

Progress Report

August 2009

A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan

- **Agricultural Production and Consumer Marketing**
- **Agri-Energy Development**
- **Education**
- **Public Awareness and Advocacy**
- **Rural Communities: Quality of Life, Conservation and Community Leadership Development**
- **Agricultural Development Fund and Supporting State Government Actions**

December 2007



Kentucky Agricultural Council

For more information visit: www.kyagcouncil.org

Contents

Letter from the Chairman	1
2008 and 2009 Efforts: Facilitating Action and Providing Accountability	2
Progress Report on Core Strategies and Recommended Actions to Drive Kentucky Agricultural Progress	
Agricultural Production and Consumer Marketing..	5
Agri-Energy Development	11
Education	13
Public Awareness and Advocacy	15
Rural Communities: Quality of Life, Conservation and Community Leadership Development	17
Agricultural Development Fund and Supporting State Government Actions	20
The Unfinished Agenda: A Look at the Work Ahead	22
KAC Membership	inside back cover

Letter from the Chairman

On behalf of the 68 organizations that make up the Kentucky Agricultural Council, I am pleased to share with you this *Progress Report*. The following pages bring into current perspective the efforts by Kentucky's agricultural community — working with our partners in Government and Business — to advance the agenda set forth in ***A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan***.

A Pathway was the work of several hundred agricultural leaders and volunteer Task Force members who came together in early 2007 at the request of Kentucky's then-Governor, Ernie Fletcher. The Task Force finalized its work (which included six public forums held across the state) and formally adopted the Plan in December 2007. The plan then was presented to incoming Governor Steven Beshear, who embraced its vision and its roadmap of strategic Goals and Actions at a public unveiling of the document in January 2008.

With the encouragement of Governor Beshear the Kentucky Agricultural Council then shifted gears from a planning role to that of facilitator and advocate for implementation of the ***Pathway's*** recommendations. In the process of doing this, we stayed focused on the following core values:

- **The plan must be a plan for ALL of Kentucky agriculture.** Our efforts are most successful when we work together, all sectors of Kentucky agriculture presenting a unified message.
- **Widening the circle of involvement.** We have reached out to recruit new members to the KAC and established six Implementation Committees in order to engage many more individuals from both within and outside the KAC membership in the process of helping to advance the ***Pathway's*** Goals and Actions.
- **Providing accountability to KAC's Members and to the Commonwealth.** The ***Pathway*** document included time-specific, measurable "Benchmarks" for all its recommended Actions. We committed to reporting periodically to our members and the wider audience of elected and government officials, the media and the general public about our progress in advancing this agenda.

Finally, we promised that the plan would remain a "living, breathing document". Yesterday's goals — a mere two years and a major upheaval of the international economy later — may not fully reflect today's priorities. KAC members report a new sense of urgency regarding many issues that were not even contemplated in 2007. Therefore, in crafting this report we have given the Implementation Committees latitude to recommend changes to the existing recommended Actions, as well as to raise new issues for consideration as part of the evolving strategic plan.

As you review the following pages, I hope you will agree that a great deal has been accomplished by and on behalf of Kentucky Agriculture. As the KAC renews its efforts to "stay the course" through 2012, please join me in thanking the many organizations and individuals who have made this progress possible.

Sincerely,



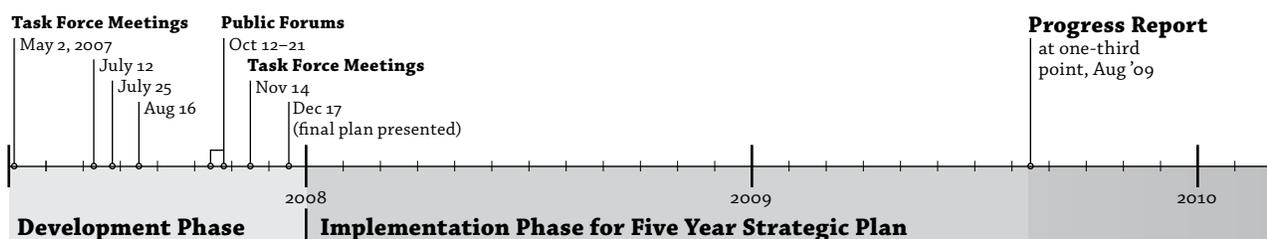
Keith Rogers, KAC 2009 Chairman

2008 and 2009 Efforts: Facilitating Action and Providing Accountability

Following completion of the year-long effort by the KAC's *Task Force on the Future of Agriculture* in late 2007 and the unveiling of the adopted plan in early 2008, the organization's leadership immediately committed itself to pursuing implementation of the recommended Goals and Actions. Steps in this process included:

1. Partnering with the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the University of Kentucky and others in briefing committees of the Kentucky General Assembly on priority issues facing agriculture.
 - Copies of the **Pathway** document and an executive summary highlighting *Priority Policy and Legislative Actions to Advance Kentucky Agriculture* (the "top 10" Actions from plan) were provided to all members of the General Assembly.
 - KAC's leadership briefings focused on the "top 10" Actions as formally voted on by Task Force members and the KAC board of directors.
2. Establishing Implementation Committees to oversee progress towards each of the six core strategies from the **Pathway** plan.
 - Committee chairs and vice chairs were recruited and all KAC organizations were invited to appoint members to the committees involved with issues of greatest concern to their interests.
 - The committees in turn have reached out broadly within the agriculture community to invite other individuals and subject experts to participate in their deliberations.
3. Making a grant application to the Agricultural Development Board (ADB) for funds to support the KAC's efforts with strategic plan facilitation and implementation.
 - While the KAC historically functioned as an all-volunteer organization, the ADB previously had provided funding to underwrite the KAC *Task Force on the Future of Agriculture* and its planning process, including preparation and publication of **A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan**.
 - The ADB's continuing support was critical in helping the KAC make the transition from a planning process to one of professionally facilitating, coordinating and advocating implementation – including the ability to monitor progress and provide accountability.
4. Convening the full KAC membership through quarterly meetings to explore the appropriate role for the KAC and how it could partner with its members and other key organizations to move the plan forward.
 - The KAC board of directors was restructured with additional standing and at-large members in order to achieve greater representation and continuity of leadership. The KAC's By-laws also were updated to provide appropriate guidance and structure for the organization's evolving role.
 - KAC members now receive regular briefings on the efforts of the six Implementation Committees and are able to provide feedback to their colleagues, leading up to the preparation of this **Progress Report**.

