

# Ag Commissioner Shell announces Specialty Crop application window is now open

## Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, honey included in list of specialty crops

The proposal window for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is now open, Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced. “With the intention of making Kentucky specialty crops more competitive in domestic and foreign markets, the specialty crop program is seeking application proposals to creatively increase those areas of interest,” Commissioner Shell said. “While Kentucky’s specialty crop industry already makes up a significant part of the

state’s agricultural economy, there’s always room for growth.” When applying, applicants must describe how the project potentially affects and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Privately owned companies, small business owners, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and quasi-government entities, including public universities, are eligible to apply. All projects are subject to the availability of funds. The Kentucky Department

of Agriculture (KDA) will not award grant funds for projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide profit to a single organization, institution, or individual. Based on a recent survey of Kentucky specialty crop industry experts, funding priorities for 2026 grants include: Pest and disease control; Specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes; Improving efficiency and reducing costs of dis-

tribution systems; and Enhancing food safety. Other project focuses include, but are not limited to, sustainability, developing good agricultural handling and manufacturing practices, developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops, and increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops. Preliminary proposals must be submitted on the form at [kyagr.com/marketing/documents/SC\\_Concept\\_Proposal.pdf](http://kyagr.com/marketing/documents/SC_Concept_Proposal.pdf) and emailed to

Anne Harney at [Anne.Harney@ky.gov](mailto:Anne.Harney@ky.gov) no later than 4:30 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2026. Qualifying applicants will be notified and invited to complete a full grant application. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticultural products, nursery crops (including floriculture), and honey. For a comprehensive list, interested parties may visit [ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop](http://ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop). KDA is administering Kentucky's share

of the \$86.6 million in grant funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as announced on April 13, 2026. For 2026, Kentucky anticipates receiving \$413,908.66. KDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award the grant funds. For more information about the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, go to [kyagr.com/marketing/crop-block-grant.html](http://kyagr.com/marketing/crop-block-grant.html) or contact Anne Harney at (502) 782-4102 or [Anne.Harney@ky.gov](mailto:Anne.Harney@ky.gov).

# Kentucky Fish and Wildlife spring auction set for May 4

## Department to sell surplus and confiscated items

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will host a live auction to sell surplus items and confiscated hunting and fishing equipment on Monday, May 4, 2026. Registration opens at 7 a.m. (ET), and the auction of surplus property and confiscated items will begin at 9:30 a.m. (ET). The auction will be held outdoors, rain or shine, on the department’s

headquarters campus at 1 Sportsman’s Lane in Frankfort. This is the first of two auctions that Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will conduct in 2026, with the second auction tentatively scheduled for October. A complete list of items available for sale is on the department’s Surplus and Confiscated Items Auction webpage. Items are sold as-is and will not be available for hands-

on inspection prior to the sale. Under state law, only qualified Kentucky residents may bid on confiscated items. Some items will require a criminal background check. Accepted forms of payment include cash, check, certified check, credit card or debit card. Final pricing will include a buyer’s premium and surcharge for credit or debit card use. Checks over \$5,000 will require

a bank letter guaranteeing payment. Under state law, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may conduct auctions as necessary to sell surplus and confiscated property. Surplus items include equipment and materials no longer needed by the agency. All confiscated items are obtained through court order and as the result of a violation of fish and wildlife laws. By law, proceeds

from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife auctions are directed into the department’s game and fish fund and subject to auditing by the state Auditor of Public Accounts. The fund is used for the department’s normal operating expenses including fish and wildlife conservation and related recreation programs across the Commonwealth. Parking will be limited to designat-

ed areas on the Fish and Wildlife campus. Game Farm Road west of the upper and lower sportsman’s lakes will be restricted to residential traffic only on the day of the auction. Portable restroom facilities will be available to the public. For more information, visit the department’s website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or call 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding holidays.

# Spring brings baby wildlife to backyards and farms

## Kentucky Fish & Wildlife reminds the public to leave them be

**KENTUCKY DEPT. FISH & WILDLIFE**

Spring is here, and with it comes an abundance of young wildlife across the commonwealth. Newborn wildlife can be found in a variety of habitats, including urban neighborhoods. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources urges the public to leave young wildlife undisturbed, even when they appear to be alone, and reminds landowners to watch for vulnerable wildlife when working on their properties. Wildlife parents often leave their nest or young in a location they consider safe while they forage or hunt nearby, including places that are more developed. Young wildlife may appear to be left alone, but a parent is almost always nearby and will come back as needed to feed and take care of them. It’s normal for them to be away for hours, so don’t be alarmed if you come across a baby animal by itself. It is important to remember that human intervention can cause unnecessary harm to young wildlife. Touching a baby animal can transfer human scent and draw attention to their location, potentially making the young more noticeable to predators. “Every year, well-meaning people often step in to ‘rescue’ a baby wild animal that is alone and appears to be abandoned,” said Dr. Christine Casey, wildlife veterinarian with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “In reality, they were fine before someone

with good intentions stepped in, trying to help in the wrong way.” Instead, people can help baby wild animals thrive by: Observing them from a distance Securing trash cans and avoiding leaving food or other attractants outside Keeping children and pets away to prevent potential injury or leaving a scent trail that may attract predators Checking a property or site for the presence of young animals before mowing or commencing outdoor projects Only state-permitted wildlife rehabilitators can care for orphaned or injured wildlife in Kentucky, and under state law it is illegal to remove young wildlife from the wild. A list of approved wildlife rehabilitators, searchable by county and animal type, is available on the department’s website. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife does not accept orphaned or injured animals. Please be aware that additional regulations may apply to certain species or locations. In Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Zone counties, wildlife rehabilitators cannot rehabilitate or attempt to rehabilitate any deer or elk due to the potential disease spread which is always fatal to these animals. Furthermore, deer or elk from these counties cannot be transported to a wildlife rehabilitator outside of the CWD Surveillance Zone. Possessing wildlife is only permitted in very limited cases and is strictly regulated by state and federal laws, both to protect wildlife

populations and public health. In Kentucky, it is illegal to keep high-risk rabies carriers as pets. Wildlife rehabilitators that are permitted to take in rabies vector species must follow strict safety protocols and adhere to additional regulations concerning the rehabilitation and release of species within the Enhanced Rabies

