

Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Lawmakers prepare for 2026 Regular Session

Kentucky lawmakers return to Frankfort as this year’s legislative interim began on Tuesday, June 3. The interim, the period of time between the adjournment of one regular session until the convening of the next, is when we lay the groundwork for our next session. In fact, if you want to know what will be on our agenda for 2026, look no further than the committee and task force meetings that will take place between now and December. The interim also provides lawmakers an opportunity to keep an eye on how the legislation enacted in previous sessions is being implemented.

Committee and task force meetings are open to the public and generally held in the Capitol Annex. Those who cannot travel to Frankfort are invited to follow along and track the legislature’s progress through a variety of free and easily accessible ways:

- Livestreaming: The Kentucky General Assembly offers livestreaming of all legislative committee meetings at the Legislative Research Commission’s YouTube site, @KYLR-CommitteeMeetings. Kentucky Educational Television (KET) also offers livestream coverage of many legislative committee meetings on their website. Both sites maintain archives of past meetings. House Majority Caucus press conferences and media availabilities are also livestreamed on the Caucus Facebook page, @KY-HouseGOP and made available on YouTube @KY HouseGOP.

- Website: The legislature’s administrative body, the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), maintains legislature.ky.gov, a website with links to legisla-

tion, schedules, current statutes, and individual legislators. The website also includes information from previous sessions and legislative interims.

- Information about individual members of the House can be found on the LRC website at <https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislators/house-of-representatives>.

- Members of the public who do not know which House District they live in can use the search function found at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/findyourlegislator/findyourlegislator.html>.

- Interim Schedule: The official interim calendar is available under Schedules and Calendars at legislature.ky.gov. Please note, this schedule is subject to change. Updates will be available on the website.

- Committee Information: Information about interim joint committees, task forces, and statutory committees, can be found at legislature.ky.gov.

Leadership from the House and Senate created the following task forces for this interim. Task forces are generally temporary and focus on some of the hot topics in our Commonwealth.

Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force: This task force will review how Kentucky prepares for and responds to natural disasters like floods and tornadoes. Members will evaluate emergency plans, recovery systems, and housing efforts to recommend improvements that strengthen communities, protect lives and property, and build long-term resiliency across the state.

Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force: This group will examine Kentucky’s aviation and aerospace industries, including new technologies like drones. Members will study

airport facilities, potential for growth, and find out what works and what does not work in other states.

Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force: This task force will explore ways to improve Kentuckians’ health by focusing on diet, exercise, access to care, and preventing chronic diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. Members will study successful strategies that work in other areas and recommend practical ways, proven by research, to help people live longer, healthier lives through prevention and early access to care.

Artificial Intelligence Task Force: This task force will study the role of artificial intelligence in Kentucky’s economy and government. It will explore responsible AI adoption, governance frameworks, and digital infrastructure needs while promoting innovation, public education, and policies that balance opportunity with privacy, safety, and ethical standards.

Kentucky Housing Task Force: This group will look at how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used in Kentucky’s economy and government. They will study how to use AI in a safe and fair way, make rules for how it should work, and see what kind of technology is needed to support it. They also want to help people learn more about AI and create policies that support new ideas while protecting people’s privacy, safety, and rights.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



Extension Notes
lewis.ca.uky.edu
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Kennedy Cannon
Lewis County Extension Office



Managing your herd’s pinkeye long before the first ‘bad eye’ of the season

Source: Michelle Arnold, DVM (University of Kentucky Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory)

Pinkeye, or Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is one of the most frustrating and costly diseases beef producers face. It negatively affects weaning weights, increases treatment costs and leads to discounts at sale due to corneal scarring. While it spreads quickly once it starts, the key to managing pinkeye lies in reducing risk—long before the first bad eye of the season.

Understanding the Disease

Pinkeye is caused by a complex mix of bacteria, most notably *Moraxella bovis*, *Moraxella bovoculi*, and *Mycoplasma bovoculi*. These organisms can live harmlessly in the eye until certain conditions—like eye injury or irritation—trigger them to become aggressive. *M. bovis*, for example, uses hairlike pili to attach to damaged corneas and releases toxins that destroy corneal tissue—leading to painful ulcers.

New research shows that pinkeye involves more than just one bacterium, making vaccine development difficult. Some strains are considered harmless, while others are highly virulent and resistant to antibiotics.

Reducing Risk Starts Early

Reducing the risk of pinkeye begins with strengthening your herd’s natural defenses. Good nutrition, especially adequate levels of trace minerals like selenium and copper, is essential. Clean, cool water helps maintain hydration and tear production, which pro-

TECTS the eye. Avoid stagnant water sources and regularly clean automatic waterers.

Environmental irritants are major contributors. Dust, ultraviolet (UV) rays, tall weeds and seed heads can all damage the eye, making it possible for bacteria to take hold. White-faced breeds like Herefords are more susceptible due to increased UV reflection to the eye’s surface. Providing shade and mowing pastures can help reduce these risks.

Face Fly Control

Face flies are the primary transmitters of pinkeye bacteria. They feed on eye secretions and can spread infection from animal to animal. Unlike horn flies, face flies aren’t affected by systemic insecticides. Instead, use a combination of feed-through insect growth regulators (IGRs), insecticide ear tags, dust bags and back rubbers strategically placed in high-traffic areas.

Start IGRs in mid-spring, about 30 days before fly season, and continue until 30 days after it ends. Rotate insecticide products annually, based on mode of action (MOA), to prevent resistance. Aim to keep face fly numbers below 10 per head.

Recognizing Symptoms and Acting Fast

Early signs of pinkeye may include excessive tearing, squinting and blinking. Prompt treatment is critical to prevent spread and minimize damage. Long-acting injectable antibiotics like oxy-

tetracycline (LA-300®) or tetrathromycin (Draxxin®) are effective and labeled for pinkeye treatment. In severe cases, eye patches or surgical procedures may be needed to protect the cornea.

Topical fly repellents and isolating affected animals can also help reduce transmission. Always consult your veterinarian for treatment decisions and prescriptions.

The Role of Vaccines

Vaccines can reduce the number and severity of cases but aren’t foolproof. Commercial vaccines work best when the strain in the vaccine matches the strain in your herd. When they don’t, custom-made (autogenous) vaccines may be more effective.

Timing is key—start vaccinations 4–6 weeks before pinkeye season and follow up with a booster for full protection.

Pinkeye is a complex disease, but control is possible with a proactive approach. Focus on nutrition, clean water, fly control and minimizing eye irritants. Work closely with your veterinarian to develop a treatment and vaccination plan tailored to your herd. With early action and consistent management, you can reduce the impact of pinkeye and keep your cattle healthy and productive.

Contact your local Lewis County Extension office or veterinarian for more information on how to address pinkeye in cattle.

Source publication: Pinkeye Fact Sheet



Elsie and Red.

LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

NOTICE TO LEWIS COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Leslie A. Collier, Lewis County Clerk pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2024 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the LEWIS COUNTY HERALD on June 17, 2025.

The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the County Clerk’s office located at 112 Second Street, Suite 206, Vanceburg, KY 41179. This list may also be inspected on the Lewis County Clerk’s website. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the website is www.lewiscountyclerk.ky.gov.

The tax sale will be held on July 18, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk’s office by the close of business on July 8, 2025. Please contact the County Clerk’s office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk’s office any time prior to the tax sale.

Please Note: All payments must be received in the County Clerk’s office prior to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.

Some delinquencies – although they have been advertised – will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk’s office at 606-796-3062.

An additional fee will be added to each tax bill for advertisement costs.