PLAN TIMELINE



5. Updating and restructuring the KAC web site to make it an effective tool for exchanging information among KAC members, as well as for helping the general public to access the state’s agricultural organizations and information about news, issues, events, etc. related to agriculture.
 - In addition to providing ready access to the full set of **Pathway** documents, the web site now serves as the repository for information about the six Implementation Committees, including notice of their meeting dates and locations, membership, minutes, and other pertinent documents.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KAC STRATEGIC PLANNING AGENDA

While the **Pathway** plan contains six Core Strategies and over 90 specific Goals and Actions, the KAC’s *Task Force on the Future of Agriculture* unanimously voted to strongly advocate for 10 “Priority Policy & Legislative Actions to Advance Kentucky Agriculture” and one overarching additional goal: **Sustain and enhance the investment in Kentucky agriculture through the Agricultural Development Fund.**

While a detailed review of progress toward these items is contained in the pages that follow, the exceptional importance of this agenda remains in the foreground of the KAC’s implementation and public education efforts. Therefore they are presented here in abbreviated form, in order to underscore the KAC’s areas of greatest commitment and focus.

1. Obtain funding to upgrade and maintain the diagnostic facilities at University of Kentucky and the Murray State University Breathitt Laboratory.
2. Address the critical shortage of large animal veterinarians in Kentucky.
3. Continue to provide strong funding support for the Department of Agriculture’s Kentucky Proud program.
4. Encourage the Economic Development Cabinet to consider revenue creation as a criterion for providing financial incentives to producers and processors of agricultural products.
5. Improve the competitiveness of Kentucky agriculture with other states and help increase net farm income through innovative legislation and tax law modifications.
6. Provide a dedicated funding source for the Purchase of Agricultural Easements (PACE) program.
7. Adequately fund the State’s Agriculture Experiment Stations and University Farms.
8. Establish funding and policies that promote an adequate infrastructure for production and delivery of biofuels within the Commonwealth.
9. Streamline the environmental permitting process for production agriculture expansion projects and new facilities.
10. Provide funding for the Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center.

The common thread among these Action items is their ability to benefit “all of Kentucky Agriculture.” Therefore while progress towards their achievement ranges from significant to modest, as a group they remain a focal point for the KAC’s continuing attention.



**ABOUT A PATHWAY FOR KENTUCKY'S
AGRICULTURE AND ITS RURAL
COMMUNITIES: 2007 TO 2012
STRATEGIC PLAN.**

NOTE: *The following section is reproduced from pages 8 and 9 of the original plan.*

The thrust of this plan is directed toward two overarching goals: increasing the net income of farm households across the Commonwealth in the post-Tobacco Buyout era; and strengthening the quality of life in rural communities. The Task Force views these two goals as inextricably intertwined.

Implicit in this plan is the need to continue — and indeed to strengthen — efforts by farmers themselves, and by the organizations that support Kentucky agriculture, to diversify the farm economy.

To accomplish this involves promoting additional livestock production and a broader array of crop farming that may include horticulture, forestry, and biofuels, in addition to traditional fruits, vegetables and grains. It also must promote other non-traditional forms of farming such as aquaculture and development of agri-tourism — opportunities that exist in many parts of the state.

Diversification of the farm economy and strategies to increase farm household incomes must promote new technologies and farming practices. Value-added techniques for cultivation, food processing and marketing can help farmers capture a higher share of the ultimate consumer purchase, and provide a higher return on the farmer's investment of time and money. Also, *Agribusiness* is recognized by this strategy as a vitally important element of the rural economy and a growing source of employment for individuals coming from a rural or farming background.

The plan seeks to create conditions for both large scale commercial producers and small farmers to prosper and that will make farming attractive to

“the next generation” of farmers — a major theme of input obtained at six Public Forums held across the state. Increasing net farm income will ensure sustainability for the infrastructure on which Kentucky farmers depend. It will also provide the incentive for young farmers to remain in agriculture and ag-related businesses in rural Kentucky.

Finally, this plan makes clear that *education* — at all levels, including continuing education for existing farmers — must receive significant additional attention from policy makers and administrators alike. Innovation, and greater focus and coordination of services, are as important as investing new financial resources to the success and effectiveness of the initiatives recommended by the Task Force.

The Task Force recommendations are grouped into six topic areas:

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

In focusing on these topics, the Task Force remained true to its overarching vision to establish a consensus agenda that will address ways to increase farm family incomes and strengthen rural communities. With one exception — Agri-energy development — the strategy does *not* prescribe specific diversification strategies or offer detailed actions for narrow segments of agriculture and farming. Rather it strives to recommend actions to improve the welfare of agriculture as a whole. Kentucky's farmers and agricultural industry leaders are unified in their commitment to improving ALL of Kentucky agriculture.

ABOUT THIS PROGRESS REPORT AND ITS ACCOUNTABILITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Plans take time to create, and meaningful, substantive plans require considerable time to implement. They are in this sense truly “living documents” and subject to many factors that may accelerate or slow down the implementation process.

In approaching their commitment to providing this follow-up to the January 2008 ***A Pathway for Kentucky’s Agriculture and its Rural Communities***, the KAC Board was mindful of this reality and of the fact that the timeframe for the plan’s implementation is a five-year period lasting through 2012. While a handful of recommended Actions have been fully or nearly completely implemented, the vast majority of Actions represent “work-in-progress.” Some Goals and Actions are deliberately ambitious — the desired ends are hard to measure and may represent a moving target that will never be 100% accomplished.

To convey both a sense of forward motion and also the level of effort that has been (or must still be) expended for a particular Action, the ***Progress Report*** has applied a simple 10-point yardstick for each item that is being monitored. One block filled in represents a sense of “10%” progress toward completion of an action; efforts have been initiated, but substantive progress toward the Action remains some time off. Five blocks filled in represents an Action whose progress has been roughly half accomplished. Nine blocks filled in conveys a sense that great progress toward an action has been accomplished, but a final mile has yet to be crossed (if it ever will).

