



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

For Immediate Release



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KADB Invests in On-Farm Water Management Program

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 21, 2017) –The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) allocated \$1,000,000 to establish the On-Farm Water Management Program at its March 2018 board meeting. The program will promote water resilience on farms by funding projects in conjunction with the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

“The Energy and Environment Cabinet, through the Water Resources Board, is helping the agriculture community to improve the availability and use of water for irrigation and livestock. These efforts are intended to reduce both the producers’ costs as well as reduce susceptibility to droughts,” Charles Snavelly, Secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, said.

The On-Farm Water Management Program consists of two program categories. The Research, Development and Demonstration (RDD) is for water management practices on public regional farms. The Practical Implementation Project (PIP) is for private farms that wish to implement best management practices for water management. Both programs are required to have public, educational tours to highlight practices for harvesting, storing and redistributing water.

The On-Farm Water Management Program aims to promote innovation in on-farm water management, increase on-farm water availability and farm profitability, institutionalize practices into traditional funding programs and normalize innovative practices. The program shall look to coordinate efforts with individuals and entities interested in the long-term science and planning of water resources.

“Kentucky Farm Bureau’s proactive approach to view water as economic development for agriculture resulted in the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund’s (KADF) newest project. Clean, fresh water is the most valuable resource not only in life, but in agriculture. By showcasing new facilities as well as new methods of management and production, this program will encourage our producers to utilize CAIP funds to advance to the next step,” Warren Beeler, GOAP executive director, said.

The KADF and the Kentucky Water Resources Board are dedicated to helping Kentucky agriculture become more sustainable and profitable for generations to come by supporting this program. For more information about the program, contact Bill McCloskey, deputy executive director, at (502) 782-1766, or Dale Booth, Kentucky Water Resources Board Technical Advisory Group member, at (502) 782-6895.

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Great strides continue being made toward lessening Kentucky’s dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing a portion of Kentucky’s Master Settlement Agreement Funds into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$560 million in an array of county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises. These funding approvals, made possible by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, represent just a few of the more than 5,800 projects approved, since the inception of the program in January 2001.

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