

# **KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK INNOVATION CENTER**

## EDUCATION • INNOVATION • MARKETING • RESEARCH

- Kentucky is home to more than 74,000 farm families responsible for \$111.3 billion of economic output in the state.
- Kentucky, ranks **6th** in the nation for the number of farms.
- More than **684,547 jobs** are related to the food and agriculture sector in the Commonwealth.
- The **livestock** industry accounted for more than **\$3.5 billion** in receipts in 2021, more than half of Kentucky's \$6.9 billion in agriculture receipts.
- The average **market value** of Kentucky agricultural products per operation has steadily increased overtime, from \$34,637 in 1997 to **\$75,533** in 2017.
- More than half of Kentucky land is **farm land**.



Kentucky Livestock Innovation Center is managed by the Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation. For more information, contact **Nikki Whitaker** • nwhitaker@kycattle.org • 859-278-0899



#### WHAT IS THIS FACILITY?

This space will be a central coordinating point and key resource for the livestock industry in Kentucky; its construction will be an asset for livestock owners across the Eastern United States and will elevate the image of Kentucky livestock worldwide.

The facility will also include a Culinary Training Center that will provide value-added and culinary development of Kentucky's food processing, manufacturing, and retail industry.

### WHY IS THIS FACILITY NEEDED?

Agriculture in Kentucky has a huge economic impact, and the livestock industry is a major factor. Currently, there is no central space where the power of Kentucky agriculture is highlighted. The Kentucky Livestock Innovation Center aims to advance, support and communicate continuous improvement of livestock production, economic vitality and environmental stewardship as well as be the hub for collaboration between all livestock and agriculture industry groups.

This facility will allow for the recruitment and engagement of new farmers, as well as ensure the sustainability of existing Kentucky family farms; it focuses on all aspects of the livestock producer to consumer continuum, including animal handling and well-being, nutrition and health, food safety and security, value-added and culinary collaboration, and producer profitability. It truly has something for everyone, from the largest production farmer to the hobby farmer who wants to produce their own meat.

#### WHO WILL BENEFIT?

- Producers Processors Consumers Students Employers Health professionals Livestock owners
- Food and retail professionals



### INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

Workforce Development: Strengthen Kentucky's processing industry

Value Added: Provide technology transfer opportunities to improve in aspects of the production, food, and consumer industries

Producer Profitability: Assist producers in developing marketing opportunities to make them more economically sustainable

Student Enrichment: Develop immersive education models

#### INDUSTRY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Consumers:** Communicating to consumers that food produced by the Kentucky livestock industry is wholesome, safe and nutritious, and raised in a safe and sustainable environment will have long-term benefits in maintaining consumer confidence and growth in demand for animal food products.

Education and Research: Animal agriculture is a significant portion of U.S. agriculture. Related research, education and extension activities are continually changing to address new challenges and opportunities.

Food Systems: Innovative technologies support producers in improving sustainability, safety, traceability, agri-technology, and animal welfare along the entire food supply chain.

Sustainability and Business Models: Sustainably managed agriculture and food industries contribute to crucial socioeconomic and ecosystem functions.

**Funding:** Successful agriculture centers create a valuable circle of successful outcomes that lead to new ideas, opportunities, and investment.



