



December 29, 2023

Legislative Report No. 1 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

The 2024 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly is set to begin Tuesday, January 2, and run through Thursday, March 28. The General Assembly will then recess for a ten-day veto period, which is scheduled to begin on March 29, and the legislature is scheduled to adjourn sine die on Monday, April 15.

Most of the Legislative Reports 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 may 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 contact your legislator when requested.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Kentucky Farm Bureau legislative priorities were approved by the State Board of Directors following our 104th 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 2024 State Priority Issues.

2024 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 continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

TAXATION

- Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate.
- Strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
- Support the 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.
- Maintain Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture and establish a process for obtaining a wallet-sized sales tax exemption card.

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.

ENERGY

- Support a decommissioning bond on all commercial solar projects. These bonds should be reviewed at least every three years.
- Support oversight of ownership and control for energy infrastructure.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support funding for the broadband deployment fund.
- Support efforts and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.
- Support efforts that will retain and attract new business and industry to rural areas of Kentucky.
- Support increased funding for Kentucky riverports to upgrade their agricultural infrastructure.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

- Support lowering the acreage requirement for establishing an agricultural district.

WATER RESOURCES

- Support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and advocate a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects across the Commonwealth.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Seek 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.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Oppose any agency exceeding legislative intent in the implementation of regulations.
- Oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.

FORESTRY

- Support forestry initiatives that enhance the economy and create opportunities for woodland owners.

GOVERNOR BESHEAR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

Governor Beshear presented his state budget address by prerecorded video on Monday, December 18. To see the full video, click [here](#).

Below are the details of the Governor's Budget Address:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$34.2 million in FY25 and \$35.1 million in FY26. Of that, \$11.5 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."

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 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 22024 General Assembly Convenes
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.**