

**Next Generation Farming Committee**  
**[Summary of Goals by LG]**

*Goal 1*

Make farming attractive to the next generation

*Actions*

A coordinated marketing campaign that highlights young farmers and why they have chosen this as their profession – this may be done in collaboration with agricultural education programs in high schools where young farmers visit and talk about their lives and opportunities

Student loan forgiveness program for those who go to college and return to production agriculture

Tax reform/incentives to farmers who sell their land to new farmers to encourage the intergenerational transfer of land resources in agricultural production

Insure new farmers know about existing programs to assist them and increase participation of new farmers in these assistance programs

KAC facilitate a mentoring program for new farmers in collaboration with other groups. Such mentoring may be face-to-face or through an “Ask the expert” website or a chat room

*Goal 2*

Assure the sustainability of agricultural assets (farm land and water quality) in Kentucky

*Actions*

Bring the participation in submitted agricultural water quality plans to 100% of farm operations

With partners, host a summit of the future availability of water for agricultural production and processing in Kentucky

Educate policy-makers on the importance of fully funding the PACE program to assure productive land resources are protected for future farmers

*Goal 3*

Enhance risk management and financing choices for Kentucky farmers

*Actions*

KAC and member organizations be pro-active in educating state and federal policy-makers on the need for fairness and equal access to crop insurance for KY farmers and to educate them on the need to expand crop insurance to non-covered commodities (e.g., livestock)

Develop informational materials especially for state policy makers on the importance of providing tax incentives for farmers who sell to other active producers

Provide educational programs and materials to lenders so that they become more knowledgeable about agricultural lending. This can be done in coordination with universities and others who do lender training.

*Goal 4*

Enhance new farmer educational programming

*Actions*

Existing ag leadership programs should intentionally increase the participation by new farmers

Expand the new farmer START programs

Diversify opportunities for new entrants to farming to learn the business (e.g., apprenticeships with more experienced farmers) and help them develop the human relations/management knowledge and skills they will need to succeed

Increase opportunities for bi-lingual education for new farmers so as to increase their competitiveness in a changing marketplace

## **NEXT GENERATION OF FARMING COMMITTEE**

NOTES / 7-12-12

**Goal 1:** Making farming attractive to the Next Generation

### ACTION STEPS

1. Strong PR campaign that lifts up stories and efforts
2. Ag education at the K-12 level
  - Introduction to new and developing opportunities in Agricultura
  - Exposure to school gardens, community gardens as entry point
  - Sell the “quality of life” / lifestyle advantages
  - Coordinate these ideas with Ag Education Committee
3. Make farming more profitable by expanding market opportunities
4. Student loan forgiveness paired with a mentoring program
  - Use Large Animal Vets incentive program as a model
  - This program could be made possible through State partnerships but funding is a barrier
5. Tax breaks for farmers retiring, transitioning to young farmers
6. Research and develop a “farm transition” program (land link, match-making)
7. KAC to leverage programming for beginning farmers
  - Farmstart – small & sustainable farming mentor programs
  - FSA programs – better communication to farmers
8. FSA Agents need more training in organic and vegetables
  - Extension Agents
  - Universities

### BENCHMARKS

Young farmer section in Kentucky Proud magazine

“Land Link” programs and farmer transition programs (applies to goals 1 and 4)

- Statewide conference that brings stakeholders
- UK “FarmStart” funds

Website

Resource Center of programs

Create mentor / loan forgiveness program

**Goal 2:** Sustainability: Protection of natural resources critical to farming (water, land, soil, farmland; address environmental, land use and economic factors)

#### ACTION STEPS

9. Water – quality and quantity
  - Public awareness of current and future issues
  - Proactive task force that looks at what might be coming
10. Land use / Increasing supply of farmland
  - Focus on planning & zoning – counties need to take steps to protect productive farmland
  - Right-to-Farm ordinances for counties
11. Sustaining the Family Farm – passing to next generation
12. PACE program funding
13. Identify regions that are most productive

#### BENCHMARKS

Statistics of Ag Water Quality Plans – focus on through increase of public awareness  
65% have plans

PACE funding – need to organize a useable report with current available statistics and information

#### **GOAL 3: RISK MANAGEMENT / FINANCING**

#### ACTION STEPS

1. Support federal crop insurance for more diverse crops
2. Advocate for future changes
3. Training for loan officers on more diverse farming operations – supported by data via universities
4. Tax incentives for retiring farmers to assist with the transferring of land
5. Funding (example: food tax) – increase use of check-off funds for different commodities
6. Formal training between ag lenders and ag economists

#### BENCHMARK

#### **GOAL 4: DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEXT GENERATION FARMERS**

#### ACTION STEPS

1. Mentorship program – support, strengthen and tying commodity leadership programs together
  - Utilize existing programs (Farm Start; Commodity leadership programs)
2. Extension Service needs to be more responsive to beginning farmers and diverse crops
  - Develop resource center of programs
3. Skilled labor force
  - College Ag students linked to farms that need labor
  - Pair with loan forgiveness program
  - Middle management → training of skilled worker

**Notes from May 30, 2012 discussion**  
**Next Generation of Farming**

Group members included: Eddie Melton, Adam Andrews, Jay McCants, Aaron Miller, Becky Thompson and Dawn Riley

Topics of discussion included:

How to attract people to farming.

Vocational Ag education

Networking opportunities for young farmers

Leadership programs such as KALP

Continuing Education

Succession planning and management

Estate Taxes

Mentor/Intern programs

Matching farmers with want to be farmers

Farm Buyout program

Rent to own program

Health Insurance

Core business principles/administrative training and education

Farm business analysis program – Jerry Pierce

Capital issues

Need for demographic data – full and part time farmers

Diversification and input costs

Loss of Farmland

Educational Brochure