

October 21, 2011

**To: Kentucky Agricultural Council Inc. Members  
Groups/Organizations representing Kentucky Agriculture**

**RE: Launch of Strategic Plan for Kentucky Agriculture & Rural Communities 2012 – 2017**

We are writing to you on behalf of the Kentucky Agricultural Council (KAC) to invite your organization to participate in a project that is vitally important to us all.

As you know, in 2007 the KAC was asked by the Governor of Kentucky to lead a planning initiative aimed at finding the common denominators among all sectors of Kentucky agriculture, as we addressed our needs and opportunities in the post-Tobacco Settlement era. That effort was carried out by a Task Force of some 200 agricultural leaders, and led to the publication of ***A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan.***

Amazingly, the five-year span of that plan is nearly up. In the intervening time, the world in general and the world of agriculture have changed a great deal. And the KAC has evolved, with its key role as the “steward of strategic planning for Agriculture” now firmly established. For this reason, we are now re-convening a Task Force for the purpose of updating the strategic plan for Kentucky Agriculture and helping set our collective agenda for the *next* five years.

**We want to invite your organization to nominate, on the enclosed form, an elected member/farmer representative and an alternate to participate in this process.** We are especially soliciting input from all segments of Kentucky Agriculture and sincerely hope that there will be involvement at the *grass roots producer level* within each organization.

We do appreciate that each organization has a unique structure; so while we encourage you to identify producers as your lead representative, designated staff persons also may serve in this capacity or as an alternate -- as is most appropriate for your organization. Above all, we want to ensure you are well-represented in this important process.

If your organization wishes to participate as a member of the Strategic Planning Task Force, please complete the enclosed form and return it to our professional staff, Dawn Riley and Steven Spalding, at the address on the form. **We ask that you try to return this form by Monday, November 7,** so that we can begin to organize the Task Force activities and communicate with the designated Task Force members as we gear up. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place next January at a date and location to be determined and the final plan will be completed for public release by the end of 2012.

Of special interest to all Task Force members will be the upcoming **Kentucky Ag Summit and Bioenergy Symposium**, to be held this November 17 and 18, 2011. You should already have received information about these events under separate cover. The Summit will serve as the *kick-off* for the Strategic Planning process, bringing together top national leaders and local leaders in a dialogue about current trends in agriculture and issues that affect the future of rural communities. We hope that you and your Task Force Representatives will make a point of attending the Summit, as it will form the backdrop for next year's strategic planning process. An

