

# Kentucky Agricultural Council

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## *Minutes of the August 14, 2008 Meeting*

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on **August 14, 2008 at 10:30 AM EDT** at the Kentucky Exposition Center in conjunction with the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, KY. Dr. Tony Brannon, chair, called the meeting to order.

### **Welcome**

Dr. Tony Brannon welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Agricultural Council. Special guests: Governor Steve Beshear and Commissioner Richie Farmer.

Dr. Brannon introduced Commissioner Richie Farmer to the group. Commissioner Farmer brought greetings. He stated that as he looked out into the crowd, he saw many faces of busy people who have an interest in agriculture. Commissioner Farmer commended the group for the work they had done. He stated that the group did a great job with the plan and he looked forward to working with group to implement the plan. He also wanted to say thanks for taking time out of their schedules. He said that he and Governor Beshear are committed to moving agriculture forward. Many great things have been started and there is more come.

Then, Commissioner Farmer introduced Governor Beshear to bring greetings to the group. Governor Beshear stated that some may remember last year in a campaign that went on, he said over and over again that did not matter if you were a democrat or a republican, everyone needs to work together to move the Commonwealth along. Some words are said in campaign and he meant what he said. When the votes are counted and the election is over, he expected everyone to come together and work. There is no better example than the strategic plan for agriculture. The way to make a difference is to have a consistency of purpose, no matter who is in office and stick to those plans. The implementation may have to shift around because it is a living document. Over 50 organizations came together and see what you can do when you work together, even with diverse interests. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy and continues to strengthen and expand. The energy field is wide open and Kentucky will become the energy capital of the world. Fertile farmland will play a major role along with the coal field. Governor Beshear stated that he is tired of watching money go over seas to other countries that do not like us. This country will remain hostage until we decide to take our destiny into our own hands. The energy crisis will not go away until we decide to take our destiny and produce our own energy. This will create a lot of jobs and expand markets for our products. Energy is not the only thing in our future, but it is a big part. We need to start taking care of ourselves more. Farmers' markets are vital to our future and the more people understand, the more they will know about Kentucky Proud products. Governor Beshear commended Commissioner Farmer for the brand and stated that it is growing by leaps and bounds. Governor Beshear and Commissioner Farmer have formed a partnership because their interests are the same, such as making agriculture flourish for the people of the state. It is important to maintain the farm as a basic structure. If we lose this philosophy, the state will never be the same. Commissioner Farmer commented on a point that Governor Beshear touched on. He said one thing that was discussed when the strategic plan first began is that there are 50

people sitting down together. It took sacrifice and hard work and many realized they had the same issues and problems. Commissioner Farmer stated that he is looking forward to great things in next three years.

## **Roll Call**

### ***Members Present***

Roger Quarles, Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association; Rick Alexander, Commodity Growers Cooperative; Tony Herrington & Frank McAnnich, Community Farm Alliance; Don Llewellyn, Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Michael Judge, Christi Marksbury, Roger Thomas, & Angela Blank, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Agricultural Development Board & Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Bill McCloskey & Tim Hughes, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Quint Pottinger, Kentucky FFA Association; Dave Maples & Billy Glen Turpin; Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Jim Sidebottom & Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Association; Mac Stone & Clint Quarles, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; David Beck, Scott Christmas, & Jeff Harper, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation; Jeff Hall, Kentucky Farm Service Agency; Jeff Pendleton & Brent Williams, Kentucky Feed and Grain Association; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Goat Producers Association; Todd Ryan & Dwayne Ingram, Kentucky Horticulture Council; Tod Ryan, Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association; Mike Ovesen, Kentucky Pork Producers Association; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association, Lawrence Hust, Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association; Aaron Reding, Kentucky Soybean Association; Robert Barney, Kentucky State University; Aaron , Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Curt Lucas, Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association; Jenny Inman, Kentucky Women in Agriculture; David Henderman, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association; Mike Phillips, Morehead State University Department of Agriculture; Bill Lawrence, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Lab; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Jim Mahan, PACE Board; Scott Smith, Nancy Cox, Will Snell, and Drew Graham, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Jamie Sloan, USDA Rural Development; Todd Willian & Jack Rudolph, Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture

### ***Others Present***

Billy Ray Smith, Jean Marie Weiss, Beverly Lawson, Pamela Meador, Dawn Riley, Steven Spalding

## **Committee Meetings**

Dr. Brannon stated that the first item on the agenda was for the six committees to convene for an introductory meeting.

For a normal meeting, the committees would convene before or after the Kentucky Agricultural Council meetings. This meeting was an exception due to the opening of the Kentucky State Fair.

(All committee reports are attached to the minutes.)

## **Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2008 Meeting**

Dr. Tony Brannon presented the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting.

