

2026 Legislative Session Created Investments and Opportunities for Agriculture Industry

The 2026 Kentucky legislative session delivered one of the most impactful and forward-looking outcomes for agriculture in recent history, securing major investments, expanding opportunities for farmers, and strengthening the future of the Commonwealth's. During the 2026 legislative session, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture was allocated \$20.9 million in General Fund dollars for Fiscal Year 2026 and \$22.9 million for Fiscal Year 2027. The budget reflects a continued commitment to programs that strengthen agriculture at every level and support Kentucky communities, including: \$886,500 in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$819,300 in Fiscal Year 2027 for the Raising Hope Initiative, addressing rural mental health, suicide prevention, and farm safety; \$886,500 in Fiscal Year

2026 and \$819,300 in Fiscal Year 2027 for the Farms to Food Banks program, connecting Kentucky farmers with food banks to fight food insecurity; and \$720,000 in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$697,500 in Fiscal Year 2027 for County Fair Grants, supporting improvements to local fair facilities and strengthening community agriculture traditions.

In addition to these investments, legislators appropriated \$5 million annually from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund for the Kentucky Agricultural Economic Development Board (KAEDB). This funding represents a historic step forward - marking only the second time general fund dollars have been dedicated to agricultural development outside of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

The KAEDB plays a critical role in driving

agricultural innovation, expanding economic opportunities, and supporting long-term growth across Kentucky's rural communities. Through strategic investments, the board is helping position Kentucky agriculture for the future.

Further strengthening the industry, \$35.4 million in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$32.7 million in Fiscal Year 2027 from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement were allocated to the Agricultural Development Fund. These funds support grants, incentives, and low-interest loans through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation, helping farmers modernize operations, diversify, and remain competitive.

The General Assembly also advanced key policies to expand markets and improve quality

of life for Kentuckians. Two major legislative wins centered on the connection between agriculture and health:

•Senate Bill 5 (SB5) creates new opportunities for Kentucky farmers by making it easier for schools to purchase Kentucky-grown products. The bill allows school districts participating in USDA Child Nutrition programs greater flexibility in purchasing local food — helping keep Kentucky food on Kentucky trays while supporting local producers.

•Senate Joint Resolution 23 (SJR 23) declares Kentucky a Food is Medicine state, reinforcing the role of agriculture in improving public health. The resolution builds on the partnership between KDA and the Kentucky Hospital Association to expand access to nutritious, locally grown

foods through initiatives such as medically tailored meals, produce prescriptions, and community-based food programs. The resolution also directs the Personnel Cabinet to incorporate Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs into state employee wellness benefits - creating new markets for farmers while improving access to fresh food.

Additional legislative achievements further strengthened Kentucky agriculture:

•Senate Bill 30 supports Kentucky's dairy industry by allowing milk haulers to operate more efficiently, increasing allowable weights while maintaining safety standards - reducing costs and improving logistics for dairy producers.

•House Bill 869 positions Kentucky as a leader in the emerging

alternative aviation fuel industry by establishing a nonrefundable tax credit for producers. This forward-looking policy creates new markets for agricultural products, attracts investment, and strengthens the state's role in a growing energy sector.

•Senate Bill 155 enhances animal health protections by giving the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, the authority to declare animal health emergencies - ensuring swift action to protect livestock, poultry, and the broader agricultural industry.

•House Bill 56 modernizes regulatory processes by updating inspection requirements and removing outdated statutes, allowing KDA to operate more efficiently and better serve Kentucky producers.

Safe Summer Boating Practices

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources reminds boaters and motorists to be safe as they get out on the water and roads during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Simple safety precautions help to minimize injuries and incidents. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife game wardens suggest the following tips when heading out on the water:

Wear a Life Jacket: Kentucky law requires each occupant of a boat to have ready access to a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket that properly fits each person. Children younger than 12 must wear an appropriately fitting life jacket at all times while in the open portion of a boat that is underway. Life Jacket Loaner Stations, available in a growing number of locations across the state, allow boating parties to borrow life jackets temporarily. Make wearing a life jacket a habit for the boat operator and passengers.

Use an Engine Cut-Off Switch: It only takes a second for something to go wrong when operating a powerboat. Using an engine cut-off switch is vital when unexpected emergencies happen, such as the boat operator or a passenger being thrown overboard. Automatically shutting down the engine can prevent injuries from a boat propeller or from striking other boats.

Boat Sober: Every year, alcohol is the leading cause of injuries and accidents on Kentucky waterways. Oftentimes, this leads to individuals leaving the lake and driving under the influence, putting everyone on the roadways in danger.

Take a Safe Boating Course: Boaters should familiarize themselves with Kentucky boating laws, regulations and navigation rules before heading out. Kentucky law requires that youth 12 to 17 years old and unaccompanied must complete a boater safety course.

Double Check Boating Equipment: Don't assume that boat equipment is still on board and in working order after the winter. Be sure to check the working condition and presence of all safety gear. Replace batteries and any equipment that may be missing or in poor

working order.

