development Auth.
- Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association
- Kentucky Association FFA
- Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
- Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners
- Kentucky Bankers Association
- Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky Corn Growers Association
- Kentucky Dairy Development Council
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture
- Kentucky Division of Conservation
- Kentucky Equine Education Project
- Kentucky Farm Bureau
- Kentucky Farm Service Agency
- Kentucky Feed and Grain Association
- Kentucky Forest Industries Association
- Kentucky Goat Producers Association
- Kentucky Horse Council
- Kentucky Horticulture Council
- Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association
- Kentucky Pork Producers Association
- Kentucky Poultry Federation
- Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association
- Kentucky Small Grain
- Kentucky Soybean Association
- Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
- Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
- Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Assoc.
- Kentucky Women in Agriculture
- Kentucky Woodland Owners Association
- Morehead State University
- Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Ctr.
- Murray State University School of Agriculture
- PACE Board
- University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
- USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office
- USDA NRCS
- Western Kentucky University Dept. of Agriculture

# Strategic Plan Elements

- **Agricultural Production & Consumer Marketing**
- **Agri-Energy Development**
- **Education**
- **Public Awareness & Advocacy**
- **Rural Communities: Quality of Life, Conservation & Leadership Development**
- **ADF & Supporting Governmental Actions**

## Strategic Plan Elements

### Agricultural Production & Consumer Marketing

- Emphasis areas:
  - Diagnostic labs
  - Large animal veterinary
  - Ag Education, R & D
  - Diversification (including bio-tech)
  - Labor force development and support
  - Comprehensive marketing strategy and support for *Kentucky Proud*

## Strategic Plan Elements

### Agri-Energy Development

- Emphasis Areas:
  - 25 X 25 Roadmap to develop Kentucky's renewable energy industry
  - By-product utilization & farm energy efficiency
  - Increased access to bio-fuels; improve infrastructure and encourage institutional users

## Strategic Plan Elements

### Education

- Emphasis Areas:
  - Youth Education: breadth and depth
  - Adult Education
  - Continuing Education

## Strategic Plan Elements

### Public Awareness and Advocacy

- Emphasis Areas:
  - Call-to-arms for Kentucky Ag
  - General Public
  - Elected & Government Officials
  - Media
  - Need for comprehensive strategy and coordinated implementation!

## Strategic Plan Elements



### **Rural Communities: Quality of Life, Conservation & Leadership Development**

- Emphasis Areas:
  - Region-specific differences and opportunities
  - Partners with Economic Development Cabinet
  - “Suburbanization”; land use conflicts
  - Conservation of agricultural lands
  - Health insurance & improved healthcare services (e.g., telemedicine)

## Strategic Plan Elements



### **Agricultural Development Fund and Supporting State Governmental Actions**

- Emphasis Areas:
  - Maintain 50% level of MSA proceeds allotted to Ag. Development Fund; Remove Debt Service Obligation for water & sewer projects; environmental cost-share
  - KY competitiveness through tax law modernization & incentives
  - Environmental permitting
  - Strengthened federal presence

# Examples

## Format:

- Goal
- Actions
- Benchmarks

## **Goal: Improve access to large animal veterinary care throughout Kentucky**

### Actions:

Create more flexibility within the veterinary technician (Vet-Tech) program, give qualified Vet-Techs more freedoms and flexibility in treating large animals

Evaluate the potential of establishing a Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) loan program which would offer low interest loans to veterinarians to establish or expand “large animal” practice facilities

## Goal: Improve access to large animal veterinary care throughout Kentucky



### Actions:

- Develop a forgivable loan/grant program for veterinary students who will commit to working in large animal practices in underserved areas after graduation
- Provide General Fund resources to fund additional slots for Kentucky students attending Auburn and Tuskegee Veterinary Schools at which Kentucky students might be permitted to pay in-state tuition rates

## Goal: Improve access to large animal veterinary care throughout Kentucky



### Benchmarks:

- During the 2008 General Assembly, seek changes to the Kentucky Veterinary Act to support improvements to the State's Vet Tech programs
- Work through the CPE to expand and enhance programs at Murray State University and Morehead State University that produce qualified veterinary technicians by Q4 of 2008

## Goal: Improve access to large animal veterinary care throughout Kentucky



### Benchmarks:

- Work to obtain Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) funding of loans to start or expand large animal veterinary practices by Q4 of 2008
- Work through the CPE to establish a forgivable loan/grant program for students willing to work in large animal veterinary practices by Q1 of 2009
- The KVMA, the Farm Bureau and animal Tagriculture organizations should partner to seek 2008 General Fund dollars to support an expanded number of veterinary school positions

## Goal: Encourage regional agriculture development projects and initiatives through funding from the Ag Development Board



### Actions:

Regional Agriculture Development Councils will, in consultation with other regional entities, consider funding requests though the Ag Development Fund to implement actions in their regional strategic plans

**Goal: Encourage regional agriculture development projects and initiatives through funding from the Ag Development Board**



**Actions:**

The ADB will strengthen and formalize its efforts to encourage County Councils to pool resources in funding regional projects (processing facilities, multi county veterinary services, regional stockyards and others)

**Goal: Encourage regional agriculture development projects and initiatives through funding from the Ag Development Board**



**Benchmark:**

The Kentucky Agricultural Council should request the ADB to review, evaluate and make recommendations no later than Q2 of 2008. A goal should be set of approving or funding at least two Regional Grant Proposals in 2008-2009.

## Kentucky Agricultural Council Purpose



- To plan programs and disseminate information that will create an understanding and appreciation of Kentucky agriculture
- To enable member agencies and/or organizations to better understand available programs so Kentucky agriculture may progress more rapidly

<http://www.kyagcouncil.org/>

## Kentucky Agricultural Council Purpose



- To serve as a liaison between private and public agricultural organizations, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Governor, and the Legislature in order to develop and effectively utilize our agricultural resources to the fullest extent
- To receive and dispense funds for the purpose of promoting Kentucky agriculture

<http://www.kyagcouncil.org/>