



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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USDA Funding Opportunity and EPA Proposed Rule for Meat and Poultry Producers

USDA Grant Opportunity to Strengthen Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service is partnering with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to provide more than \$7 million in competitive grants to strengthen food supply chain infrastructure. Grants will fund projects that increase storage and processing capacity, as well as technology improvements. Interested applicants will apply directly with KDA and have until April 5 to apply.

Application deadline: April 5, 2024

For more information and to apply, [follow this link](#).

EPA Issues Proposed Rule on Wastewater from Meat and Poultry Processors

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a new rule regarding the treatment of wastewater discharge from meat and poultry processors. The greatest concern with the proposal is the inevitable compliance costs on processors, potentially forcing many of them out of business. This would lead to less options for producers to take their livestock and, eventually, less food for consumers. Kentucky Farm Bureau will submit comments to the Federal Register on this proposed rule. If you would also like to comment, sample text is below along with links for information on the rule and the comment portal.

"I'm a farmer in _____ County, Kentucky, and I am deeply concerned with the potential negative implications of the EPA's proposed rule regarding wastewater discharge from meat and poultry processors. The EPA's proposal would dramatically increase costs for many small and medium processors, potentially driving them out of business. This would have a detrimental impact on livestock producers, leaving them with few options

for processing and leading to consolidation in the meat and poultry processing industry. As a result, consumers would have less access to food and be faced with higher costs at grocery stores. The Covid-19 pandemic showed us just how important processors are to the food supply chain. We do not need overly burdensome regulations forcing an invaluable link in that chain out of business.”

For more information, [click here](#).

To comment, follow [this link](#) and click the green “submit a formal comment” box.