



January 2, 2014

## **Legislative Report No. 1**

### ***2014 Kentucky General Assembly***

The 2014 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly is set to begin on Tuesday, January 7 and run through Monday, March 31. The General Assembly will then recess for a ten-day veto period which is scheduled to begin on April 1 and the legislature is scheduled to adjourn sine die on April 15.

Most of the Legislative Action Requests you will receive throughout the upcoming session will give Farm Bureau's position on bills, along with an explanation of the bill and the policy to support our position. They will usually request that you contact your senator or representative regarding a particular issue. Contacting your member of the General Assembly is the key component of implementing our policy. These requests will be sent late in the week and we hope that you will help us implement your policy by using it to help contact your legislator when you receive it, and over the weekend.

***This year we will be distributing our legislative reports via email only, the reports will also be available on the [KFB app](#). If you would like to receive a mailed copy of this report, please contact the Public Affairs Division at 502.495.5121, or e-mail [sara.stivers@kyfb.com](mailto:sara.stivers@kyfb.com).***

### **2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

The Kentucky Farm Bureau legislative priorities were approved by the State Board of Directors following our 94th Annual Meeting. Please acquaint yourself with the priorities listed below and keep them as a reference throughout the session. We hope you will find these helpful as you discuss various legislative matters with your representative and senator during the months ahead. Each member of the Kentucky General Assembly will receive a copy of our 2014 State Priority Issues.

## **2014 STATE PRIORITY ISSUES**

### ***AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES***

- \* 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 state funding for new facilities for the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville.
- \* Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- \* Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Division of Forestry.
- \* Recommend sufficient funding be made available to maintain a strong grain elevator inspection program for the protection of farmers, and protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.

### ***TAXATION***

- \* Support the current provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010). Revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4% plus new growth. Proposals to exceed 4% should automatically go to the voters.
- \* Strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
- \* Maintain Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.
- \* Recommend production items associated with the equine and poultry industries, as well veterinary medicine and vaccines be exempt from the sales and use tax.
- \* Encourage elected officials to oppose any regulation or tax on tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states.

### ***EMINENT DOMAIN***

- \* Oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.

## ***HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES***

\* Support the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads.

## ***WATER RESOURCES***

\* Request state government to include agricultural representation in the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDL's.

\* State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data.

## ***WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT***

\* Support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.

## **WHAT CAN YOUR COUNTY DO TO PREPARE FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION?**

(1) The month of January will be an excellent time to meet with your legislators and discuss priority issues. Then check each week's legislative reports to monitor progress and continue to communicate with your legislator as issues begin to move through the system. Remember, action requests are just that - a request for you to call your senator or representative and ask for their support for our position.

(2) Ask your county Legislative Action Committee to develop a schedule of meetings to plan further action, as the need arises during the session. It is important that you maintain personal contact with your senator and representative as Farm Bureau's priority issues start to move through the legislative process. Several counties have weekly meeting times set up on Saturday mornings with their legislators.

(3) Stay informed....Know about the issues and Farm Bureau's position. It takes everyone's commitment for Farm Bureau to be successful!

## **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**

Those who are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2014 session are: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Bryan Alvey, extension 7218; Tony Sholar, extension 5121; Beth Wisman, extension 5105; and David S. Beck, extension 5101. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.352.4280 at the Frankfort headquarters or call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Sara Stivers at 502.495.5121 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

### **KEEP ALL LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUESTS FOR FUTURE USE**

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Action Requests 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 7.....	2014 General Assembly Convenes
January 20.....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 17.....	President's Day Holiday
February 21.....	Last Day for Bill Request
February 19.....	KFB Food Check Out Day, State Capitol
March 3.....	Last Day for New House Bills
March 5.....	Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 5.....	KFB Legislative Drive-In
March 28 & March 31.....	Concurrence Only
April 1 - April 11.....	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](http://kyfb.com) and the [KFB app](#).