INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 3, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call
The fourth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture was held on September 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:
Members: Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Gary Boswell, Gary Clemons, Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Matt Nunn, Aaron Reed, Craig Richardson, Reginald L. Thomas, Robin L. Webb, and Mike Wilson; and Representatives Chad Aull, Ryan Bivens, Anne Gay Donworth, Daniel Fister, Chris Freeland, Mark Hart, Kim Holloway, Kim King, Candy Massaroni, Shawn McPherson, Adam Moore, Michael Sarge Pollock, Felicia Rabourn, Sarah Stalker, Walker Thomas, and James Tipton.

Guests: Dave Maples, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, (KCA); Nikki Whitaker, Director of Operations and Policy, KCA; Allan Bryant, President, KCA; Sahara Peterson, Program Participant; and Cheyenne Peterson, Program Participant, Youth in Beef/Kentucky Junior Cattlemen’s Association.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Kelly Ludwig, and Susan Spoonamore.

Approval of August 27, 2026, Minutes
A motion was made by Representative Fister and seconded by Representative Bivens to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Discussion on Kentucky's Livestock Industry
Nikki Whitaker, Director of Operations and Policy, KCA, stated construction of the Kentucky Livestock Innovation Center should be completed within 2 years. Dave Maples, Executive Vice President, KCA, explained producers are in the process of making long-term decisions on rebuilding the cattle herd, retaining heifers and expanding operations, or selling the herds and leaving the industry. The Kentucky Livestock Innovation Center will be valuable in supporting research, education, and partnerships in the industy.

In response to Chairman Dossett, Mr. Maples stated that KCA works with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture who share concerns, such as labeling, that could be addressed in the 2027 Regular Session.

In response to Representative Aull, Mr. Allan Bryant said he was not aware of any states implementing new regulations or other solutions to stop the decline of cow/calf producers.

In response to Senator Funke-Frommeyer, Mr. Maples stated there were several contributing factors to imported beef causing a decline in future prices.

In response to Representative Tipton, Mr. Bryant said the United States exports 2.84 billion pounds of beef and imports 4 billion pounds of beef. The United States raises approximately 6% of all cattle worldwide.

Youth in Beef/Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association

Sahara Peterson and Cheyenne Peterson, Program Participants, gave an overview of the Youth in Beef Program. Sahara Peterson explained why having a Junior Cattlemen's Association is important to the livestock industry. The association strives to create future agriculture teachers, advocates, and beef producers.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.