

# Kentucky Agricultural Council

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## *Minutes of the June 8, 2010 Meeting*

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on June 8, 2010 at 2:00 PM EDT at the Lexington Convention Center, Thoroughbred IV Room in conjunction with the Kentucky FFA Convention in Lexington, KY. David S. Beck, chair, called the meeting to order.

### **Members Present**

Tod Griffin, Agribusiness Association of Kentucky; Kaycie Len Sparrow, Community Farm Alliance; Bruce R. Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University; Robert Monk, Farm Credit Services; Roger Thomas and Michael Judge, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Tim Hughes, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Kevin Jefferies, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Bruce Metzger, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Council; Mac Stone, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; Cara Stewart, Kentucky Equine Education Project; David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau; John McCauley and Bob Finch, Kentucky Farm Services Agency; Curt Lucas and Amanda Conley, Kentucky FFA Association and Kentucky FFA Foundation; Robert Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Association; Ginny Grulke, Kentucky Horse Council; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Goat Producers Association and Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Becky Kinder, Kentucky Soybean Association; Frank Penn, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association; James M. Weber, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Curt Lucas, Kentucky Vocational Ag Teachers Association; Jenny Inman, Kentucky Women In Agriculture; Lowell Atchley and Tom Middleton, Legislative Research Service; Wade Northington and Debbie Reed, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Laboratory; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Frances Ann Brown, PACE; Scott Smith, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS; Jack Kuhn, USDA NRCS; Scott Maas, USDA Rural Development; Jack Rudolph, Western Kentucky University Department of Ag.

### **Others Present**

Angela Blank, Jean Marie Lawson, Frank Moore, John Nicholson, Dawn Riley, Will Snell, Steven Spalding and interns (Amy, Ashley and Susan) from the Kentucky Soybean Association.

### **Welcome**

David S. Beck welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting. The meeting proceeded with self introductions of those in attendance. Mr. Beck introduced Amanda Conley, State Reporter for KY FFA, who brought greetings.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Beck made remarks regarding the General Assembly and the Committee Chair meeting which preceded this meeting. He encouraged all members to participate in the committees to continue to fine tune the KAC's strategic planning dialogue.

### **Feasibility Study**

Tod Griffin reported that 50 stakeholder interviews had been conducted with KAC members to date. There is still time for member interviews so please contact Steven or Dawn. The Board has received a preliminary report and will be holding a workshop later this month to review the findings in depth. The recommendations will be mailed to the membership in early August and will be voted on at the August 19 Quarterly meeting. He encouraged all members to attend the August meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Maury Cox reported on the joint meeting of the Ag Production and Marketing Committee with the Agri-Energy Committee. The committees heard an in-depth presentation by Peter Nelson of Memphis-based BioDimensions regarding possible strategies and opportunities to grow crops as feedstock for biobased products. This meeting was held at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Office in Lexington, Kentucky on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Robert Monk reported on the April 28th meeting of the Rural Communities Committee. UK Extension staff Jimmy Henning, Allison Davis and Chuck Stamper were the featured guests at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association offices in Lexington (see website for notes).

### **Approve Minutes of the February 12, 2010 Meeting**

David Beck presented the minutes of the February 12, 2010 meeting. Tony Brannon (Murray State University) moved to accept them; Tod Griffin (Agribusiness Association of Kentucky) 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 1, 2010 was \$18,849.90. Kevin Jefferies announced that the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts would be providing a \$ 500 contribution. Dr. Tony Brannon raised the issue of meeting our obligation to the GOAP. \$20,050 has been raised to date (only \$4,000 this year). A discussion followed.

### **Industry Focus: Perspectives on the Equine Industry**

David Beck provided an overview of the rest of the day's Agenda. Angela Blank made comments regarding the World Equestrian Games and a video presentation was made. John Nicholson from the Kentucky Horse Park provided a briefing on the background to Kentucky's successful recruitment of the World Equestrian Games and their economic impact. He emphasized the important role Kentucky agriculture has and will play at the Games and invited all KAC members to attend and participate. Angela Blank and Mac Stone made final comments regarding the role KY Proud will play during the Games.

A panel discussion revolving around issues which overlap the traditional agricultural community and equine community. Those participating on the panel were Ginny Grulke representing the Kentucky Horse Council; Frank Penn represented the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and Cara Stewart representing the Kentucky Equine Education Project.

**Member Updates**

Jack Kuhn of USDS, NRCS reported on the recent flooding emergency and Scott Maas of USDA Rural Development reported on energy financing programs.

**Guest Comment Period**

There were no guest comments on any of the previously discussed issues.

David Beck closed the meeting by informing the membership that the Board would be holding an additional Workshop in Morgantown on July 24 to further develop recommendations from the Feasibility Study. He also reminded them of the August 19<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting at the Kentucky State Fair beginning at 10AM.

There were no further comments or discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM EDT.