

November 12, 2020

To whom it may concern:

As the world of advanced technology has progressed over the past several years, the agriculture industry has been one sector that has taken advantage of high-tech innovations.

Agri-technology, as it has come to be known, really isn't new, but putting it to use in all areas of the industry has presented its own set of challenges. From getting adequate broadband coverage to every last farm, to learning how to apply new marketing techniques, to meeting the educational needs related to this type of technology, there is much work to be done in order to make "agri-tech" usable throughout the industry, especially as it relates to production agriculture.

In order to keep the state's agricultural and governmental organizations apprised of these advancements, and to help bring more awareness to these technology needs, the **Coalition of Production Agriculture** has been formed, spearheaded by Kentucky Farm Bureau and supported by all the ag commodity groups within the Commonwealth.

Through their work over the last several months, the Coalition has instituted the **Kentucky Production Agri-Tech (KPAT) Initiative** in an ongoing effort to bring attention specifically to production agriculture's growing needs in this world of advanced technology. Driven by a collective commonality within the production ag sector, the newly formed Coalition plans to keep stakeholders at all levels informed of these needs in a continual manner.

The first of these efforts is a white paper, included in this correspondence, that outlines the Coalition's present concerns and highlights the daily issues facing production agriculture.

Our hope is to bring all interested parties together to move this initiative forward. If all farming operations can utilize new and existing technology, this industry that we all depend on will be more sustainable than ever and it will help us meet the needs of consumers now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Coalition of Production Agriculture

Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau

Steve Dunning, President, KY Cattlemen's Association

Richard Preston, President, KY Corn Growers Association

Freeman Brundige, President, KY Dairy Development Council

Beth Johnson, President, KY Goat Producers Association

Jeremy Hinton, President, KY Horticulture Council

Bill Cochran, President, KY Pork Producers Association

Dan Flanagan, President, KY Poultry Federation

Gary Haile, President, KY Small Grain Growers Association

Fred L. Sipes, President, KY Soybean Association

Braxton Lynch, President, KY Thoroughbred Association

Mark Barker, Chair, KY Ag Council

Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD