

1 **2016 KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU POLICY**

2
3 **WATER RESEARCH**

4 We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local
5 conservation districts and farm bureau to participate in developing water quality
6 regulations. We request state government to include agricultural representation in
7 the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to
8 TMDLs.

9 Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the Commonwealth
10 should be based on documented water quality data. A state program should
11 consider factors such as the cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture,
12 the needs for growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.

13 Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally occurring
14 substances should not be at the expense of the established water users, including
15 agriculture.

16 We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support
17 research on the BMPs established in the state water quality plan. We support
18 producer development, implementation, and updating of individual agriculture water
19 quality plans.

20 We encourage producers to have their plan certified by a qualified party, and
21 to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the local conservation district.

22 We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recommend local
23 communities take an active role in watershed research, education and assessment.
24 We support the use of agricultural water quality plans and best management
25 practices to address water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.

26 Using accurate water quality monitoring, water use needs should be
27 addressed through research on the following:

- 28 (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;
- 29 (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;
- 30 (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures and transport
31 mechanisms; and
- 32 (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater and springs.

33 We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's efforts to review all
34 impaired streams and reassess their designation based on actual scientific data.

35 We encourage the Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA) to coordinate
36 research among the agencies and evaluate water quality protection models.

37 We support collaborative efforts to conduct water resource research,
38 monitoring and education efforts by state and federal agencies and the universities.

39 We support United States Geological Survey (USGS) efforts to collect data
40 on Kentucky's major waterways that contribute to the Mississippi River Basin.

41 We oppose any voluntary water quality data being used as the sole source
42 on which regulatory decisions are based.

43 We oppose the Division of Water setting TMDLs with data more than three
44 years old.

1 We recommend the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services conduct research
2 on sewage treatment systems and develop low-cost alternatives for areas where
3 septic tanks are inefficient.

4 **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

5 State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate
6 scientific research data.

7 Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should be
8 monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or individual water quality
9 plans.

10 We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a farmer to
11 spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the most cost effective methods
12 without it being considered a point source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution
13 Discharge Elimination System of the Division of Water and the federal Clean Water
14 Act.

15 We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the issuing of
16 permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.

17 We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to continue the
18 development and implementation of a comprehensive water resources development
19 plan while giving due consideration to land use planning efforts and future water
20 needs of the state and to assist local government in implementing a water and
21 sewer resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation in the
22 water resources planning process and request an agricultural representative on all
23 watershed basin teams.

24 We recommend that the Division of Water monitor and inform local
25 communities as to the status of their water resources and be available to provide
26 necessary guidance in the development of an emergency plan. We recommend that
27 during a declaration of a water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a
28 high priority and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent
29 livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research, cost-share,
30 technical assistance, and further development of existing programs for on-farm
31 water supplies including irrigation purposes. We support USDA modifying existing
32 cost-share programs to allow for NRCS technical assistance in assessing the long-
33 term availability of water resources and the planning and development of new on-
34 farm water supplies and irrigation systems. We also recommend that during a
35 water emergency, water for commercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as
36 high priority, and that water remain available to them.

37 In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human
38 consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence over
39 environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing water resources.

40 We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue opportunities to
41 increase water availability for farms and rural communities.

42 We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.

1 We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are more
2 stringent than federal protections.

3 We support moving Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point Source Program
4 for agriculture and light construction to the Division of Conservation and silviculture
5 to the Division of Forestry.

6 We support the creation of a Kentucky Water Resource Management
7 Commission to support a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects and
8 programs.

9 We support the University of Kentucky Grain Center for Excellence concept
10 and coordinated research efforts on water resource development and irrigation
11 efficiencies.

12 We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources to observe
13 both quantity and quality of these resources.

14 We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response Plan be
15 updated to include a specific "Agriculture Drought Mitigation" section. We
16 recommend that in addition to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture that the
17 USDA Farm Service Agency and a representative of the farming community be
18 represented on the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.

19 We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and livestock
20 systems development.