Surveillance Zone. Rabies vector species, including coyotes, bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks, are common carriers of rabies, which can cause symptoms in infected animals, such as uncoordinated movement (e.g., falling over, stumbling), aggression and excessive drooling. Rabies can be transmitted to people through

bites, scratches or saliva entering the eyes, nose, mouth or open cuts. If left untreated, rabies is fatal. If a person is bitten by a wild animal, they should immediately contact either their healthcare provider or their county public health department for guidance. To protect pets from rabies, ensure they

are up to date on vaccinations and prevent contact with wildlife. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife encourages the public to report animals showing signs of rabies by calling 1-800-858-1549 or reporting observations online. For more information on caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, visit the department’s website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed bids will be received by the Green County Board of Education for Athletic Bid Package 1 – Site Concrete & Seating in Greensburg, Kentucky, until 10:00am CT / 11:00am ET on 7 May 2026, at the office of the Board of Education, 402 E Hodgenville Avenue, Greensburg, KY. Bids will be opened and read aloud.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 23 Apr 2026 at 10:00am CT / 11:00am ET at the office of the Board of Education, 402 E Hodgenville Avenue, Greensburg, KY 42743.

Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained at Lynn Imaging ([lynnimaging.com](http://lynnimaging.com)), 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507, 800-888-0693. There will be no cost to bidders for digital copies. Costs for printed copies and shipping will be bidders' responsibility, and are nonrefundable.

Successful low bidder will be required to provide 100% Performance and Payment Bond for contract signing for all labor and materials (including DPOs – Materials purchased directly from suppliers) as part of this contract. Bid Security equal to 5% of Base Bid will be required, in the form of a Bid Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check. Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed to the Architect. Documents may be viewed at the following locations:

<p>G. Scott &amp; Associates, Architects PLC 314 Wilkinson Street Frankfort, KY 40601 Phone: 502-875-2290 Fax: 502-875-1307 Contact: Gary Scott E-mail: <a href="mailto:mail@gsscotarch.archi">mail@gsscotarch.archi</a></p>	<p>Green County Board of Education 402 E Hodgenville Ave Greensburg, KY 42743 Phone: 270-932-6601 Fax: 270-932-3624 Contact: Will Hodges, Supt. E-mail: <a href="mailto:will.hodges@green.kyschools.us">will.hodges@green.kyschools.us</a></p>	<p>Builders Exchange of Louisville 2300 Meadow Dr. Louisville, KY 40218-1372 Phone: 502-459-9800 Fax: 502-459-9803 Contact: Treva Masters E-mail: <a href="mailto:tmasters@bxtkentucky.com">tmasters@bxtkentucky.com</a></p>	
<p>Construction Connect 30 Technology Parkway S - Ste 100 Norcross, GA 30092 Phone: 800-364-2059 Fax: 866-570-8187 Contact: Ryan Cahill E-mail: <a href="mailto:content@constructconnect.com">content@constructconnect.com</a></p>	<p>Dodge Data &amp; Analytics 4300 Beltway Place, #180 Arlington, TX 76018 Phone: 817-375-2942 Fax: 347-620-4319 Contact: Lori Bachman E-mail: <a href="mailto:lori.bachman@construction.com">lori.bachman@construction.com</a></p>	<p>Builder's Exchange 4350 Glendale-Milford Rd, #120 Cincinnati, OH 45242 Phone: 866-907-6300 Fax: 866-907-6304 Contact: Cyndi Thornton E-mail: <a href="mailto:CThornton@bxohio.com">CThornton@bxohio.com</a></p>	
<p>Shrout Tate Wilson Consulting Engineers (Mech/Elec) 628 Winchester Road Lexington, KY 40505 Phone: 859-277-8177 Fax: 859-277-8372 Contact: Jeff Frohlich E-mail: <a href="mailto:jeff.frohlich@stweng.com">jeff.frohlich@stweng.com</a></p>	<p>Pitman Green LLC 131 N Public Square Greensburg, KY 42743 Phone/Fax: 270-973-5213 Contact: Brian Ferguson E-mail: <a href="mailto:bferguson@pitmangreen.com">bferguson@pitmangreen.com</a></p>	<p>RAI Engineering (Struct) 539 West Market St, Suite #200 Louisville, KY 40202 Phone: 502-589-2212 Fax: 502-589-2240 Contact: Anthony Ehlers E-mail: <a href="mailto:anthony@raienengineering.com">anthony@raienengineering.com</a></p>	
<p>Construction Journal 400 SW 7th St. Stuart, FL 34994 Construction Journal.com Phone: 772.781.2144 Contact: Mary Ann Duke E-mail: <a href="mailto:Bids@ConstructionJournal.com">Bids@ConstructionJournal.com</a></p>			

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid may be withdrawn without the consent of the Owner or forfeit of Bid Security for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to the date for receipt of bids.

Will Hodges, Superintendent  
Green County Board of Education