

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Minutes of the November 14, 2008 Meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on **November 14, 2008** at **9:30 AM EDT** at the Kentucky Exposition Center in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition 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.

Roll Call

Members Present

Tod Griffin, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky; Tony Herrington, Community Farm Alliance; Dean Wallace, Council for Burley Tobacco; Bruce Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Robert Monk, Farm Credit Services; Roger Thomas & Michael Judge, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Keith Rogers, Kentucky 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Sam Moore, Kentucky Agricultural Development Board; Tim Hughes, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Curt Lucas, Kentucky FFA Association; Dave Maples & Billy Glen Turpin, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Todd Barlow, Kentucky Corn Growers Association; Steve Mobley, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; Ginny Grulke, Kentucky Equine Education Project and Kentucky Horse Council; Mark Haney & Jeff Harper, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation; Jeff Hall, Kentucky Farm Service Agency; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Goat Producers Association; C.A. "Ottie" Pantle, Kentucky Horticulture Council; Todd Ryan, Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association; Mike Ovesen, Kentucky Pork Producers Association; Dan Flanagan, Kentucky Poultry Federation; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Debbie Ellis, Jaime Vincent & Becky Hicks, Kentucky Soybean Association; Curt Lucas, Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association; Jenny Inman, Kentucky Women in Agriculture; David Henderman, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association; Wade Northington, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Lab; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Francis Brown, PACE Board; Scott Smith & Nancy Cox, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Elmer Gray, Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture

Others Present

Angela Blank, Virginia Flanagan, Christi Marksby, Harvey Mitchell, Will Snell, Jean Marie Weiss, Dawn Riley, Steven Spalding

Approve Minutes of the December 17, 2007 Task Force Meeting and the August 14, 2008 Meeting

Dr. Tony Brannon presented the minutes of the December 17, 2007 TASK FORCE meeting. These minutes need approval so they may be posted on the KAC website. Dan Flanagan, KY Poultry Association moved to accept the minutes; Tod Griffin, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Dr. Tony Brannon presented the minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting. Curt Lucas, Kentucky Association FFA, moved to accept the minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting of the Kentucky Agricultural Council; 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 November 1, 2008 was \$1,151.59 for the KAC Account and \$79,250.00 for the 2nd GOAP/ADB Grant account.

The motion was made by Mark Haney, Kentucky Farm Bureau to accept the treasurer's report; Robert Monk, Farm Credit Services seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Kentucky Agricultural Council Organization Updates

Kentucky Department of Agriculture – Steve Mobley from the Ag Marketing Division reported on 2 of things that KDA is involved with in his area of Show and Fair Promotion – Youth Livestock Shows and the County Fair Grant Program.

The Youth Livestock Shows are geographically diverse and involve children of all ages that are enrolled in 4H or FFA. The 3 main events are held in Morehead, Murray and at the Western Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo. KDA also supports the Beef Expo in March, the KY Dairy Nationals in April, the KY State Fair and the NAILE.

The County Fair Grant Program provides approximately \$500,000/year to fairs through a grant process. 18 counties have been funded with about \$1.5 million. There is currently only 1 more year of funding available. Projects include adding bleachers, improving restroom facilities, building barns and making land acquisitions. This is truly grassroots Kentucky and grassroots agriculture – giving back to communities.

Aside from the grant program, KDA provides other forms of assistance to County Fairs that offer youth events. 110 counties out of 120 participate in a matching program. About 2 million of the Commonwealth's 4 million population will attend a county fair every year.

Dave Maples thanked Steve for all of his work in this arena and told the entire group how important this was to his family as well as all youth throughout our state.

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy – Roger Thomas recognized Christi Marksburly for all of her hard work at GOAP and her work with the KAC. Mr. Thomas expressed encouraging words from Governor Beshear for the KAC to keep up the good work. There is still lots of work to be done. Mr. Thomas reported on the presence Kentucky Agriculture had at the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie, GA. Kentucky was represented by the GOAP, KDA, UK and the Kentucky Farm Bureau. Loretta Lyons, Farmer of the Year, represented our state well. Special thanks to Jeff Hall and USDA for responding favorably to the request by Governor Beshear, Commissioner Farmer and the Kentucky Farm Bureau for the Disaster Declaration due to drought and storms for all 120 counties.

The K.A.R.E. program with the help of Steve Coleman is now up to \$11+million with County input. The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation has made 268 loans for

approximately \$ 28 million. There is currently a request in for the ADB to transfer additional funds. This is part of the Strategic Plan's proposal to grow a revolving fund and will be taken up at the November ADB meeting. The ADB is also considering a low interest loan program for large animal vets at the November meeting. UK will also be unveiling its evaluation of how the Ag. Development Board has invested its money. Special thanks to Keith Rogers for having the foresight to request this evaluation.

Governor Beshear will be rolling out his new Energy Policy and ag will have a part to play. On October 8th, First Lady, Jane Beshear hosted the 2nd Farmers Market at the State Capital and she and others are looking for a way to make it easier to continue as well as including State Parks in future farmers' markets events. Michael Tobin is joining the GOAP Staff as a project analyst.

Mr. Thomas also invited everyone to the ADF Annual Meeting, January 15 and 16, 2009 in Lexington. Chris Chinn of Missouri will be the guest speaker at the Awards Luncheon.

