



January 9, 2026

## **Legislative Report No. 2**

### **2026 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marked the fourth legislative day of the 2026 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

During this first week of session, we have met with legislators to discuss many of our 2026 state priority issues. There has been a total of 90 senate and 313 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 details for his proposed budget. The General Assembly is expected to release their budget proposal in the coming weeks.

Below are some of the details from the Governor's proposed budget:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$31.1 million in FY27 and \$28.6 million in FY28. Of that, \$10.2 million in FY27 and \$9.2 million in FY28 was allocated to the county funds account;
- Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share program \$2 million in each fiscal year;
- Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab \$4,034,200 in each fiscal year;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center \$4,034,200 in each fiscal year;
- Western Kentucky University for the Kentucky Mesonet \$1,750,000 in each fiscal year;

- Adult Agriculture Education Program \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- Veterinary Medicine Contract Spaces \$5,800,400 in each fiscal year;
- Kentucky Rural Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Farm Safety program \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture is allocated \$11.6 million in General Fund dollars and \$10.0 million in Restricted Fund dollars in FY27 and \$22.0 million in General Fund dollars FY28;
- \$1,000,000 for the Farms to Food Banks program in each fiscal year;
- \$455,000 to the County Fair Grants program in each fiscal year.

#### **2026 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."*

#### **REMINDER:**

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **March 11, 2026**. 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.

### **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.

(2) Ask your county State Legislative 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**

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2026 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 37417 and

Ericka King, extension 35220. 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 502.495.5000, extension 37268 and you will be put 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 19 .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 16.....	President's Day Holiday
March 2.....	Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 4.....	Last Day for New House Bills
March 31-April 1 .....	Concurrence Only
April 2-13 .....	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.**