Michael Judge (Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy) moved to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2007 meeting of the Kentucky Agricultural Council; Aaron Redding (Kentucky Soybean Association) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Tony Brannon presented the Treasurer's Report for the Kentucky Agricultural Council. The balance as of June 12, 2008 was \$1,337.69.

The motion was made by Curt Lucas (Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association) to accept the treasurer's report; Jenny Inman (Kentucky Women in Agriculture) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

## **Kentucky Agricultural Council Business**

Based on action from the Council, an application was submitted to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. It was approved at the June board meeting. Dr. Brannon thanked the entire board, but especially Sam Moore, Sam Lawson, Jim Mahan, and Jim Sidebottom since they are on the Kentucky Agricultural Council and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. Some questions were asked by the board members and answers were available to them. The Staff Working Group and the Executive Committee reviewed the application. The application runs from September 2008 to August 2010. A portion of the application is the feasibility study. The position announcement was available for the group at the back of the room.

The professional management position has three parts. Part one will work with the council to implement the strategic plan. Part two is for professional management and part three is to conduct a feasibility study. In-kind match must be provided by the groups involved to the tune of \$25,000. This is a part of the contract with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. Dr. Brannon asked that everyone take the information to pass out to interested parties. The information will be posted on the website as well. The deadline for applications is September 5, 2008. The public relations committee will be re-enacted to help get the word out about the position. There will be a possible press release as well. The original application stated that the position would be filled by September 1, 2008. This will not be possible, but hopefully shortly thereafter. Dr. Brannon asked the Executive Committee to serve as the screening/hiring committee and report back to membership of the Kentucky Agricultural Council.

There are two notifications pertaining to the council and bylaws. Anyone can be a member of the Kentucky Agricultural Council and a formal request has been submitted from the Kentucky FFA Foundation, Inc. and the Kentucky Friends of 4-H Foundation. This request is noted, will be filed, and be a part of the official records. Dr. Brannon also recognized Dr. Robert Barney from Kentucky State University and welcomed him back to the group.

## **Kentucky Agricultural Council Organization Updates**

Kentucky Department of Agriculture - Mac Stone reported that the budget cuts were hard on the department and Commissioner Farmer made some tough decisions. There had been downsizing and less staff is trying to cover the bases. He asked that people be sure to stay in communication with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The budget for 2010 will be even tighter and everyone must work together to try not to create hardships. The Farm Bill was discussed and more federal funds will be solicited to replace general fund money. The department is trying to strengthen the foundation of the food safety and Kentucky Proud programs.

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy – Michael Judge reported that he was glad the Governor attended the meeting and he appreciated his comments. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board had a direct budget transfer of close to \$20 million. Mr. Judge chimed in on Mr. Stone's comments about the 2010 budget. It will take everyone working together and telling the story to keep the funds. He stated he was pleased the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board funded the grant for the Kentucky Agricultural Council, but it will be a challenge to raise the \$25,000.

The K.A.R.E. program ended in July with 118 of 120 counties participating. Over \$9.1 million is going out to the counties and many counties have committed additional funds. Eight regional administrator workshops were held across the state to invite agents and administrators to go over documentation and reporting. The workshops were very well attended. The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation is proposing a veterinary loan program and hoping to vote at their September meeting. Then the loan program will be passed to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board for approval. Several board members were in the room, including Sam Lawson, Jim Mahan, and Jim Sidebottom. Jim Sidebottom is a new member. Other new members are Pat Henderson and Troy Rankin. Two new staff were been hired this summer. Diane Fleming is the General Council and the new project analyst is Jennifer Hudnall. If anyone gets a chance, please top by and see the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy booth. The August board meeting will be held on Friday, August 15 at 9:00 PM ET. All are welcome to attend.

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture – Dean Scott Smith stated that the College had a record class for this year. The University is planning to do a groundbreaking ceremony on the diagnostic center at Ag Roundup. County agent positions are frozen because of budget cuts and 25 staff and faculty positions were lost.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation – David Beck informed the group that the advisory committees are beginning to meet for Kentucky Farm Bureau. The organization is also preparing delegates for the upcoming state convention.

Kentucky Farm Service Agency– Jeff Hall informed the groups that NRCS has selected a new state conservationist, who will start after Labor Day.

Kentucky Dairy Development Council – Maury Cox reported that the dairy awards banquet will be on Friday evening, August 15, 2008. Awards will be presented and for the first time, a milk hauler quality award will be given for the state. Participation in the organization is way up for the year.

FFA – Curt Lucas invited supporters to the West Hall to view the FFA exhibits. He also encouraged everyone to attend the youth livestock shows and the Sale of Champions. Mr. Lucas reported that Louisville is one of two cities that is the finalist for the National FFA Convention and the city will be announced in November. If Louisville is the pick city, the convention will start here in 2013 and the center of the FFA universe will return to Kentucky.

USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office – Leland Brown stated that agriculture receipts will be released on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM EDT.