

# Kentucky Agricultural Council

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## *Minutes of the June 9, 2009 Meeting*

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on **June 9, 2009** at **10:00 AM EDT** at the Lexington Convention Center, Thoroughbred IV Room in conjunction with the KY FFA Convention in Lexington, KY. Keith Rogers, chair, called the meeting to order.

### ***Members Present***

Tod Griffin, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky; Tony Herrington, Community Farm Alliance; Bruce Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Robert Monk, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Michael Judge, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Tim Hughes, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Virginia Flanagan, Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center; Kevin Jefferies, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Roger Quarles, Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Council; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; Mac Stone, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Todd Ryan, KY Nursery and Landscape Association; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office; Essie Rogers, Kentucky Horse Council; Lisa Jackson, Kentucky Horse Park; Dan Flanagan, Kentucky Poultry Association and KY Council on Post-Secondary Education; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; James M. Weber, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Mike Phillips, Morehead State University; Debbie Reed, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Laboratory; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Frances Ann Brown and Libby Jones, PACE; Nancy Cox, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Bruce Metzger, KCTCS.

### ***Others Present***

Warren Beeler, Angela Blank, Don Goodin, Drew Graham, Kara Keeton, Jean-Marie Lawson, Dawn Riley, Will Snell and Steven Spalding Steve Workman

### **Welcome**

Keith Rogers welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting. The meeting proceeded with a Roll Call of members.

### **Approve Minutes of the February 13, 2009 Meeting**

Keith Rogers presented the minutes of the February 13, 2009 meeting. Michael Judge (Governor's Office of Ag Policy) moved to accept them; Dan Flanagan (Kentucky Poultry Association) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Steve Coleman presented the Treasurer's Report for the Kentucky Agricultural Council. The balance as of June 9, 2009 was \$8,451.59. The balance of the #2 GOAP grant was \$ 45,399.45. Mr. Coleman also reported that the 990 tax form had been filed on behalf of the KAC.

The motion was made by Kevin Jefferies (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts) to accept the treasurer's report; Robert Monk (Farm Credit Association) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

### **Quest Speaker**

Mr. Tom Perrin, State Conservationist, was introduced by Mr. Steve Coleman. Mr. Perrin's remarks and PowerPoint presentation included much information on the 2008 Farm Bill and programs which were funded through that legislation, as well as the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program; the EQIP program; and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which was utilized particularly well in Kentucky following the ice storm and spring flooding.

Sam Lawson asked about the CREP program and whether impact studies were done before land is taken out of production. A discussion followed on the Green River Area and the future of implementation of the CREP program.

### **Strategic Plan Committee Reports**

Reports on their recent committee meetings were given by Sam Lawson, Public Awareness Committee; Tod Griffin, Agri-Energy Committee; and Mac Stone, ADF and Supporting Agencies Committee.

Copies of the full committee reports may be found on the KAC website.

### ***Chairman's Report***

Keith Rogers provided the membership with an overview of the February Quarterly meeting where new by-laws were put into place. In conjunction with those by-laws came a new board structure. Two new members have been elected to the Board – Todd Barlow and Dan Flanagan.

Keith thanked all who have been involved for their continued participation and commitment to keep a unified message for agriculture by attending the quarterly meetings. In order to keep things interesting, we are looking at the options of guest speakers, field days, etc. We will continue to hold events in the same time frame as before – February, June, August and November.

In their meeting earlier today, the Board of Directors approved today the format for production of the first Progress Report on the Strategic Plan. The Progress Report will be presented to the Governor and Ag Leaders at the August 20<sup>th</sup> Quarterly KAC Membership meeting, which follows the annual Commodity Breakfast. Keith stated that the theme of the Progress Report will be that much has been accomplished to date, yet we have a lot of work remaining ahead of us.

Keith reminded the membership that the professional staff is still collecting membership forms. He also recognized those organizations that have made pledges and contributions to the KAC toward the \$25,000 match that is required by the Agricultural Development Board. This match has been set as a condition for receiving a second year of funding needed to continue our efforts to implement the Strategic Plan. He strongly encouraged all organizations to contribute to this effort.

## ***Professional Staff Update***

Dawn Riley discussed briefly the newsletter copy (in the form of a letter from the KAC Chairman) which had recently been emailed to all KAC member organizations. The intent is for KAC members to reproduce this information in publications that they send to their members. There will be continued improvements and we hope that all organizations will share this KAC information with their members. This is another step in the KAC's efforts to broaden the communications among all agricultural organizations.

Dawn Riley and Steven Spalding unveiled the new KAC website: [www.kyagcouncil.org](http://www.kyagcouncil.org) The staff walked through a step by step review of each page, highlighting how the website will help to promote connectivity to each of the member organizations, as well as to communicate directly with members of the Strategic Plan committees, and to access historical documents of the KAC Task Force on the Future of Agriculture. A great deal of effort has also gone into the events page which hope to encompass as many of the ag related activities in the Commonwealth as possible.

## **Updates from Organizations**

### KVMA

This report was given by Dr. James Weber. The main topic of discussion was the contract spaces for veterinary students at Auburn and Tuskegee. Much work is still being done within state government and the stakeholder groups to clarify and secure funding for these spaces. Privacy for veterinary records was passed during the last session of the General Assembly. This legislation corrected a flaw wherein other agencies had not been held to the same standards. KVMA is in the process of creating a monthly email newsletter and they are partnering with many organizations to donate monies for scholarships for students.

### KY Sheep and Wool Producers

This report was given by Kathy Meyer and Ray Bowman. This year has been a very good year for the sheep, lamb wool and fiber industry. Prices are at record high levels and most producers are building momentum for the future. As part of the effort, a multistate marketing mechanism has been developed. [www.hooftrader.com](http://www.hooftrader.com) This is "an Ebay for animals". The region includes Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee. Advertisements are based on a fee structure similar to Goat Rancher and Sheep Connection. The Sheep and Goat producers are moving ahead with a referendum which could lead to a check off type marketing system. Voting will take place at Extension Offices and the hope is this will take place in August. A partnership with the City of Lexington will be bringing the Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival to Masterson Station Park in May of 2010 in conjunction with the Bluegrass Classic Stockdog Trial. A similar event in New York draws 100s of thousands of people.

### ***Other business***

Lisa Jackson (KY Horse Park) announced that the Bluegrass Agritourism Association will be holding an event at Evans Orchard on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Warren Beeler (KDA) asked everyone to keep Mike Ovesen (KY Pork Producers Assn.) in their prayers.

Ray Bowman made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Libby Jones. There were no further comments or discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM EDT.