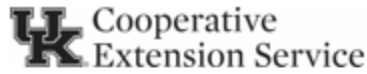


# MESSENGER-INQUIRER



## Farm Update

daviess.ca.uky.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
EDUCATION

Clint Hardy

Daviess County Extension Office

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### Developing Daviess County Agriculture

The Green River Area Beef Improvement Group, a volunteer-led, non-profit organization, administers the County Agriculture Investment Programs in Daviess, McLean, Webster, Hopkins, and Henderson Counties. It has been allocated \$100,000 of Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds to conduct the Daviess County cost share program this fall, marking a milestone for all of Kentucky with 25 years of cost-share funding programs which have helped farms improve and diversify.

Eligible items should be purchased between December 3, 2024 and November 30, 2025. All receipts, completed project pictures, proof of residency (utility bill), and copies of cancelled checks or credit card statements, as well as GRABIG funding request documentation, must be postmarked on or before November 30. A website discussing eligible items can be found at <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2025-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html>. Only one application per home mailing address and USDA farm identification number is allowed. The cost share may not exceed 50 percent of the project cost up to \$5,000, if \$10,000 or more is spent.

House Bill 611 became law during the 2000 General Assembly. The purpose was to distribute 50 percent of the state monies received from a Master Settlement Agreement between the major cigarette manufacturers and Kentucky for the general purpose of agricultural

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development in the Commonwealth. The goal for these funds was to financially support innovative ideas for projects that could increase net farm income and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky farmers who previously relied on tobacco income. It was intended to encourage producers to find new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and explore new opportunities for Kentucky farms. It has been a huge success and is the envy of the rest of the country. Only Kentucky and a couple of other states set some of these funds aside for agricultural development.

Daviess County has been a leader throughout these 25 years. Early on, the newly created Daviess County Agricultural Development Council served as the local clearinghouse for ideas and applications requesting funds before final approval from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. The council, comprised of local delegates, reviews funding request applications and determines if the proposed project is a priority in the development of agriculture in Daviess County. The council has received many unique and innovative funding requests. Their leadership has supported “outside the box” ideas which have had the potential of providing seed money for the greater good of agriculture. Nearly 60 Daviess County farmers and agribusiness leaders have served on the council in the past 25 years.

Another unique aspect of the agricultural development fund has been the educational contribution provided through the Cooperative Extension Service and Kentucky Beef Network. All agricultural development fund recipients have attended one or more education seminars, increasing their farming knowledge. Great strides have been made in the quality and yield of livestock and crop enterprises from the investment and education applied to the enterprises for which our farmers received cost share.

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More than \$5.6 million has been allocated by the county council to the cost share programs and to individual farm business projects over the past 25 years. A running list of those projects and the amounts paid to each can be found on my website <https://daviess.ca.uky.edu/anr>. Take a moment to visit the website and explore all the unique projects approved for funding, along with the corresponding dollar amounts received. If you have an innovative agricultural project deserving of agricultural development fund support, let me know. I can walk you through the application process and get the council together to review your request.

In addition to the agricultural development cost share, some of the master settlement agreement funds are provided to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. The mission of KAFC is to strengthen Kentucky agriculture by providing access to low-interest loan programs through joint partnerships with local lending institutions. KAFC finances beginning farmers, farm families, and agribusinesses with capital to establish, maintain, or expand their agricultural operation.

For more information, or to request a CAIP application, call the Extension Office at 270-685-8480 or email me at [chardy@uky.edu](mailto:chardy@uky.edu).

## **Kentucky State Fair**

The Kentucky State Fair runs from August 14 to August 24 at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville. Admission is \$12 per person, with children 5 and under admitted free. Parking is \$10. Visit [www.kystatefair.org](http://www.kystatefair.org) for more information.

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