

KADF Questionnaire due by 8/31/21

- 1) Your role Check all that apply. **Agricultural organization and farmer**
- 2) How familiar are you with KADF? **Very familiar**
- 3) Past connection with KADF **Not received funds**
- 4) Your county, or indicate if state-wide **Statewide**
- 5) Best program or project currently funded, and why is it the best? **On-Farm Water Management is a pressing matter for the future of The Commonwealth**
- 6) What programs should be eliminated and why? **Not sure; it is difficult to find a concise description and assessment of impact for the many programs offered**
- 7) What big ideas could transform KY agriculture?
Sustainable forestry practices contribute to the overall economy, water quality, and air quality; these practices translate into long term viability for wood products, food production, and tourism. Even small tracts can contribute to the services that healthy woodlands provide.
- 8) What ideas from other states or regions could we use? **Some states have much more favorable real estate tax treatment for managed woodlands. Some states have more sophisticated tree nurseries to provide quality seedlings to woodland owners. Carbon sequestration programs are well underway in Pennsylvania. The American Forest Foundation <https://www.forestfoundation.org/> and National Woodland Owners <https://nationalwoodlands.com/> provide more information to consider.**
- 9) Ag sectors or investments I would like to see develop in our area of the state? **Forestry is a major component of the Kentucky economy. According to the 2019-2020 Kentucky Forest Sector Economic Contribution Report issued by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Forestry and Natural Resources Extension here <https://www.kwoa.net/news/ky-forest-sector-economic-contribution> , the forest sector provided a total economic contribution of \$14 billion, provided 53,000 jobs, and paid more than \$309 million in taxes.**

The timber used in the Kentucky forest sector is largely from privately owned Kentucky woodlands. In order to assure a continued supply of quality timber, active forestry management is required, and this entails a prolonged investment of time and money, with the investment to be recovered through a harvest, years in the future.

Incentivize certification of sustainable forestry practices. Sustainable forestry practices require landowner education, technical service providers on many levels from initial assessment through plan development, planting, ongoing maintenance /management, harvest, and regrowth. There are certification programs in place to help evaluate practices on the ground. If we can incentivize certification, we can help woodland owners provide the above-mentioned services for the Commonwealth with economic return for their expenses and efforts. Most woodland owners require outside advice and assistance in order to engage in these forestry management activities; programs that help owners learn and connect with public and private resources and grow the supporting industries can help achieve benefits for the short and long term.

- 10) Rules or restrictions we would like to see changed. **Not-for-profit organizations should be allowed to provide at least a portion of their match through volunteer hours.**
- 11) 3 most beneficial programs or projects funded by KADB **The top three are the On-Farm Water Management Program, the Next Generation Farmer Program, and the County Agricultural Investment Program.**
- 12) If KADF had funds for only 5 more years, how should the funds be used? **Ag Diversification, especially Timber production, Utilization, and Marketing to promote practices to enhance water and air quality to secure**

resources for current and future generations. This may include traditional timber production, carbon sequestration and conservation easement programs to allow smaller acreages to participate.

- 13) Projects or programs not related to our commodity or sector worthy of funding. Public education regarding sustainable practices, especially regarding woodland management (large and small acreages).
- 14) 80% of county development funds go to individual producers vs. projects benefiting a number of producers. Should more go to individuals? More to groups? No change? Other response? More to groups that can help achieve broader on the ground impacts to sustain and grow our resources to meet long term needs.
- 15) How likely does CAIP encourage innovation in your county? Options range from very likely to very unlikely. Likely – we are responding as a statewide owners organization
- 16) Should CAIP require less match from producers, more match, or no change? Keep the same match, but allow the requirement for not-for-profit organizations to be met through volunteer hours, or “sweat equity.”
- 17) What 3 CAIP investment areas would have the most positive economic impact over the next 5 years? Woodland Ownership education and cooperation to develop resources needed for long term management.
- Small animal
 - Fencing and on farm water Maybe this one because of the water implications of forestry
 - Value added and marketing #1 including water quality and carbon sequestration.
 - Poultry and other fowl
 - Large animal
 - Innovative ag systems #2
 - Farm infrastructure
 - Technology and leadership development
 - On-farm energy
 - Ag diversification #3
 - Forage and grain improvement

18) Name of the organization you represent Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

19) Other feedback: One of the resources for assistance is the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA), the only not-for-profit trade association representing the interests of private woodland owners throughout Kentucky. We are an all-volunteer organization with a mission to bring people and sustainable forestry together. We do this through regular communications to members and the broader woodland community, education through sponsorships of various events, and advocacy by making the needs of the woodland community known to key institutions and stakeholders. The lack of staffing represents a limitation on what can be accomplished by the organization.

A major goal is to engage in activities that result in more woodland owners being involved in the active management of their properties. If this is accomplished, we believe there will be an improved supply of timber which will have a positive impact on the income, employment, and tax numbers mentioned above. More information about KWOA can be obtained from our web site, www.kwoa.net

Last updated 8/20/21