



April 2, 2020

Legislative Report No. 14

2020 Kentucky General Assembly

On Wednesday, the Kentucky General Assembly opted to pass a one-year State Budget ([HB 352](#)), rather than the normal two-year budget due to the economic uncertainties as a result of COVID-19. The plan is to pass the second year of the State Budget when legislators return in January 2021. The session was adjourned for the ten-day veto period and is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Below is a list of items contained in the State Budget pertaining to our funding priorities which received funding for FY21:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$34.5 million and of these funds \$14.2 million was allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.4 million;
- Conservation District Local Aid: \$907,300;
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$16.8 million.

2020 KFB Priority Issues:

"Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture."

"Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program."

"Support an efficient, well-administered and Adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture."

Other agricultural related programs include:

- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: \$4,034,200;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center: \$3.2 million;
- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University: \$750,000;
- County Fair Grant Program: \$300,000.

Also included in the State Budget was \$500,000 for a Kentucky Rural Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Pilot Program.

Reminder if you have not already done so, please fill out your United States Census by visiting 2020census.gov.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the week, you may reach your representative and senator in Frankfort by calling 502.564.8100.

If you do not desire to talk to your state legislator immediately or you just want to leave a message, you may dial toll-free 800.372.7181. An answering service will take your message for your representative or senator. The legislative calendar information line is 800.633.9650, the bill status line is 866.840.2835, and the Governor's office number is 502.564.2611.

If you desire to e-mail your representative or senator, [click here](#) for a list of e-mail addresses for members of the Kentucky General Assembly. Find your legislator and click on his or her name to access their e-mail address.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2020 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Kyle Kelly, extension 7417; and Drew Graham, extension 5121. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Katie Weatherholt at 502.493.7669 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

KEEP ALL LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUESTS FOR FUTURE USE

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Action Requests on file because, on occasion, we may refer to a previous report as a source of more details regarding an issue.

The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on KFB's website at kyfb.com and the KFB app.