



January 5, 2024

Legislative Report No. 2 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the fourth legislative day of the 2024 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

During this first week of session, we have met with legislators to discuss many of our 2024 state priority issues. There has been a total of 123 senate and 189 house bills and resolutions introduced in the first four legislative days.

Governor Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth Address earlier this week where he provided more details from his prerecorded budget address that occurred prior to the start of session. [HB 114](#) accompanied the State of the Commonwealth and is the official legislative language of the Governor's proposed budget. The General Assembly is expected to release their budget proposal in the coming weeks.

Below are the details of **HB 114**:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$34.2 million in FY25 and \$35.1 million in FY26. Of that, \$11.59 million in FY25 and \$11.9 million in FY26 was allocated to the county funds account;
- Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share program \$2.5 million in each fiscal year;
- Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts \$900,000 in each fiscal year;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab \$4,235,900 in FY25 and \$4,320,600 in FY26;

- Breathitt Veterinary Center \$4,235,900 in FY25 and \$4,320,600 in FY26;
- \$1,837,500 to Western Kentucky University for the Kentucky Mesonet in FY25 and \$1,874,300 in FY26;
- Adult Agriculture Education Program \$1,050,000 in FY25 and \$1,071,000 in FY26;
- Veterinary Medicine Contract Spaces \$5,659,000 in FY25 and \$5,800,400 in FY26 for 164 veterinary slots;
- Kentucky Rural Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Farm Safety program \$500,000 in each fiscal year;
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture is allocated \$21.09 million of general fund dollars in FY25 and \$21.7 million in FY26;
- \$600,000 for the Farms to Food Banks program in each fiscal year;
- \$455,000 to the County Fair Grants program in each fiscal year.

2024 KFB Priority Issues:

"Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture."

"Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program."

"Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture."

KFB Policy:

"We support the national 988 suicide hotline for farmers and agricultural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote its availability."

"In an effort to address the shortage of large and food animal veterinary services in Kentucky, we support: maintaining funding for existing slots while seeking additional slots for Kentucky students at established veterinary schools."

SB 5: G. Williams – AN ACT relating to hunting and fishing licenses.

This bill will remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land in order to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. This bill was amended in the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee to include an emergency clause to ensure the legislation would go into effect upon final passage and being signed into law. The bill passed the Senate committee and now heads to the full Senate for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We oppose a minimum acreage standard below which landowners must obtain a hunting or fishing license for lawful activities on their own property."

Members on some of the legislative committees have changed. [Click here](#) to view the list of committees and their membership and [click here](#) to view the 2024 Standing Committee Schedule.

REMINDER:

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **February 7, 2024**. This will allow those of you visiting with your legislator(s) the opportunity to present them with a basket of Kentucky grown agricultural products to celebrate the safest most affordable food in the world.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.

We encourage you to contact your senator and representative in advance to let them know you will be in Frankfort that day and to set up a meeting with them to discuss issues affecting agriculture and to present them with a Food Check-Out Day basket.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the week, you may reach your representative and senator in Frankfort by calling 502.564.8100.

If you do not desire to talk to your state legislator immediately or you just want to leave a message, you may dial toll-free 800.372.7181. An answering service will take your message for your representative or senator. The legislative calendar information line is 800.633.9650, the

bill status line is 866.840.2835, and the Governor's office number is 502.564.2611.

If you desire to e-mail your representative or senator, [click here](#) for a list of e-mail addresses for members of the Kentucky General Assembly. Find your legislator and click on his or her name to access their e-mail address.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2024 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 37417; Ericka King, extension 35220; and Drew Graham, extension 35121. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Katie Weatherholt at 502.493.7669 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

KEEP ALL LEGISLATIVE REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Reports on file because, on occasion, we may refer to a previous report as a source of more details regarding an issue.

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 7..... KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day
February 19..... President's Day Holiday
February 26..... Last Day for New House Bills
February 28..... Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 27 & 28 Concurrence Only
March 29 - April 9 Veto Period
April 15..... General Assembly, Sine Die

The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on KFB's website at kyfb.com and the KFB app.