



Kentucky Agricultural Council
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Agriculture Receives Positive Assessment ***Ag Council Releases Progress Report on Strategic Plan for Agriculture***

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Aug. 27, 2009) - The Kentucky Agricultural Council presented its first progress report towards the *Strategic Plan for Agriculture Development* to state leaders, during its quarterly membership meeting held on the opening day of the Kentucky State Fair.

“Some two and a half years ago, the Kentucky Agricultural Council began a journey that has taken all of Kentucky agriculture to a new level of cooperation around a shared vision of where we are heading,” stated Keith Rogers, chairman of the Council.

Rogers presented the 24-page assessment of the progress made towards Kentucky’s agricultural goals to the following officials: Commissioner of Agriculture Richie Farmer; Sen. David Givens, chairman of the State Senate Committee on Agriculture; Rep. Tom McKee, chairman of the State House Committee on Agriculture; Roger Thomas, executive director of the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy, on behalf of Gov. Steve Beshear.

The report summarizes actions that have been undertaken to advance the goals of Kentucky agriculture, as outlined in the strategic plan. The plan was created 18-months ago by the over 60 agriculture organizations that are members of the Council, representing farmers, commodity groups, agribusinesses, government agencies, and agricultural educators.

“Through this effort, you have made this strategic plan a true living document,” stated Roger Thomas. “This progress report will help to maintain agriculture’s focus and momentum even during these challenging economic times.”

The report underscored significant progress made in areas such as the *Kentucky Proud* marketing initiative and agricultural education, while acknowledging areas needing improvement. The report also reaffirms the overarching goal that was the centerpiece of the initial strategic plan adopted in December 2007 to “sustain and enhance the investment in Kentucky agriculture through the Agricultural Development Fund”.

A copy of the entire progress report, as well as the strategic plan, is available at the Kentucky Agricultural Council’s Web site, www.kyagcouncil.org.

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The Kentucky Agricultural Council was created in the late 1970s and incorporated as a 501(c) 3 organization in the mid-1990s. Its mission is to promote communication among the Commonwealth's institutions of agricultural education, governmental agencies, and the main commodity groups, working toward common goals. In 2006 it was commissioned to lead the Taskforce on the Future of Agriculture to develop a strategic plan for all of Kentucky agriculture: A Pathway for Kentucky's Agriculture and its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan. The work of the Kentucky Agricultural Council is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.