



December 30, 2020

Legislative Report No. 1

2021 Kentucky General Assembly

The 2021 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly is set to begin on Tuesday, January 5, with Part I and adjourn on Friday, January 8. Part II of the session will convene on Tuesday, February 2 and adjourn on Tuesday, March 16. The General Assembly will then recess for a ten-day veto period, which is scheduled to begin on March 17, and the legislature is scheduled to adjourn sine die on March 30.

During the first week of session leadership will officially be elected. The new leadership team for the House Republicans will be:

Rep. David Osborne, Speaker of the House
Rep. David Meade, Speaker Pro Tempore
Rep. Steven Rudy, Majority Floor Leader
Rep. Suzanne Miles, Majority Caucus Chair
Rep. Chad McCoy, Majority Whip

The Senate majority leadership will also be officially elected the first week of the session. The new leadership team for the Senate Republicans will be:

Sen. Robert Stivers, President
Sen. David Givens, President Pro Tempore
Sen. Damon Thayer, Majority Floor Leader
Sen. Julie Raque Adams, Majority Caucus Chair
Sen. Mike Wilson, Majority Whip

The House Democratic leadership will be:

Rep. Joni Jenkins, Democratic Floor Leader
Rep. Derrick Graham, Democratic Caucus Chair
Rep. Angie Hatton, Democratic Whip

The Senate Democratic leadership will be:

Sen. Morgan McGarvey, Democratic Floor Leader
Sen. Reggie Thomas, Democratic Caucus Chair
Sen. Dennis Parrett, Democratic Whip

Most of the Legislative Reports you will receive throughout the upcoming session will give Farm Bureau's position on bills, along with an explanation of the bill and the policy to support our position.

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Kentucky Farm Bureau legislative priorities were approved by the State Board of Directors following our 101st Annual Meeting. Please acquaint yourself with the priorities listed below and keep them as a reference throughout the session. We hope you will find these helpful as you discuss various legislative matters with your representative and senator during the months ahead. Each member of the Kentucky General Assembly will receive a copy of our 2021 State Priority Issues.

2021 STATE PRIORITY ISSUES

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- 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.

TAXATION

- Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate.
- Strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
- Support the provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010). Revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4% plus new growth. Proposals to exceed 4% should automatically go to the voters.

- Maintain Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

- Support the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support funding for the broadband deployment fund.
- Support efforts and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.
- Support efforts that will retain and attract new business and industry to rural areas of Kentucky.
- Support broadband and high speed internet service being available for the benefit of all Kentuckians.

WATER RESOURCES

- Support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and advocate a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects across the Commonwealth.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Oppose any agency exceeding legislative intent in the implementation of regulations.
- Oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.

FORESTRY

- Support forestry initiatives that enhance the economy and create opportunities for woodland owners.

WHAT CAN YOUR COUNTY DO TO PREPARE FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

(1) The month of January will be an excellent time to meet virtually or in person with your legislators and discuss priority issues. Then check each week's legislative reports to monitor progress and continue to communicate with your legislator as issues begin to move through the system.

(2) Ask your county State Legislative Committee to develop a schedule of meetings to plan further action, as the need arises during the session. It is important that you maintain personal contact with your senator and representative as Farm Bureau's priority issues start to move through the legislative process. Several counties have weekly meeting times set up on Saturday mornings with their legislators.

(3) Stay informed.....Know about the issues and Farm Bureau's position. It takes everyone's commitment for Farm Bureau to be successful!

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 2021 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 REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE

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

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

January 5	2021 General Assembly Part I Convenes
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 2.....	2021 General Assembly Part II Convenes
February 5.....	Last Day for Bill Requests
February 12.....	Last Day for New Senate Bills
February 15.....	President's Day Holiday
February 16.....	Last Day for New House Bills
March 15 & 16	Concurrence Only
March 17-27	Veto Period
March 30.....	General Assembly, Sine Die

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