Some Actions show yard sticks that have no blocks filled in. Generally, this does not represent “failure” as much as an Action toward which progress has not been started and it remains “pending” — perhaps because an appropriate sponsoring organization or champion for the Action has not yet been identified to take the effort forward.

The wide range of Goals and Actions contained in ***A Pathway*** do *not* all carry the same sense of urgency, given resources of time and human or

organizational effort needed to bring about real progress. Judgment calls must be made and *have been made* by agricultural leaders as to the timing and sequencing of some actions — for example direct funding appropriations being considered by the 2008 General Assembly of necessity took precedence over other Actions that were deemed more long-term in nature. Actions of concern to specific stakeholders (such as those pertaining to veterinary medicine) have the advantage of a ready-made advocacy group; other Actions intended to benefit “all of Agriculture” may require further time before the proper champions have been identified or enlisted.

The original Pathways publication framed each of its six core strategies in the context of an introductory Issues and Strategy Statement, followed by major Goals to address those issues and a series of specific Actions in support of the individual Goals. Each Action also was followed by a corresponding Benchmark that provided time-specific expectations for accomplishment, and further elaborating detail to guide the implementation efforts and to help establish accountability. (See www.KyAgCouncil.org for the full report).

This ***Progress Report*** presents a simplified and easy-to-follow format consisting of the basic Goals and Actions for each of the six core strategy areas. The accompanying yardstick for each Action tells a story as to the progress made. In some cases, **COMMENTS** have been inserted to further explain the nature of the progress that has been made (or not made), or where the Implementation Committee has recommended modification of the Goal or Action statements. These are important editorial and policy additions to the Progress Report process of accountability and to the spirit of the plan being a “living document”.

The concluding section of the ***Progress Report***, takes a forward-looking view consistent with the living document approach and identifies some of the critical path issues, Goals and Actions that deserve priority attention in the years to come. It represents the frank reflection of the Implementation Committees and the KAC leadership with respect to the “Unfinished Agenda” for Kentucky Agriculture.

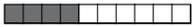
Agricultural Production and Consumer Marketing

Actions to Support Production Agriculture

GOAL:

Meet the future needs of Kentucky Agriculture for state-of-the-art, comprehensive diagnostic services.

ACTION:



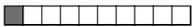
Upgrade and maintain the diagnostic facilities at the University of Kentucky and the Murray State Breathitt Veterinary Center. Continue State General Fund and Federal funding support for disease control programs and emergency response plans.

COMMENT: *The UK facility received state funding of \$28.5 million through the 2008 General Assembly. Murray State Breathitt Veterinary Center received \$300,000 for a feasibility study from the Agricultural Development Board (ADB). Deliverable due September 30.*

GOAL:

Improve access to large animal veterinary care throughout Kentucky.

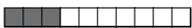
ACTIONS:



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

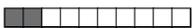


Evaluate the potential of establishing a Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) loan program which would offer low interest loans to veterinarians to establish or expand "large animal" practice facilities.



Work through the Council on Post-Secondary Education (CPE) to develop a forgivable loan / grant program for veterinary students who will commit to working in large animal practices in underserved areas after graduation.

COMMENT: *While no action was taken by the CPE, the Agricultural Development Board has committed \$1 million in the form of a loan to the Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation; interest proceeds from this fund may be used in conjunction with donated matching funds to offset educational loan debt for large and food animal veterinarians. This initiative is a joint venture of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association and other food and large animal organizations.*



Provide General Fund resources through the CPE to fund additional slots for Kentucky students attending Auburn and Tuskegee Veterinary Schools, and pursue additional opportunities with other veterinary schools at which Kentucky students might be permitted to pay in-state tuition rates.

COMMENT: *Initial funding for this action was provided by the Kentucky General Assembly, however it is in jeopardy due to CPE budget cuts.*

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09.

For example:

= 80%

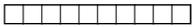
= 30%

= pending

GOAL:

Provide stronger support for agricultural education, development and research.

ACTION:

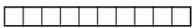


Adequately fund Agriculture Experiment Stations and University Farms through additional Federal and State dollars to cover the costs of deferred maintenance on facilities; adequately fund new programs in crop diversity and bio-fuel development.

GOAL:

Increase labor efficiency on Kentucky farms.

ACTION:

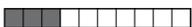


Using the resources of allied industry partnered with commodity groups and the state's higher education institutions (including the University of Kentucky Engineering Department, Kentucky Community and Technical College System and others) to increase development and usage of industry specific labor-saving technology that is adapted to Kentucky's terrain, typical farm size, predominant types of agriculture, and other unique features.

GOAL:

Encourage continued development and diversification of Kentucky's agricultural product array.

ACTION:

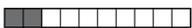


Develop financial incentives to encourage processing or specialization which adds value to products or production (Examples: heavier weight feeder calves; crops for bio-refinery; milk for regional or state branded marketing; added-value timber products and others.) Individual agricultural organizations should collaborate with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Development Board to evaluate the need and specific types of incentives required to grow their respective industry.

GOAL:

Expand Kentucky Agriculture's role in biotechnology.

ACTION:



The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) should collaborate with the Economic Development Cabinet's Department of Commercialization and Innovation, the State's higher educational institutions and the Kentucky Bio Alliance to assess Kentucky's current status in agricultural-based biotechnology and life science commercialization efforts; identify market opportunities to create and expand businesses that use agricultural products in biotechnology; and recommend additional State support or actions needed to achieve this goal.

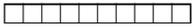
COMMENT: *The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet should be invited to participate in this Action.*

Labor Force Development Actions

GOAL:

Strengthen the existing infrastructure to aid farmers in the employment of migrant workers, and thereby provide a higher level of service to production farmers. Encourage federal policy makers to make changes in federal labor regulations and programs that would make them more farmer- and worker-friendly.

ACTIONS:

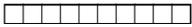


The Kentucky Farm Bureau, in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky and the various commodity groups, should create a Task Force to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the labor requirements and issues facing each segment of Kentucky agriculture. The Task force should provide recommendations for future action to the Kentucky Agricultural Council to ensure that all segments of agriculture participate in the validation of the report.

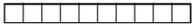
The study should examine the adequacy of support systems for hiring migrant workers, as well as of existing education programs designed to teach migrant workers and employers necessary communication skills and cultural mores and customs.