Kentucky Agricultural Council Business

Dr. Brannon made a few comments regarding last year's "Top 10" list. He noted there had been some success and some still needed work. He urged the group to start thinking about this and that we would return to a more formal discussion later in the agenda.

Dr. Brannon turned to the next item of business - an invitation received by the KAC for a Future of Agriculture Conference in Miami, Ohio. The request is for a representative of KAC, in particular someone involved in the Task Force process, attend and describe how KAC went through the process of developing a strategic plan for agriculture. Dr. Brannon said he had had preliminary discussions with the KDA and GOAP. A motion was made by Dr. Bruce Pratt from Eastern Kentucky University to send a representative. The motion was seconded by Curt Lucas of the Kentucky Association FFA. The motion passed with no dissent.

Dr. Brannon next provided an update on the ADB Grant. All documents have been executed, funds received, and a search and selection process completed. 2 applications were received for consideration. They were quality application and they were fully analyzed and discussed. The selection/executive committee reached a decision to hire Point A Consulting. An agreement was finalized and Point A Consulting began work on October 15th.

Steven Spalding of Point A Consulting made a presentation to the group. He pointed out that this was a joint venture of Point A and Dawn Riley Consulting. He and Dawn Riley were both extremely honored to have been part of the Task Force Process and the development of the Strategic Plan and are now eager to participate in the continued movement of the KAC and the Plan. In an effort to conserve time for committee reports, Mr. Spalding directed everyone to the PowerPoint presentation which was handed out prior to the meeting for further information about how we will proceed.

Dr. Brannon pointed out that now was a transition time for the meeting as well as a transition time for how KAC would be proceeding in the future. Based on communications with the 6 Committee Chairmen and the professional staff, committee meetings will be held during the interim time of quarterly meetings. Committee reports and minutes of those meetings will be made at the quarterly meetings of the KAC.

Dr. Brannon also made comments regarding the PR committee. He said that now it is more important than ever for us to be accountable to the ADB and in turn to the people of Kentucky. He encouraged the GOAP, KDA and KFB to remain active in the PR Committee and assist us with the KAC work.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports

The Chairmen of the 6 committees came forward to give their reports. They are as follows: Dave Maples, Ag Production and Marketing; Tod Griffin, Agri-Energy; Tony Brannon, Education; Will Snell and Jeff Hall, Public Awareness; Robert Monk, Rural Communities; Michael Judge for Mac Stone, ADF and Supporting Agencies.

The chairs basically covered the material that was included in the minutes of their committee meetings in August. Minutes of those committee meetings were included in the information packet provided before this meeting.

Following the reports, Dr. Brannon once again, emphasized that interim committee meetings will be held to take each topic area to a new level. These meetings will be made known to everyone, the meetings will be open and he encourage committee chairs to bring in experts in their respective fields.

Dr. Brannon now returned to the subject of the "Top 10" list. It was suggested that a joint meeting of the public awareness, PR and ADF and Supporting Agency committees be held to prepare a fact sheet, presentation, etc... for the upcoming General Assembly. Dean Smith spoke to that fact that this seemed to be a move from much more specific actions such as hearing about programs and projects. Dean Smith pointed out that this was a VERY significant transition for KAC, one that appeared to be pitting one project versus another and/or one funding line versus another. David Henderman from the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association also pointed out that all but 1 item has money/appropriations involved. Considering the economic times we are in, he said that he and the Woodland Owners Association wanted to focus on legislation that helps woodland owners but does not cost any money. He hopes that the KAC will work on legislation that will improve the ability to do agricultural activities in Kentucky.

Ray Bowman brought up the issue of Large Animal vs. Food Animal. He wants to make sure sheep, goat and poultry are addressed in the issue of the need for veterinarians. The representative from KEEP pointed out that horses are large animals but not food animals. The discussion suggested that we change the language regarding the need for veterinarians from large animal veterinarians to food animal veterinarians.

Curt Lucas also suggested that the term biofuels be changed to renewable energy. Robert Monk wanted "funding" removed. Tod Griffin made a statement urging that it is important for KAC to get our ideas in front of the legislators early and that we must keep asking for money or someone else will and the dollars we need will be lost to other projects. Ginny Flanagan made thanks to the KAC for promoting the Kentucky Ag Heritage Center and having it be a priority. The KAHC received \$10million and they are very excited about moving forward with their mission. The current economic situation has altered the plans a bit but have not halted them.

Dr. Brannon called for a vote to proceed with an education/fact sheet and to allow leaders to communicate with the legislators. The information piece would be developed with the Committee Chairs in consultation with the professional staff and the executive committee. The executive committee is made up of the Chairman, Tony Brannon; Immediate Past Chair, Tod Griffin; Chair Elect, Keith Rogers; Treasurer, Steve Coleman; Public Sector Representative, Jeff Hall; and Private Sector Representative, Dave Maples. No motion was made from the floor and therefore no action was taken on this item of business.

Dr. Brannon announced that the next meeting would be in February at the Farm Machinery Show. Other quarterly meetings will be held at the FFA Convention in June, the State Fair in August and again in November of 2009 at the NAILE.

Dr. Brannon concluded the meeting with a charge to the committees and staff to move forward, continue to improve on information sharing, and implementation of the plan. The next meeting will welcome Keith Rogers as the Chairman of KAC. Tod Griffin spoke to thank Tony for his hard work seeing that the Plan was developed and moving everything forward for implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM EST.