

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2022 Interim

August 25, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

Pursuant to the approval of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, the Senate Standing Committee for Agriculture and the House Standing Committee for Agriculture, met jointly at the Kentucky State Fair on August 25, 2022 Special Session. Senator Howell, Chair and Representative Heath, Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll for each committee.

Present were:

Members: Senator Jason Howell, Chair; Representative Richard Heath, Chair; Senators Dennis Parrett, Damon Thayer, Robin L. Webb, Stephen West, and Max Wise; Representatives Josh Calloway, Jonathan Dixon, Daniel Fister, Derrick Graham, Mark Hart, Keturah Herron, Mary Beth Imes, Kim King, Matthew Koch, Shawn McPherson, Michael Sarge Pollock, Phillip Pratt, Felicia Rabourn, Brandon Reed, Cherlynn Stevenson, Nancy Tate, Walker Thomas, and James Tipton.

Guests: Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro, Shelby Somervell, VP of Government Affairs and Communications, Greater Louisville, Inc., David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues, and Hannah Edelen, Miss Kentucky 2022.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Kelly Ludwig, Hillary Abbott, and Susan Spoonamore, Committee Assistant.

Welcome

Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro, and Shelby Somervell, VP of Government Affairs & Communications, Greater Louisville, Inc. welcomed members to Louisville. Mayor Fischer said that bourbon and local food tourism is helping Kentucky's tourism industry to grow. Louisville generates approximately \$3.4 billion in economic impact with over one-third of the visitors experiencing the bourbon industry. He said that Louisville promotes the Kentucky Proud brand along with farm to table produce and meats.

Report on the Kentucky State Fair

David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues, stated that because of monies allocated by the General Assembly, the Kentucky Exposition Center now has new admission gates with more admission gates to be upgraded in the future. He said that the Exposition Center hosts around 200 events annually, and the Kentucky International

Convention Center hosts around 125 events each year. He said that last year produced about 70 percent of pre-covid attendance and so far, this year is showing around 80 percent. He said that the State Fair has an approximate \$12 million economic impact on Louisville. Mr. Beck stated that the Farm Machinery Show is the most profitable out of all the events held at the fairgrounds.

Ryan Quarles, Commissioner of Agriculture, stated that the World Championship Horse Show consists of approximately \$400 million worth of livestock on-site. The Ag-Tag program raised approximately \$600,000 that is divided between 4-H, FFA, and the Kentucky Proud program. He thanked the General Assembly for appropriating \$455,000 to the County Fair Program which allows capital improvements to 84 county fairs.

Meeting adjourned.