Entities designated by the recommendations should initiate efforts to coordinate the delivery of existing resources and develop new programs to meet the needs identified by Task Force recommendations.

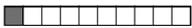
COMMENT: *The Kentucky Farm Bureau has a number of initiatives in progress to address this Goal.*



Prepare a white paper summarizing federal labor policy issues and provide briefings to appropriate federal and state policy makers, regulatory personnel, and the media to educate them regarding the agriculture labor situation in Kentucky.



Establish a communications strategy to inform Kentucky policy makers, regulators, and the general public on the overall labor situation and needs of production farmers and related agribusinesses.



Encourage the Agricultural Development Board to develop a cost share program to assist agricultural employers in providing for housing, busses, computers and other support infrastructure needed to meet their labor needs.

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09.

For example:

= 80%

= 30%

= pending

Actions to Support Production and Consumer Marketing

GOAL:

Promote and strengthen the Kentucky *Market Maker* web-based marketing data base for Kentucky products.

ACTIONS:



Create a complementary “needs and opportunities database” to better link Kentucky processors and producers, and to help focus production on meeting the demands of the marketplace. Locate sources of Kentucky-produced raw products for Kentucky processing plants; encourage processors to utilize Kentucky products.

GOAL:

Encourage and support efforts to develop unique export marketing opportunities.

ACTIONS:



Capture marketing opportunities for products recognized as Kentucky products (equine, tobacco, Bourbon and others). Encourage all producers to take full advantage of internet marketing opportunities thereby exposing Kentucky products to a world market.

GOAL:

Identify agricultural sectors / products that provide the greatest market opportunities for diversification and rapid or expanded growth, based on the unique characteristics of Kentucky’s diverse regions.

ACTION:



Conduct a comprehensive *market opportunities analysis* for all Kentucky agriculture sectors, keyed to the unique geographic characteristics of Kentucky’s major regions and with special emphasis on identifying new and emerging product opportunities (e.g., “infant industry” sectors such as horticulture, meat goats; biofuels; trends in food processing towards decentralization, etc.) Build on the base of existing studies and information (at the State’s research universities and within state and federal agencies) to recommend regionally-based “target marketing” and infrastructure development strategies for both non-traditional and traditional producer groups.

GOAL:

Ensure the long term continuity of, and benefits from, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Kentucky Proud Program.

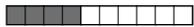
ACTIONS:



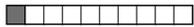
Utilize *Kentucky Proud’s* full potential by expanding the brand to cover additional Kentucky grown and produced products, consistent with the program’s goals, values and criteria.



Make the *Kentucky Proud* logo more visible on Kentucky’s farms as a part of the overall marketing strategy.



Increase access for producers to regional marketing opportunities to take full advantage of the consumer perception that “local is better”.



Determine if additional marketing programs / initiatives are needed to complement the Kentucky Proud program to promote more sectors of Kentucky agriculture at the state, regional and local levels.

COMMENT: *The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is exploring ways to create a focus on marketing of commodity products similar to Kentucky Proud’s current focus on consumer products.*



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture should establish a committee consisting of consumers, producers, processors, distributors, retailers and policy makers to serve an advisory role in helping to develop programs and operational plans, and to support their implementation. The committee should recommend guidelines to ensure that future expansion of Kentucky Proud promotional efforts build and protect the program’s “brand equity” and positive image.

GOAL:

Strengthen consumer marketing of locally-grown foods in ways that emphasize improving the health of all Kentuckians.

COMMENT: *The KAC is looking at ways to continually strengthen consumption of locally grown food, while simultaneously promoting the concept of healthy eating. The KAC Agricultural Production and Consumer Marketing Committee is currently working to identify actions to address this goal.*

GOAL:

Raise Kentucky’s visibility and profile to the national and world agricultural communities by supporting premier special events and Kentucky marketing efforts at those events.

ACTION:



Provide state funding through KDA for agriculture-focused marketing efforts in conjunction with regional, national and international events held in Kentucky. (Examples: World Equestrian Games, Highland Games, National Farm Machinery Show, North American International Livestock Exposition, etc.)

Agri-Energy Development

GOAL:

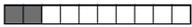
Develop a successful renewable energy industry in Kentucky, utilizing Kentucky’s agricultural resources.

ACTIONS:

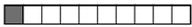


Develop a *Kentucky 25 x '25 Roadmap* to guide the Commonwealth to a leadership position in renewable energy. (25 x '25 is a national initiative with a goal that by the year 2025, America’s farms, ranches and forests will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States, while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.)

COMMENT: *While Kentucky’s 25 x 25 Roadmap has been published, the KAC Agri-Energy Development Committee views this as a living document that should be reviewed and updated periodically.*



Use Agricultural Development Funds to initiate applied research and development of biomass production in Kentucky. Farmers should be educated about production opportunities as well as the species of crops, specific varieties and production techniques that maximize net farm income, while protecting natural resources.

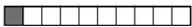


Encourage farmer investment in renewable energy production facilities.

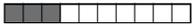
GOAL:

Improve the utilization of byproducts generated through various agricultural and renewable energy production practices. Additional energy saving efficiencies should also be identified at the farm level.

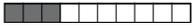
ACTIONS:



Use Agricultural Development Funds to initiate applied research, development and implementation of more efficient byproduct utilization in Kentucky.

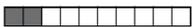


Increase educational opportunities and material for agricultural producers in the area of on-farm energy efficiency.



Advance state government support for energy efficiency through the Governor’s Office of Energy Policy and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. [Please see the information at: http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/documents/guidelines_energy.pdf]

COMMENT: *The Governor has restructured the Office of Energy Policy and incorporated its mission within the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. The Governor has also developed a seven-point strategy outlining Kentucky’s goals for energy development and independence.*



Explore and develop agreements with bordering states to cooperate in the production of biofuels and byproduct utilization.

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09.
For example:
 = 80%
 = 30%
 = pending

GOAL:

Increase access for farmers, consumers and institutional users to a supply of affordable renewable energy throughout the Commonwealth. Farmers should set the example by using biofuels in agriculture production and promoting the use of biofuels.

