

## KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL Member Organizations Survey

Most important to least important by # of responses in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

How important are each of the following as challenges that will affect the future vitality of agriculture in Kentucky?	Very Important 5	4	3	2	Not Important 1
Increasing encroachment of active farms urban development	21	12	5	1	0
Access to affordable health insurance	19	17	2	1	1
Cost and income levels limiting the number of young people owning or operating a farm	19	11	7	2	1
Cost of land for young people trying to enter farming	18	10	10	2	0
Cost of environmental regulations	17	13	7	2	1
Price of productive agricultural land	14	20	4	2	0
Increased competition for productive agricultural land	14	18	7	1	0
Lack of qualified labor	13	20	5	2	0
Cost of qualified labor	12	13	11	4	0
Access to credit at reasonable interest rates	11	14	12	2	1
Rising Feed and/or hay costs	9	11	14	5	1
Lack of access to processors or processing facilities	8	16	11	3	2
Federal estate tax laws make long term estate planning uncertain	8	13	13	5	1
Farm families find it difficult to structure the management and ownership succession of their enterprises	7	17	13	3	0
Restrictions from federal climate change regulations	7	14	14	3	2
Bad publicity due to food contamination occurrences	7	15	9	6	1
Changing eating habits/food choices of consumers	6	14	12	7	1
Access to adequate fresh water	6	10	15	7	2
Epidemic disease outbreaks	5	11	14	5	5
Lack of access to internet, broadband, wireless	4	16	12	7	1
Lack of planning and zoning	4	14	15	5	1
Climate change affecting the suitability of particular types of crops for production in Kentucky	4	9	15	7	5
Lack of access to local distributors and consumers	4	9	10	6	1
The number of injuries and deaths on Kentucky farms	3	17	17	8	5

Reduction of federal subsidies for field crops	2	18	16	3	1
Lack of access to refrigerated storage	2	9	17	7	5
Too much planning and zoning limiting choices	1	15	19	4	1
Threats from bioterrorism	1	8	14	13	4

<b>To what extent do you see the following situations providing opportunities to improve the vitality of Kentucky's agricultural sector?</b>	<b>Very Important 5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Not Important 1</b>
Research on improving yields with fewer environmental inputs	23	9	6	1	1
Developing stronger ties with consumers	18	15	6	1	0
Agricultural education in high schools developing new agricultural owners and operators	16	18	4	2	0
Increased consumer understanding of food production systems	13	16	7	3	1
Research on production of alternative energy sources	12	18	9	0	2
Local food movements creating more demand for local products	12	14	9	4	1
Research on more innovative on-farm energy efficiency	11	20	7	1	1
Alternative energy crops such as cellulosic biomass and algae	10	14	12	2	1
Increased interest in agricultural or ecological tourism	8	20	9	3	0
Growth in number of local farmers markets	8	17	9	5	1
Direct marketing to retail outlets	6	20	11	2	1
New crop opportunities because of climate change	6	8	19	5	2
Carbon cap and trade programs	4	13	12	7	3
Energy production from wind and solar energy collectors	4	9	11	12	4
Financial incentives from carbon trading from more trees being planted on farms	4	6	20	8	2
Legalization of hemp production	3	6	17	8	6
Income through wildlife management practices	0	8	21	9	2

<b>The following describe some policies or actions that might be taken to enhance the vitality of Kentucky's agriculture. Please indicate the importance you would give to each of these.</b>	<b>Very Important 5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Not Important 1</b>
Agricultural industry organizations joining forces to give agriculture more political strength	21	19	0	0	0
A statewide health insurance pool for farmers and their families and employees	21	12	5	2	0
Competitive small grants for to help beginning farmers	16	18	3	3	0
Immigration policies to ease labor shortage	15	10	12	3	0
Agricultural education for all students in K-8	14	20	5	0	1
Public policies to increase the availability of local labor	14	17	7	2	0
Incentives to increase the number of food processors in Kentucky	14	14	8	3	1
Tax incentives to landowners who rent or sell their agricultural land to a beginning farmer	13	15	11	1	0
Research on new product development	11	14	14	0	1
Maintaining conservation practices with reductions in conservation program funding	10	21	6	3	0
Implement policies to assist retirement and farm succession	10	17	12	1	0
Stronger ties between agricultural organizations and environmental organizations	9	22	7	1	1
Policies to limit liability for enterprises involved in agricultural tourism	9	17	21	2	1
Reduced paperwork for agri-business	9	15	13	3	0
Incentives to increase the number of meat processing plants	8	20	9	3	0
More agricultural education at the University level for new agricultural owners and operators	8	20	8	3	1
Lower property taxes on agricultural land because of its lower burden on local consumers	8	19	12	1	0
Increased focus on developing international trade agreements	8	18	11	3	0
Development of market options	8	16	15	0	1
Information about different types of local markets	8	14	12	6	0
An Agriculture Education Loan Forgiveness program for graduates to repay student loans while working in agriculture	7	23	10	0	0
More technical support for sustainable growing practices	7	15	14	3	1
Incentives for the production of alternative energy crops	6	12	17	2	3
More food quality and safety programs for producers	5	16	12	5	2
Legalize apprenticeships for farmers to ensure a safe work environment and fair compensation for farm apprentices	5	14	15	4	2
Supply control to limit amount of products and increase prices	4	0	11	14	11
Legislation that requires working agricultural land in conservation easements be resold at agricultural value	3	18	15	0	4
Policies to limit liability for enterprises involved in eco-tourism or recreational activities	3	18	14	3	2
Subsidies for fruits and vegetables to lower consumer prices and increase consumption	2	3	18	10	6