

2023-2026

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The following groups took part in strategic planning for Kentucky Ag Ed:

- Kentucky FFA Association
- Kentucky FFA Foundation
- Kentucky Association of Agricultural Educators
- Kentucky FFA Alumni
- Kentucky Young Farmers Association
- Teacher Educators from University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University & Morehead State University

CORE STRATEGY 1

Align with industry and community needs.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Ensure that agricultural education in Kentucky is meeting the needs of the modern workforce.

Initiatives:

1. Facilitate meaningful collaboration between agricultural employers and agricultural educators.
2. Develop a state Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan that will ensure equitable opportunities for all students to be involved in agricultural education and FFA.
3. Ensure that resources and opportunities are reflective of current agriculture industry trends.
4. Create a work-ready database of students seeking employment in the agriculture industry.

CORE STRATEGY 2

Attract and prepare students for agricultural education careers.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Increase the supply of students pursuing careers in agricultural education to meet the current and potential demand of Kentucky agricultural education programs.
- Increase the percentage of agricultural education graduates who seek employment as a teacher of agriculture to 80%.

Initiatives:

1. Identify and communicate with interested agricultural education students in high school.
2. Educate students about a career in agricultural education.
3. Cultivate early connections, relationships and touch points with pre-service agricultural education students.
4. Conduct a Teacher Education Needs Assessment in 2023 and in every odd year following.

CORE STRATEGY 3**Support and retain high quality agricultural education instructors.****Targeted Outcome:**

- To improve teacher retention and career satisfaction, minimizing the number of teachers that annually leave the classroom.

Initiatives:

1. Deliver quality resources and professional development to all Kentucky agricultural educators.
2. Streamline processes, procedures and scheduling of events.
3. Support first year teachers with programs in order to maintain first year teacher retention.
4. Identify and address staffing concerns and issues at the state level and advocate for their needs to ensure high-quality leadership for the profession.
5. Provide recognition of teachers.

CORE STRATEGY 4**Mobilize and motivate supporters.****Targeted Outcome:**

- Provide an abundant and sustainable flow of resources (funds, volunteers, opportunities, etc.) to meet the needs of local programs and state initiatives.

Initiatives:

1. Conduct a database overhaul of volunteers and supporters and update the process to keep it maintained.
2. Improve utilization of volunteers in local programs.
3. Create easy ways for individuals to give at various levels in an effort to reduce financial barriers for students, teachers and programs.
4. Establish an endowment campaign for the long term needs of Kentucky FFA.

CORE STRATEGY 5**Deliver and communicate our unique educational value.****Targeted Outcome:**

- Educate industry, school & community leaders, parents and students about the importance of agricultural education.

Initiatives:

1. Create resources that clearly articulate what agricultural education and FFA are, targeted to multiple audiences.
2. Use appropriate platforms to communicate with targeted audiences.
3. Promote the unique experiences available to agricultural education students to parents and policy makers.