COMMENT: *The KAC's Agri-Energy Development Committee recognizes that significant policy developments at the Federal and State levels require that the following actions be reassessed and updated.*

ACTIONS:

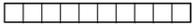


The Kentucky Agricultural Council will advance state support to develop an adequate infrastructure for the delivery of biofuels within the Commonwealth by examining the needs for infrastructure development that matches the future supply of biofuels with the potential demand.

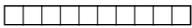
COMMENT: *There is a continuing need to address the special needs of high-blend biofuels.*



The Kentucky Agricultural Council will work with the Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Association, the Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition, and others to locate biofuel suppliers and promote their availability to all farmers in those markets.



The Kentucky Agricultural Council will identify current promotion programs and coordinate with those organizations to develop new programs as part of a comprehensive promotion campaign in 2010.



Mandate that all authorized retail outlets supplying fuel to the state fleet offer a minimum of E10 and B5 biodiesel blends by 2011.

COMMENT: *The KAC's Agri-Energy Development Committee recommends that this action be eliminated as it is covered by state fueling contracts.*



The Kentucky Agricultural Council should identify a highway in Kentucky to be designated the first Biofuel Trail where consumers can reliably purchase renewable fuels, and develop guidelines needed in order to secure state government approval.

COMMENT: *I-65 in Kentucky has been designated as part of a national biofuels corridor.*

Education

ISSUES & STRATEGY STATEMENT ON YOUTH EDUCATION

GOAL:

Increase the scope and depth of education curriculum “about” agriculture for all Kentucky’s youth; sustain and strengthen the existing education in agriculture through a revised agricultural career preparation curriculum and delivery system.

ACTIONS:



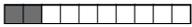
The Kentucky Agricultural Council will convene a Task Force consisting of educational leaders within Kentucky agriculture to garner support for a comprehensive K-12 youth agricultural education program, including agricultural literacy (“education **about** agriculture”) as well as career preparation and entrepreneurship (“education **in** agriculture”).

COMMENT: *The KAC’s Education Committee has assumed the role of the proposed Task Force and currently is reaching out to involve additional expertise in Ag Education, such as teachers, principals, or superintendents of education.*

The Task Force should emphasize the following specific measures as part of its overall approach:



» Incorporate an “agricultural literacy” component (education about agriculture) into the K-5 (primary grades) curriculum of all public and private schools. (The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s “Ag in the Classroom” is a possible model.)



» Incorporate an “Agricultural Careers/Agricultural Impact” curriculum for all Middle School (6-8) public and private schools.

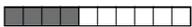


» Expand Middle and High School “Agricultural Education/FFA” (Career and Technical Education approved) programs in public and private schools, using either current delivery models or new, “best practices” curriculum models.

Additional measures the Task Force should consider including:



» Promote new model programs and curriculum to educators and lawmakers.



» Strengthen the State’s five university agricultural education teacher preparation programs to ensure a supply of certified teachers.



» Expand the number of youth participating in 4-H and FFA educational programs along with seeking investments in infrastructure for 4-H and FFA Leadership Training camps.

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09. For example:

= 80%

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ISSUES & STRATEGY STATEMENT ON ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

GOAL:

Increase access to, and completion rates for, educational and technical programs and professional development opportunities for students and adults employed in farming and agricultural-related fields.

ACTIONS:



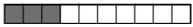
The Kentucky Agricultural Council will provide leadership for an initiative that will identify the emerging educational, technical and professional development needs for adults employed in agriculture. This effort will bring together the resources of Kentucky's universities, community and technical colleges, farm organizations, government agencies and other relevant organizations to:

- » assess existing programs and services available;
- » identify gaps in the current delivery system for continuing education;
- » recommend ways to Improve coordination and promotion of all agricultural, rural community, natural resource and technology-related educational programs; and
- » identify funding needed, and possible sources, to implement improved or expanded efforts.

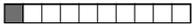


Continue to expand the number of graduates from the State's Agricultural degree programs.

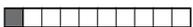
Additionally:



- » Special focus should be placed on communication technologies such as distance learning and the internet to maximize access to available educational opportunities and information sources.



- » Explore creation of a beginning farmer mentorship program to allow young people to get established in production agriculture and to assist with the transition of resources (knowledge, land, equipment) from one generation to the next; draw on models developed by USDA as well as other states in designing a program appropriate to Kentucky's needs.



- » A public awareness campaign should be developed in conjunction with the overall initiative, emphasizing the importance of adult education and continuing education as a strategy to ensure Kentucky's agricultural competitiveness.

Public Awareness and Advocacy

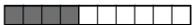
GOAL:

Raise the level of awareness within the general public and among policy makers about the importance of agriculture to our economy and society and strengthen their understanding of controversial issues confronting farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

COMMENT: *The KAC's Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee strongly endorses this goal as essential to the future well-being of Kentucky Agriculture. The Committee has identified a great number of awareness-building activities already being accomplished or being planned by a host of organizations which are advancing progress toward this goal. The marketing activities of Kentucky Proud, the KDA's promotional campaign for Agri-Tourism, various efforts to promote Farmers Markets across the state and a new initiative by the Kentucky Farm Bureau to help promote roadside markets illustrate the range of such existing initiatives. Commodity groups, the Kentucky Farm Bureau and others already provide strong leadership in advocating for Agriculture's legislative agenda, while the KDA hosted U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsak at a town hall meeting to which Kentucky Agriculture was invited. The Governor's Office of Ag Policy adds to these efforts with its regular communication of upcoming events.*

The Committee therefore has determined that the thrust of the KAC's future efforts should be toward building on these activities and communications channels, helping to expand their impact. To this end the Committee recommends the following revised Action statement:

ACTION:



Continue efforts to market and build awareness for communicating with policymakers and the general public, emphasizing the importance of agriculture to Kentucky's economy and social fabric, while addressing controversial issues that confront farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Awareness-building efforts by Kentucky's agricultural organizations should seek to communicate common themes and messages to key audiences including: legislative and governmental bodies; external audiences (the general public, educators, the media et al); and internal audiences (e.g. through improved coordination among the KAC members).

Illustrative elements that are being accomplished include items such as:

- » Increase the number of farmers and agricultural professionals becoming active members in various local/statewide business organizations
- » Encourage local and state policy makers to attend local ag-related meetings and to become more involved in policy issues that affect farmers and rural communities.

