

Kentucky Agricultural Council
Member Meeting
February 13, 2020
Louisville, KY

The Kentucky Agricultural Council (KAC) member meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. ET by Chairman Mark Barker at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. All those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves.

Minutes of the August meeting were presented by Tod Griffin (filling in for Jennifer Elwell). A motion was made and seconded to approve as presented. Motion passed.

Mr. Griffin presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made and seconded to approve as presented. Motion passed.

After some technical difficulties, the Federal Update by Congressman James Comer was canceled.

Chairman Barker made a special presentation to past chair John McCauley who announced his resignation from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and retirement from public service. Mr. McCauley made brief comments.

Ag Commissioner Ryan Quarles gave an update from the department. He mentioned several legislative issues his department is working on including a food safety bill, pesticide modernization act, and the state budget. He mentioned the USMCA trade deal that was recently signed and the need for a new deal with the UK because of Brexit. Commissioner announced that the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) conference will be held in June in Lexington.

Dr. Kenny Burdine and Dr. Will Snell from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture presented their synopsis of the Kentucky Ag Outlook Ahead for 2020.

Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture and Murray State University presented an update on the MSU Hemp Center.

Chairman Barker presented to the membership a sponsorship request from SASDA about sponsorship of the annual meeting to be held in June in Lexington. A motion was made and seconded to approve a sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500. Motion passed with one abstention by the KDA.

Member Updates:

Farm Service Agency .xecutive director Brian Lacefield updated the members on recent USDA payments to Kentucky producers through the MFP program.

Sherry Mulkins with the Kentucky World Trade Center gave an update on upcoming trade mission trips.

Mark Haney with the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation gave an update on their Vision 100 committee.

Jason Hassert with Senator Rand Paul's office introduced himself and gave a brief update on U.S. Senate activity.

H.H. Barlow with the Kentucky Dairy Development Council gave an update on the dairy growth initiative to help the struggling dairy industry in Kentucky.

Warren Beeler with the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy gave an update on recent approved projects and talked about state budget needs.

Amanda Robertson with the USDA FSA gave an update on the Beginning Farmer Summit. She reported that they are planning for a Kentucky only meeting without Tennessee this year.

Natalie Gupton with AgSafe gave an update on training programs and the launch of their H2A cost calculator program.

John Johnson with USDA Rural Development gave an update on rural broadband service and announced several rural energy grant opportunities.

David Chin with the Agribusiness Industry Network announced that AIN would be hosting a "day at the Capitol" in Frankfort on March 3.

Next Meeting:

Chairman Barker announced that the next meeting of the KAC would be held in June in conjunction with the Kentucky FFA Convention in Lexington.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 11:55 a.m. ET.