

Strategic Plan Presented to the Governor

(January, 2008) The long awaited strategic plan for Kentucky agriculture was formally presented by agricultural leaders to Governor Steve Beshear in Lexington at the Kentucky Press Association's annual convention on January 25, 2008. "A Pathway for Kentucky Agriculture and Its Rural Communities: 2007 to 2012 Strategic Plan" was crafted over nine months in 2007 by representatives of 50 agriculture organizations, government agencies and universities.

"I want to commend the agricultural leaders who came together to ask tough questions about their industry and its place in the 21st century," Governor Beshear said. "The ideas they have developed in this strategic plan will be essential to achieve the long-term goals of our agriculture and rural communities."

"I appreciate the hard work of the Task Force on the Future of Agriculture to create this strategic plan," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Kentucky agriculture has made great progress toward diversifying our farm economy and making agriculture more profitable. With this plan as a guide, we will be able to build on the gains we have made."

"During the past year, I witnessed a core group of agricultural leaders who ... have provided a unified strategic plan and road map to guide Kentucky's farm families to a brighter and more profitable tomorrow," task force Chairman Tony Brannon wrote in a letter in the strategic plan.

The plan is centered on two main goals: increasing net farm income and improving the quality of life for rural communities. Specifically, it calls for continuing the investment of 50 percent of Kentucky's share of tobacco settlement funds into agricultural diversification while also investing state General Fund dollars into Kentucky agriculture.

The plan addresses 6 key topic areas with specific goals, actions and benchmarks for each one:

1. Agricultural Production and Consumer Marketing
2. AgriEnergy
3. Education
4. Public Awareness & Advocacy
5. Rural Communities: quality of life, conservation, and leadership development
6. Ag Development Fund and Supporting Governmental Actions

For a copy of the strategic plan, [Click Here](#).