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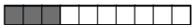
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- » Expand agricultural tours for Kentucky policymakers and government agencies on an annual and rotating geographical basis to illustrate the importance of agriculture and agricultural-related programs to local communities, stewardship practices of agricultural producers, and the diversity of agriculture across the state.
- » Visit with the editorial boards of major newspapers across the state to brief them on major agricultural issues, especially those affecting their individual regions.
- » Promote development of local, regional, and statewide agricultural leadership and ambassador programs.
- » Encourage farmers and agricultural supporters to run for local, state, and national political offices.
- » Expand agricultural education programming for non-farm audiences to enhance the understanding of agricultural issues, provide benefits for non-farm households and rural communities, and to broaden support for funding agricultural initiatives.
- » Develop educational materials to illustrate the economic importance of Kentucky agriculture.

ACTION:



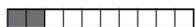
Provide funding for construction and operational support for the Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center.

Rural Communities: Quality of Life, Conservation and Community Leadership Development

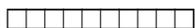
GOAL:

Promote region-specific agricultural economic development and competitiveness.

ACTIONS:



Work in collaboration with the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education’s (CPE) Regional Stewardship Program and the Kentucky Enterprise Fund’s Regional Innovation and Commercialization Centers to create a network of Regional Agricultural Development Planning Councils covering the state.

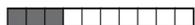


Through the Councils, produce localized Regional Agricultural Strategic Plans that should become an extension of the State’s strategic plan; and should be coordinated with and through the University regional stewardship committees and the Regional Innovation and Commercialization Centers for both potential action and funding.

GOAL:

Encourage regional agriculture development projects and initiatives through funding from the Agriculture Development Board.

ACTIONS:

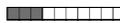
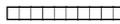


Regional Agriculture Development Councils will, in consultation with other regional entities (Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy Project Analysts, Extension Districts, Area Development Districts, Economic Development Councils, Innovation and Commercialization Centers etc.) consider funding requests through the ADB to implement actions in their regional strategic plans, including seeking potential funding for pilot Regional Agricultural Development projects through the Agricultural Development Board (ADB) and the Innovation and Commercialization Centers.

COMMENT: *The federally funded Small Business Development Centers should be invited to participate in this action.*



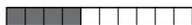
The ADB will strengthen and formalize its efforts to encourage County Councils to pool resources in funding regional projects (processing facilities, multi county veterinary services, regional stockyards and others).

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09. For example:
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GOAL:

Engage the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet as a full partner in planning for and promoting agriculturally-related economic and community development activities in rural areas of the Commonwealth.

ACTIONS:



Initiate a dialogue with the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet to discuss agricultural business trends and entrepreneurship issues, and identify and share ideas regarding opportunities for economic development in rural areas within the current structure of agriculture.

In addition to job creation, encourage the Economic Development Cabinet to consider revenue creation as a criterion for providing economic incentives to producers and processors of agricultural products.

GOAL:

Assist rural communities in addressing the challenges associated with expansion of urban and suburban localities into rural areas.

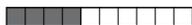
COMMENT: *The KAC's Rural Communities Committee strongly endorses this Goal. However, it recommends that the following actions be refocused around a team approach drawing on existing organizations and individuals already active at the county level in land development and related land conservation policy issues. This may include organizations such as county Farm Bureau offices, County Extension and Conservation Service offices, County Councils, or others.*

ACTIONS:



Develop a community-based planning approach based on sound land use and conservation principles (including identification of most productive farmland and areas for future development) for each County to facilitate, and support the collaborative network between local agricultural and community organizations.

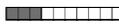
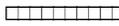
- » Encourage representation of agriculture on community boards, committees, task forces, economic development councils, and local government positions and vice-versa.
- » Initiate community wide visioning and planning processes with specific focus on agriculture and farming and ensure that agriculture is integrated into any proposed comprehensive community planning processes.
- » Review the success/structure of the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) with the potential of developing an agricultural ambassador program that would identify and train a designated agricultural leader for all 120 Kentucky counties.



Continue the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program and pursue a dedicated source of funding.



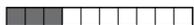
To address the loss of productive land available for Kentucky farmers due to various forms of development (including residential, industrial, recreational land use, as well as Federal programs which may remove up to 25% of open cropland), urge Kentucky policy makers to consider utilizing tax credits as a means of promoting farmland preservation.

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09.
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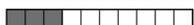
GOAL:

Promote agriculturally-related Community and Regional based planning and development by strengthening the engagement of rural people and organizations in the civic life of their communities.

ACTIONS:



County Agricultural Agents, in concert with other agricultural community leaders and County Agricultural Development Boards, should conduct an annual local government “forum” (with involvement by County Judges, magistrates, other elected officials, planning and zoning leaders, School Board Chair, Economic Development Districts, et. al.) where local agricultural organizations can provide input on issues concerning Agriculture and vice-versa.



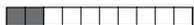
Survey local leadership groups across the state to see if they have an agricultural component in their programs. Request each Leadership Program to host an “Agriculture Day” to bring an appreciation of Agriculture to community leaders.

Expand and improve coordination of agricultural leadership programs, while considering a state-wide ambassador program.

GOAL:

Make healthcare insurance costs more affordable for Kentucky farm families.

ACTIONS:



A Task Force should be established to identify key issues, research healthcare options and insurance rates in other labor force sectors and states, and recommend specific actions to pursue in Kentucky. Examine the availability of providers for Kentucky families; and expand on cooperative efforts between the medical community and the agricultural community.

The Task Force should consider strategies such as:

- » Developing cooperative efforts with other organizations that represent independent business owners.
- » Tax incentives for small business employers and agribusinesses to provide health insurance to employees.
- » Creating a clearing house of information on health care options to assist farmers in decision making. Keep the issue of availability and affordability of health insurance for farmers in front of legislators.

COMMENT: *The KAC Rural Communities Committee recommends partnering with other organizations and associations such as the Kentucky Farm Bureau, insurance industry leaders, and others.*

GOAL:

Improve access to high quality, state-of-the-art healthcare in rural communities through greater use of telemedicine techniques and networks.

ACTIONS:



Support expansion of current telemedicine capabilities between the State’s major medical centers and rural, under-served areas.



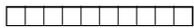
Promote education and awareness about the use of telemedicine to practitioners and patients.

