

1 AN ACT relating to urban youth agriculture education.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 247 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Extension service" means the University of Kentucky Cooperative  
7 Extension Service;

8 (b) "Initiative" means the Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative  
9 established in this section;

10 (c) "Program" means any educational program that is part of the initiative;  
11 and

12 (d) "Urban county" means a county with a population of one hundred fifty  
13 thousand (150,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial  
14 census.

15 (2) There is hereby established the Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative,  
16 which shall be administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension  
17 Service and its individual offices within the Commonwealth in partnership with  
18 other organizations as appropriate. Beginning September 1, 2025, the extension  
19 service shall initiate a pilot program in one (1) or more individual offices.  
20 Beginning September 1, 2026, and as funding allows, the extension service may  
21 begin full implementation and evaluation of the pilot program in all appropriate  
22 offices throughout the Commonwealth, with potential program scaling and  
23 expansion to begin September 1, 2027.

24 (3) The initiative shall:

25 (a) Promote farming, agriculture, agribusiness, and the efficient use of land in  
26 urban counties;

27 (b) Educate program participants on all aspects of farming, agriculture, and

1 agribusiness in an urban environment and encourage the adoption of urban  
 2 agriculture best practices and skills and knowledge development to become  
 3 informed agriculture consumers and advocates; and

4 (c) Promote age-appropriate, experiential, or work-ready agricultural and  
 5 agribusiness programming, including formal internships and  
 6 apprenticeships.

7 (4) The length of each program term shall be one (1) year in duration, and each term  
 8 shall begin in January on a date specified by the extension service. Programs  
 9 shall be available to applicants at each extension service office located within or  
 10 serving an urban county of the Commonwealth. An office may work with an  
 11 existing state or local agricultural organization to better provide for the  
 12 administration of a program and the initiative.

13 (5) Each extension service office administering a program shall accept and review  
 14 applications from eligible applicants. Program participation shall be at the  
 15 discretion of each office and shall include as many participants as is practicable  
 16 on an annual basis. To be eligible to participate in a program, a participant shall:

17 (a) Be at least five (5) years of age and no more than eighteen (18) years of age;

18 (b) Have obtained parent or guardian permission to participate in accordance  
 19 with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service youth  
 20 protection policies; and

21 (c) Be available to participate in the program for the full duration of the term.