



Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Agricultural Policy

For Immediate Release

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Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board Approve More Than \$2.6 Million in Agricultural Investments *Broadband Feasibility Study and Plasma Cutting Machine Among Sixteen Projects Approved*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Mar. 20, 2020) – The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$2,684,122 in 16 agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

“I have stated before about the importance of agritechnology and access to high-speed internet to the future of the Commonwealth’s economy,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Projects like these approved today get us one step closer on both fronts.”

State Investments:

Kentucky State Fair Board

The Kentucky State Fair Board was approved for the reallocation of \$1,700,061 in State funds to address various deferred maintenance and renovation needs for agricultural events held at the Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center. \$200,000 in State funds will be used for Freedom Hall suites and West Wing renovations. \$1,500,061 in State funds will be used to demolish and renovate Gate One and Gate Six. For more information on this project, contact Cody Patterson at (502) 367-5000 or Cody.Patterson@kyvenues.com.

University of Kentucky Research Foundation

The University of Kentucky Research Foundation was approved for \$228,800 in State funds to support expansion of water quality monitoring stations in Western Kentucky. The study will collect water quality monitoring data for 8-10 years with collaborative efforts between the University of Kentucky, United States Department of Agriculture, National Resource and

Conservation Service and Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. For more information on this project, contact Brad Lee at (859) 257-0156 or Brad.Lee@uky.edu.

Lake Barkley Partnership Broadband Study

Pennyriple Area Development District, Inc. was approved for up to \$6,018 in State and \$6,018 in various County funds to conduct a broadband feasibility study. The Pennyriple Area Development District, Inc. in conjunction with the Lake Barkley Partnership will conduct a feasibility study to develop a plan and cost for implementing a fiber, wireless, or hybrid internet system throughout Caldwell, Crittenden, Livingston and Lyon counties. The study will also evaluate the cost-effectiveness on implementing four separate projects in each county versus a larger, regional project. The study will be conducted by Neo Partners, LLC. For more information on this project, contact Jason Vincent at (270) 886-9484 or jason.vincent@ky.gov.

County Investments:

Plasma Cutting Machine

Caldwell County Board of Education was approved for up to \$5,500 in Caldwell County funds to purchase a Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) plasma cutting machine for agriculture construction classes at the Caldwell County High School. The machine will be used primarily as a learning tool, but also as a method for students to fundraise and sustain department funding for additional programs. The machine is the first of its kind available in the local community. For more information on this project, contact Wes York at (270) 365-8010 or wes.york@caldwell.kyschools.us.

On-Farm Investments

The County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) offers 11 investment areas that give Kentucky agricultural producers the ability to increase net farm income, add value to their products and diversify their operations. This cost-share program incentivizes farmers to build infrastructure, improve genetics, forages, farm management, technology and more. CAIP benefits and enhances agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products. Seven CAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$684,575 in Breathitt (\$75,000), Lee (\$45,700), Lyon (\$31,000), Madison (\$296,000), Owen (\$25,000), Rockcastle (\$86,875) and Spencer (\$125,000) counties.

Environmental Stewardship

The Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program serves as a measure to facilitate the coordination of environmentally sound and cost effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky producers. Three Deceased Farm Animal Removal Programs totaling \$44,500 were approved for Clark (\$15,000), Scott (\$15,000) and Taylor (\$14,500) counties.

Shared-Use Equipment Program

The Shared-Use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organizations with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis. One Shared-Use Equipment Program was approved totaling \$3,600 in Taylor County for a chain harrow.

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program

The Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (Youth) was developed to encourage youth to engage in and explore agricultural opportunities. One Youth Program was approved by the board totaling \$5,050 in Spencer County.

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Gov. Andy Beshear and the General Assembly continue to make great strides toward lessening Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing a portion of Kentucky's Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement Funds into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF).

To date, the KADF investments total more than \$605 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 KADF, represent just a few of the more than 6,100 projects approved, since the inception of the program in January 2001.

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