

PARTNER CONTENT

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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As the state and the nation emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, there's a lot of talk by political leaders and policymakers about how we can best equip workers and businesses for a strong economic recovery. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is here to play our part helping our farmers, businesses, and manufacturers recover from the economic damage from the pandemic. Here are a few of the ways the KDA is doing just that:

The Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy.

Thanks to new legislation passed by the Kentucky General Assembly, the KDA is now home to the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP), which administers the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. These two entities oversee funds granted to Kentucky through the Tobacco Settlement Agreement, and KOAP invests those dollars through grants, incentives and low-interest loans to help farmers and agribusinesses innovate and grow.

Linking Agriculture for Networking and Development.

For the fifth year in a row, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund has graciously approved funding for the KDA to team up with the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) for a series of forums to link agriculture and manufacturing. These LAND (Linking Agriculture for Networking and Development) forums provide a unique opportunity to bolster the existing collaboration between two pillars of Kentucky's economy. The LAND forums inform Kentucky manufacturers of the plentiful raw agricultural resources available in their own backyard, highlight the economic and community benefits of sourcing local, and promote awareness of our global impact when uniting these sectors. As if the conversation was not enough of a reason to attend, we even give you a free Kentucky Proud lunch to boot. To learn more about these forums and to register to attend, visit kam.us.com/land-forums.

International Trade Resources. Kentucky needs international trade, but more importantly, the rest of the



A Kentucky farmer tends to his field in central Kentucky. There are more than 75,000 farm families in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. According to the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the total impact of agriculture production and processing in Kentucky amounts to nearly \$43.3 billion dollars and represents 263,000 jobs.



Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles speaks with Jonathan Webb, CEO of AppHarvest, on a tour of the company's high tech greenhouse. AppHarvest is one of the many ag-tech projects that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture works with to help better establish Kentucky as an ag-tech hub in the United States.

world needs Kentucky agriculture. International trade provides Kentucky consumers with access to products and services not readily available in our state and opens doors to global markets for Kentucky's farms and businesses. Here at the KDA, we assist Kentucky companies and farms with exporting products around the world. I also currently serve as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, which gives our department access to key trade officials in Washington, D.C. Along with other trade partners, KDA staff is available to support interested parties with technical expertise, tools, financial assistance, networking, and market research. If we don't have the answers, oftentimes we know someone who does. To learn more about our trade efforts, visit kyagr.com/trade.

These programs are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to our efforts to help businesses and workers grow into the future. Whether it is our growing ag-tech sector or the farm to manufacturing movement, there are many exciting developments happening across our state. If the KDA can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us on our website at kyagr.com.

Dr. Ryan Quarles serves as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture.