

Who Is KCARD?

The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) is a non-profit 501c-3 organization established to facilitate agricultural and rural business development in Kentucky. KCARD provides educational opportunities, technical assistance and business support services to new and existing agribusinesses.

KCARD's Executive Director and staff are familiar with various types of incorporated agribusinesses and consults with groups on critical questions related to incorporating, financing, management, marketing, accounting and legal concerns. It networks with state and national resources to assist with all aspects of business development.

KCARD is supported through grants and contributions provided by the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky.



KCARD staff: Thelma Davis, Brent Lackey, Larry Snell, Rich Laing, and Nathan Routt.

KCARD Assistance & Service

Business Development Services

KCARD's business development process includes the following:

- Assisting with feasibility studies and market assessments.
- Preparing business plans and capitalization strategies.
- Assisting with incorporation and adoption of legal agreements.
- Assist with the recruitment & hiring of managers
- Developing organizational charts, administrative and personnel policies, job descriptions.
- Assist with identifying and establishing appropriate business records

Business Maintenance Services

Business maintenance services are designed to begin once the development process is completed, these decision-making fundamentals including:

- Business Management and Operations Analysis for established businesses
- Business planning/policy development activities
- Board training/education
- Management and staff training.
- Board meeting participation
- Audits and legal (cost share program)
- Informational and public relations activities
- Capitalization and expansion assistance
- Professional business consultations as the business develops and grows.



KCARD staff bring hands on training and instruction to Boards.

Programs and Training

- Business Management & Operations Analysis
- Business Plan Development
- Feasibility Study Assistance
- Board Meeting participation
- Board, Management & Staff Training/Education
- Business Recordkeeping Development
- Financial Audit Cost Share Program
- Legal/Accounting referrals & assistance

Client Requirements

- Promote rural economic development and demonstrates majority ownership.
- Owners are directly involved with the management of the business.
- In good standing with the Kentucky Secretary of State.
- Developing businesses that seek to achieve characteristics above.

Each business must agree to execute Technical Assistance Agreements with KCARD.

KCARD Board of Directors

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CoBank

Vice President

Wayne Cropper

Burley Tobacco Growers Co-op Assoc.

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KY Governor's Office of Ag Policy

Ann Bell Stone

Lexington Farmers' Market

Lionel Williamson

UK College of Agriculture

Ex-Officio Members

Jeff Jones

USDA Office of Community Development

Tim Woods

UK College of Ag

KCARD fosters business success and growth by developing and delivering technical assistance and by providing educational opportunities for agricultural and rural businesses seeking to enhance their economic opportunities

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