Agricultural Development Fund and Supporting State Governmental Actions

GOAL:

It is critical to assure that all Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) proceeds are invested with a purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers engaged in production agriculture.

ADF ACTIONS:



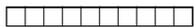
Remove the debt service obligation for water and sewer projects from the ADF on a phased basis, and assign it to the State General Fund. (Current budgeted water and sewer bond payments total \$15,827,400.)



Increase by 50% the total committed ADF funds to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (an additional \$13 million) resulting in an approximately \$40 million revolving loan fund. This will assure the sustainability of future funds available for agriculture investments.



Increase the cap on the Beginning Farmer Loan program from \$100,000 to \$250,000. Allow the purchase of livestock to be an eligible item under this program.



Increase the cap on the Infrastructure Loan program from \$100,000 to \$250,000. Allow the purchase of livestock to be an eligible item under this program.



Maintain \$9 million ADF investment in environmental cost-share programs in 2009-10 budget and request restoration of State general fund support (\$1.6 million/year). Future State budgets should allow the General Fund to assume a greater percentage (25% x \$9m) each succeeding two year budget. This long term goal would provide an additional \$9 million for other agriculture investments in the 2017-18 State budget.



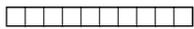
Conduct a study to analyze the economic impact of Agricultural Development Board investments on Kentucky agriculture.

Progress bars indicate % completed as of Aug '09.
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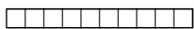
GOAL:

Improve Kentucky's competitiveness with other states by enhancing net farm income through legislation and tax law modification.

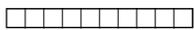
EXAMPLE ACTIONS:



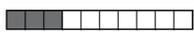
Remove sales tax on animal health pharmaceuticals



Feeder calf tax credit program



Tax law changes affecting the equine business



Dairy stabilization policy

COMMENT: *The Kentucky Milk Commission has been established.*

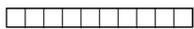


Energy policy with state incentives for producers and consumers

GOAL:

Streamline the environmental permitting process for production agriculture expansion projects and new facilities.

ACTION:

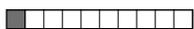


The Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA) should be given increased input and decision making capacity in developing permitting guidelines and a reasonable length of time required for permit issuance. (3-6 months)

GOAL:

Ensure that Kentucky agricultural interests are strongly represented at the federal level, in order that Kentucky producers and processors can take full advantage of all Federal grants and programs or funding through USDA, DOE and other Federal funding opportunities.

ACTION:



Encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to commit resources to establish a strong Washington, D.C. liaison in coordination with efforts of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Universities, other agricultural organizations, and other State of Kentucky departments.

The Unfinished Agenda: A Look at the Work Ahead

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER MARKETING

Diagnostic Laboratories to Serve Kentucky Agriculture

Improvements funded during the 2008 General Assembly that are under way at the University of Kentucky's diagnostic facilities, and those planned at the Murray State Breathitt Veterinary Center (through a feasibility study funded by the Agricultural Development Board) are important to large sectors of Kentucky agriculture. However, consistent recurring funding is needed for maintenance and ongoing improvements to these facilities so that they remain current with evolving technologies and remain highly responsive to Kentucky farmers.

Large Animal Veterinarians

The shortage of trained veterinarians focused on large animals, and the willingness of veterinarians to practice in rural areas are challenges that must be addressed through adequate funding of educational positions at Auburn and Tuskegee Universities, and through ongoing implementation of programs that incentivize veterinarians to work in this field and in rural settings. For Kentucky farmers seeking to diversify away from tobacco and into raising livestock (including equine) or poultry, access to veterinarians and more flexible opportunities for vet techs remain issues of high urgency needing special attention.

Increased Support for Diversification of Kentucky Agriculture through Research & Development

Diversification of Kentucky agriculture is both a continuing need as well as a special opportunity — the latter in part because of Kentucky's diverse geography and growing conditions. While the Agricultural Development Board has invested enormous resources to help Kentucky farmers enter new fields of production, the State can further strengthen its higher educational research

and development capabilities for Agriculture — an essential step if Kentucky is to become competitive and a leader in fields such as Agri-fuels development, Biotechnology or Horticulture (which needs innovation in mechanization).

Kentucky's cutting-edge agricultural research can be more fully harnessed in an effort to apply these strengths to the fields of Agri-fuels (including forestry-related), "bio-materials" and human medicine. The State's Economic Development and Energy and Environment Cabinets should be strongly engaged as partners in achieving this focus and setting the strategic direction for future research efforts.

Labor Force Support

Despite years of innovation in agricultural mechanization, farming remains a labor-intensive practice. Nationally, as well as in Kentucky, it remains highly dependent on a supply of qualified immigrant workers. While largely a federal policy issue, the KAC — working with the Farm Bureau and State agencies — seeks to position Kentucky to be proactive in communicating its needs and issues in this arena.

New Issues: Dead Animal Removal and Dairy Price Regulations

While ever mindful of the need to protect public health and food safety, Kentucky Agriculture is facing special challenges in adapting to new federal regulations for removal of dead animals, that raise questions of cost and procedures which are not economically viable. Simultaneously, the crisis caused by the steep decline of milk prices has now hit Kentucky dairy farmers, undermining one of the best opportunities for some farmers to achieve diversification. While solutions must primarily be sought at the Federal level, these are issues that deserve highlighting at the time this **Progress Report** is released in August 2009.

AGRI-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The policy landscape surrounding Agri-energy development is hugely changed since publication of *A Pathway* in early 2008. Wide fluctuations in oil prices followed by the onset of an international economic crisis have resulted in the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression. A new Administration in Washington has tackled these issues through unprecedented federal spending that, in part, targets innovations in alternative energy production and energy conservation, accompanied by new policies and initiatives affecting everything from auto fuel efficiency standards to global warming. The Beshear Administration has restructured agencies related to Energy and Environment, unveiled a 7-point strategy for energy independence, and created a new emphasis on bio-fuels production.

At this time, the Agri-Energy Development agenda outlined in *A Pathway* remains largely intact and highly relevant to the future of Kentucky Agriculture. KAC's leadership and the Agri-Energy Development Committee will work with State officials on updating the specific Actions consistent with the new opportunities emerging as a result of federal policies and local needs and initiatives.

