

Kentucky Agricultural Council 2012 Task Force on the Future of Agriculture

VISION STATEMENT

Together we will develop the conditions that will enable our agricultural sectors and our rural communities to prosper.

PRINCIPLES OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

- We believe that if we focus on planning for the prosperity of agricultural sectors in general, then all segments will benefit.
- We believe that the economic future of our rural communities and our agricultural sectors are linked to each other.
- We seek sustainable agreements that reflect the interests of all participants; engage the commitment of all participants; and therefore, is enduring.
- We will work to incorporate the priorities, action plans, and benchmarks of the plan into the strategic plans of our individual organizations.

OPERATING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Kentucky Agricultural Council – Board of Directors:

- Is the responsible entity; this planning process will be overseen by the KAC's Board of Directors.
- Will apply for grants and act as the fiscal agent for the development of the plan.
- Will receive the final plan from the 2012 Task Force on the Future of Agriculture.
- Will advocate for the formal adoption and endorsement of the plan.
- Will encourage individual agricultural organizations to incorporate the priorities, action plans, and benchmarks of the plan into their own strategic plans; thereby, acting together for the implementation of the plan.

2012 Task Force on the Future of Agriculture:

- Members are responsible for the development of the plan.
- It is critical for ideas to be expressed and evaluated by all members of the Task Force.
- Members are responsible for bringing to the Task Force the critical challenges, and emerging opportunities of their organization members, while keeping in mind the vision and principles of the Task Force.
- Evaluation of ideas focused on the degree to which they reflect the principles and contribute to achieving the vision underlying the plan.
- Must be willing to think creatively about the challenges and opportunities confronting the agriculture industry and our rural communities.
- Shall critically evaluate ideas and suggestions for the effects on all segments of the agriculture industry and our rural communities.
- Will have a commitment to planning for enhancing the capacity of all sectors of agriculture to prosper.
- Members will focus on achieving consensus with the overall vision and goals of the plan.
- The members shall support the Working Group by contributing content and then reviewing, amending, and editing documents in a timely fashion.

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- When we disagree, we disagree with the idea not the person.
- Members are responsible for providing timely reports on the progress of the planning process to the leaders and members of the organization or groups they represent.
- Is responsible for delivering the final plan to the Kentucky Agricultural Council by November 8, 2012.

Working Group (KAC Board, Professional Staff and Task Force Co-Chairs):

- Is responsible for the development of the summaries and drafts the Task Force will consider.
- Will reflect the consensus of the Task Force in all documents.
- Will agree to not speak about the deliberations, underlying the planning process, so that everyone feels free to express and try out ideas, even outrageous ones.
- Is responsible for the development of announcements, press releases, and other material, as needed, to provide for an open process and to keep the agriculture community informed of the Task Force’s work, during the plan development.
- Will oversee meeting arrangements.
- Will manage all communications with Task Force members including meeting notices, draft purposes and questionnaires.

General Operating Timeline and Process:

Date (2012)	Responsible Group	Task
February 21 (Meeting)	Task Force Members and Alternates (First Meeting)	Participate in discussion and kickoff of the plan development
March 30 (Deadline)	Task Force Members and their Organizations	Complete and return the Member Organizations Survey and questionnaire identifying the critical challenges and emerging opportunities.
May 15 (Deadline)	Staff	Summarize the Task Force’s survey and questionnaires
May 30 (Meeting)	Task Force Members and Alternates (Second Meeting)	Receive summary of the survey and questionnaires. Begin to prioritize the critical challenges and emerging opportunities while identifying action items and benchmarks
July 11 (Meeting)	Task Force Members and Alternates (Third Meeting)	Complete the prioritization of the critical challenges and emerging opportunities and identify the action plans and benchmarks
August 2 (Deadline)	Working Group	Complete documents for Task Force to consider and approve before public comment period
August 16 (Meeting)	Task Force Members and Alternates (Fourth Meeting)	Review draft documents, provide input and approval before release for public comment

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August 22 – September 7 (Public Meetings)	Public, KAC Board, Task Force, and Staff	Public comment period: public forums, posted on-line, and Task Force member comments
September 27 (Deadline)	Staff	Summarizes public comments and provides to Task Force
October 11 (Deadline)	Task Force	Provide final input to staff for final draft of plan
October 25 (Deadline)	Working Group	Complete final draft of the plan for consideration by Task Force
November 8 (Meeting)	Task Force Members and Alternates (Fifth Meeting)	Meet to review and approve the plan for presentation to the KAC

Achieving Consensus:

All work of the Task Force shall be directed toward achieving consensus based on the gradient of agreement illustrated below:

Level of Agreement	What it means
Endorsement	"I like it"
Endorsement with a minor point of contention	"Basically I like it"
Agreement with reservations	"I can live with it"
Abstain	"I have no opinion"
Formal disagreement but willing to go with majority	"I want my disagreement noted in writing but I'll support the decision"
Formal disagreement with request to be absolved of responsibility for implementation	"I don't want to stop anyone else, but I don't want to be involved in implementing it"
Block	"I veto this proposal"

Ground Rules for Discussions:

- Everyone is encouraged to participate, but no one dominates the discussion.
- One person will speak at a time, and we will address one issue at a time.
- We will stay on task for that particular meeting.
- All ideas are ok, we need to be creative and expand our vision of the future beyond the constraints of today.
- We will listen to each other and respect what everyone has to say, even if we don't agree with what they say.