



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



February

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean

Governor Matt Bevin's budget proposes cuts of 6.25 percent in the state appropriation beginning in July 1, 2018. That is in addition to a 1 percent cut imposed in the current fiscal year. The Governor is also proposing to eliminate 70 mandated programs and substantially reduce funding for other programs that are funded directly by the commonwealth, but administered by institutions such as the University. Several of these mandated programs are within our college.

These programs include the Division of Regulatory Services, the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Kentucky Small Business Development Center. These three programs all perform well-defined and critical needs in Kentucky. We are working with the leadership and constituents of each of these critical units to provide a strong message of their importance and impact. The leaders and staff of these units are essential not only to the college but Kentucky's agricultural and general economy.



During the week after the governor's announcement, several senior staff members and I worked with President Capilouto and his staff to prepare information for the President's presentation to the Budget Review Subcommittee on Secondary

Education to include information on the Division of Regulatory Services, Small Business Development Center, and UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Here is the [link](#) to the PowerPoint presentation that he used, which was extremely well-received. I know the folks in these units are concerned, but be assured we are doing all we can with the General Assembly, with guidance and daily updates from Senior Assistant Dean Drew Graham during the session. These three units are critical to the economy and to the health of humans and livestock in Kentucky.

The budget scenario will not be final until the General Assembly finishes its session. We are working with UK central administration and college leaders to tell our story. The college has strong programs and we all must work together to send a positive message from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the heart of Kentucky's land grant mission. After all, it starts with us.

News

Extension Review Update

Fiscal Oversight: Improved fiscal management is one of the main points of the Extension Review. Extension simply has to have more consistent financial compliance across the state. To that end, we are reviewing the fiscal coordinator role in county agent staff assignments to better define its duties and increase the responsibility and accountability attached to that position. Additionally, counties who have expressed a desire to move forward with a county manager will begin hiring those positions soon.

While fiscal coordinators and county managers are in place to increase oversight, fiscal compliance is every employee's responsibility. We will continue to address improved fiscal management throughout the implementation of the action plan and into the future.

Needs Assessment: The County Needs Assessment Steering Committee has been named to design the assessment process and make recommendations on how it will be implemented in all 120 counties. Lori Garkovich and Rick Maurer are leading the team that consists of representatives from all program areas as well as external partners. The team has already begun meeting and will meet each week through March at which time they represent their recommendations to the administration.

This needs assessment will allow counties to use every piece of data available to better build programming around the communities. The process may look different, but it is the same intention Extension has always had – to serve communities in the best way possible with practical and trustworthy information.

Implementation Timeline:

- March 1 – Updates to county agent fiscal coordinator responsibilities completed.
- April 1 – Phase one of county managers hiring for counties who plan to move forward with this recommendation.
- May 1 – County manager training begins; hiring of additional regional compliance officer.
- Sept. 1 – Uniform accounting software for all counties determined
- Oct. 1 – Begin accounting software transition with pilot counties

- Nov. 1 – Phase two of county managers hiring for any additional counties who plan to move forward with this recommendation.
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New alumni director



Jonathan Furnish accepted the position of associate director for alumni engagement and communications for the UK CAFE Alumni Association in the office of Philanthropy and Alumni.

Staff professional development fund

The college has established a fund to support professional staff development. The fund achieves one of the goals of the college's strategic plan to provide resources for continued staff education and training. Staff may use the funds for training courses, conference fees, development related travel, etc. A department can request up to \$1,000 per request and the college will be accepting requests until March 15. Requests forms are available [here](#). Submit completed forms to agbusinesscenter@uky.edu.

Awards and honors

Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture recently honored five members of the CAFE community. The honorees were:

- Doug Overhults, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, received the Distinguished Service Award, honoring his commitment to serving the commonwealth through high-quality Extension programming.
 - Jennifer White, Department of Entomology, received the George E. Mitchell, Jr. Award for Outstanding Faculty Service to Graduate Students.
 - Krista Jacobsen, Department of Horticulture, received the Master Teacher Award.
 - Karmella Dolecheck, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, received the Outstanding Ph.D. student Award.
 - Adam Baker, Department of Entomology, received the Outstanding Master's Student Award.
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In the news

College faculty and staff are often quoted in media for their expertise and advice. Here's a sampling of some of the national media in January:

- Jaqueline Jacobs, Animal and Food Sciences, National Geographic, [Chickens Prefer Attractive People](#)
- Michael Potter, Entomology, Washington Times, [Baltimore ranks as worst city for bedbugs](#)
- Will Snell, Agricultural Economics, Seattle Times, [Kentucky Ag official predicts more hemp growers, processors](#)
- Roy Burris, Animal and Food Sciences, Progressive Farmer Magazine, [Pinkeye Prevention](#)
- Kiersten Wise, Plant Pathology, usaagnet.com, [New Site is Easy Access to Crop Management Resources](#)



Spotlight



Nicole Gwishiri, Bath County family and consumer science agent, shares why she's passionate about working with families in her county and throughout the state of Kentucky.

Calendar of Events

February 2
Groundhog Day

February 4
Super Bowl LII

February 13
Mardi Gras

February 14
Valentine's Day

Helpful Links

- [Giving](#)
- [College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)
- [College Weekly for Students](#)
- [The Ag Magazine](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

February 14-17

National Farm Machinery Show

February 16

Chinese New Year

February 19

President's Day

February 27

Intercultural Awareness Day