EDUCATION

Since *A Pathway* was published, interest by students and teachers in Agricultural Education appears to be increasing, evidenced by high enrollment numbers in all of Kentucky's Higher Ed institutions, community colleges, and new programs begun at the middle and high school levels.

However, funding for this expansion has lagged; institutions are working with equal or reduced budgets. The KAC has established strong relationships with both the State Department of Education and the Council on Post-secondary Education (CPE). Through the KAC's Education Committee, continued advocacy for the Goals and Actions outlined in *A Pathway* will be pursued, including documentation of the statewide scope and geographic distribution of existing Ag-related education programs.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Building public support for Agriculture and its key initiatives is a theme that runs throughout all of *A Pathway's* core strategies: the need for the public to know where its "food, fiber and fuel" come from has never been greater. Likewise, the media and elected officials need to better understand the specific challenges faced by farmers in meeting society's most basic needs. Issues range from environmental to labor force topics; from ways to promote crop diversification to the need for additional research, and support for programs that promote food safety; to ways to eat healthier, to support locally grown food, and to help preserve family farming as a way of life.

KAC's Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee has identified many success stories in communicating positive images of Agriculture, including such initiatives as Kentucky Proud, Agri-Tourism, and special events such as the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Advocacy for Agriculture's legislative agenda is strongly represented by the efforts of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, commodity groups, and others. The "unfinished agenda" will build on these existing efforts by enlisting the educational community in building awareness of agricultural issues; helping to further build and engage Kentucky's agricultural leadership network; and seeking to identify common themes and messages for future advocacy, communications and marketing efforts.

RURAL COMMUNITIES: QUALITY OF LIFE, CONSERVATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The KAC's Rural Communities Committee recognizes that local leadership — developed and engaged on a county-by-county basis — is the key to addressing the principal issues affecting rural quality of life that were identified in *A Pathway*. These range from land planning to avoid urban sprawl, to programs that advance the preservation of agricultural land; from initiatives to strengthen the delivery of healthcare services, to efforts aimed at promoting region-specific agricultural projects and achieving greater community and economic development support. Together, such efforts help to sustain the viability of rural communities.

Among these, the Rural Communities Committee recognizes three areas in which its efforts should be particularly focused in the coming year:

- First, the challenge of identifying a dedicated source of funding for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program remains a long-term unmet need that deserves attention and resolution, so that this important work may continue and the program expanded to meet current and future demand.
- Second, the Committee will continue to identify existing leadership programs in agricultural and other organizations, and will seek ways to promote coordination and communication among these programs to increase the engagement of individuals at the county level who are active in rural community planning and implementation activities. These efforts will include partnering with existing Agricultural organizations that operate at the County level such as the Farm Bureau, the Extension Service, and the system of County Councils that has been established throughout Kentucky under the provisions of House Bill 611, following national Tobacco Settlement legislation.
- Finally, the Committee will work with the CPE's Regional Stewardship Program and its network of five Planning Councils, in order to encourage strong engagement by agricultural leaders and a focus by the Councils on agricultural issues and prospective initiatives across the state. Further efforts to partner with the State Economic Development Cabinet generally, as well as with its system of Innovation and Commercialization Centers, will be sought.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND SUPPORTING STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

The overarching focus of **A Pathway** and its six core strategies has been to underscore the continuing importance of the Agricultural Development Fund — and the associated work of the Agricultural Development Board — as the foundation for Kentucky's future agricultural and rural development efforts.

The details of efforts to date and specific issues needing additional attention have been covered

in the previous section of this **Progress Report**. The KAC views this goal as “Job One” for its collective efforts. The national economic crisis and related challenges to the Commonwealth's budget have put increased pressure on the Agricultural Development Fund that could, if not strongly supported, undermine its future effectiveness and slow the progress achieved to date for goals for diversification of Kentucky agriculture and strengthening rural communities.

Beyond this, particular attention will be given in the coming year to seeking to address two more specific goals that remain timely:

- streamlining the environmental permitting process of production agriculture expansion and new facilities; and
- ensuring that Kentucky agricultural interests are strongly represented at the federal level.

Maintaining Our Focus and Momentum in Changing Times

In concluding this first **Progress Report** and accountability assessment of **A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan**, the KAC recognizes the changing economic conditions and public policy environment we face today.

While all strategic plans strive to evolve with the times in which they live, the current times have been by any measure exceptional. Business pressures facing agriculture — as with all sectors of the economy — have been among the most serious that individual farmers, agribusinesses and government agencies have faced within their lifetimes. These pressures will likely continue for some time as the effect of federal stimulus funding and new policies begin to be felt.

The KAC's strategic planning process must take these external conditions into account as we move forward. Our long-term direction is clear and will be maintained; however in the near term, each of our Implementation Committees will be called on to examine its agenda and to ensure that its focus is the sharpest and most relevant to the existing conditions and priorities before us.

Kentucky Agricultural Council Membership

Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Industry Network, Inc.
Agriculture Workforce Management Association, Inc.
Berea College Department of Agriculture
Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association
Center for Rural Development
Community Farm Alliance
Council for Burley Tobacco
Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture
Farm Credit Services
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy
Hopkinsville Community College
Jackson Purchase Agricultural Credit Association
Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)
Kentucky 4-H Foundation, Inc.
Kentucky Agricultural Development Board
Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center
Kentucky Agricultural Resource Development Authority
Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association
Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees
Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners
Kentucky Bankers Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Corn and Small Grain Growers Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Council on Post Secondary Education
Kentucky Dairy Development Council
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Division of Conservation
Kentucky Equine Education Project
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Kentucky Farm Service Agency – USDA
Kentucky Feed and Grain Association
Kentucky FFA Association
Kentucky FFA Foundation, Inc.
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Kentucky Goat Producers Association
Kentucky Grocers Association
Kentucky Horse Council
Kentucky Horse Park
Kentucky Horticulture Council
Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office
Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association
Kentucky Soybean Association
Kentucky State Beekeepers Association
Kentucky State University
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association
Kentucky Women in Agriculture
Kentucky Woodland Owners Association
Legislative Research Commission
Morehead State University Department of Agriculture
Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center
Murray State University College of Agriculture
PACE
University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Kentucky Field Office
USDA National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
USDA Rural Development
Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture

For more information on the
Kentucky Agricultural Council:
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