Be Aware of Surroundings: Operator inattention and improper lookout are contributing factors in many boating accidents. Always stay focused and alert while operating a vessel. Watch for signage and warnings regarding low-head dams or other dangers. Be aware that these dangers may not be marked.

Stay Weather Aware: Check the weather forecast and be prepared for changing conditions. Sudden storms or rough waters can pose significant dangers. Always have a reliable means of communication onboard to

receive weather updates.

File a Float Plan: Provide boating plans with someone ashore before getting on the water. File a Float Plan with a friend or family member detailing the day's itinerary and all the people going out. In the event of an emergency, this information can be crucial for rescuers.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Waterbodies Search webpage shows that Kentucky has many lakes and streams on which to enjoy fishing and boating. Boaters are advised to check the status of boat ramps before leaving the house. Conditions may vary between waterbodies,

which may cause a closure to some ramps but not others.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife game wardens will be patrolling the state's waterways over Memorial Day weekend to check boaters for legal and safety considerations, including life jackets, boat registration, watercraft safety and possible impairment. The U.S. Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies will also be patrolling Kentucky waters.

For emergencies, call 911. For assistance while on the water call 800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378) or contact a local law enforcement agency or nearest Kentucky State Police post.

Marine channel 16 can be used to contact a local marina.

The Fish Boat KY smartphone app, available for iOS and Android, allows boaters to buy a fishing license, find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find fish stocking schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. Download the app at Fish Boat KY App on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov) or search for "Fish Boat KY" in your preferred app store.

Additional boating information can be found on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at Boating - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife. The department's 2026-2027 Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide also provides basic boating information, including regulations, and can be viewed online or printed. Kentucky boat registrations expire April 30 each year, so owners who haven't already done so must renew them through their county clerk's office. *submitted*

May 21st Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

1. Government lawyers
4. The back of a person's neck
8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
10. In a less flashy way
11. Living room piece
12. Shepherd dog
13. A citizen of Iran
15. Moved slowly
16. Small finch
17. Previously
18. What a kid does on Halloween
21. Monetary unit
22. Using dry humor
23. Ocean
24. Greek goddess of the dawn
25. Not close
26. NHL legend Bobby
27. A ballplayer would love to do this
34. Charity
35. City in Finland
36. Loomed over
37. Vaccine developer
38. Avoids capture
39. We all need it
40. Openwork fabrics
41. Get away
42. Something you might hit
43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Abstain from
2. Admirer
3. Expedition to observe animals
4. Act that is legally void
5. WW2 combatants
6. A tool
7. Looked at
9. Showing wild excitement
10. Banknotes
12. Tired
14. Printers need it
15. Women's patriotic group
17. When you anticipate getting somewhere
19. Functions
20. Breed of sheep
23. Mocking pieces
24. A major division of geological time
25. Andiron
26. Many not ands
27. Cuban city
28. He voiced "Olaf"
29. Criticize
30. "Thundercats" character
31. Markings
32. Gets up
33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
34. An assembly of witches
36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

Answers to 5/14/26 puzzle.

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BRACKEN CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00117**

**WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY,
FSB AS TRUSTEE OF DISCOVERY
MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST**

PLAINTIFF

VS.

BRADLEY A. WORKMAN, ET. ALS.

DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF SALE
MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE**
*** **

In obedience to an Order of sale entered on the 16th day of April, 2026, in the above action, I will, as Master Commissioner proceed on:

**FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026
INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE
BRACKEN COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
BROOKSVILLE, BRACKEN COUNTY,
KENTUCKY AT 10:00 a.m.**

to sell the real estate consisting of a One Acre Lot on which sets a converted 2006 mobile/manufactured home located at 1277 Dutch Ridge Road, Augusta, KY. Legal description shown of record at (Deed Book 187, Page 194 Bracken County Clerk's Records). Parcel Mapping number: 52-09-05.

This sale is to satisfy Judgment in the sum of \$103,600.28, plus interest. The purchaser may pay in full on the day of sale if he/she chooses to do so. Otherwise, the purchaser immediately after the sale shall pay not less than 10% of the purchase price, and execute bond with surety, who is a Kentucky resident and who is approved by the Master Commissioner, for the balance of the purchase price, payable to the Bracken Circuit Court Clerk within thirty days with interest at 6.00% per annum on the balance from date of sale until paid in full. The bond shall have the force of a judgment and a first lien shall be retained on the property as security for the payment of said bond and interest. The purchaser shall at his/her own expense carry fire and extended coverage insurance on all insurable improvements located on the real property from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full, with loss payable to the Master Commissioner. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed against the property for 2026 and all subsequent years. The title interest of the parties to this lawsuit will be conveyed without warranty by the Master Commissioner to the purchaser and the purchaser shall be entitled to possession upon payment of the purchase price in full after confirmation of the sale by Bracken Circuit Court, subject to any equity of redemption if the property does not sell for two-thirds of its appraised value.

**MICHAEL A. CLARK
MASTER COMMISSIONER
BRACKEN CIRCUIT COURT**

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