

1 AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative.

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" includes the University of Kentucky Cooperative*
7 *Extension Service or the Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension*
8 *Service;*

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

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

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

16 *(2) There is hereby established the Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative,*
17 *which shall be administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension*
18 *Service and the Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Service and*
19 *their individual offices within the Commonwealth in partnership with other*
20 *organizations as appropriate. Beginning September 1, 2026, the extension service*
21 *shall initiate a pilot program in one (1) or more individual offices. Beginning*
22 *September 1, 2027, and as funding allows, the extension service may begin full*
23 *implementation and evaluation of the pilot program in all appropriate offices*
24 *throughout the Commonwealth, with potential program scaling and expansion to*
25 *begin September 1, 2028.*

26 *(3) The initiative shall:*

27 *(a) Promote farming, agriculture, agribusiness, and the efficient use of land in*

- 1 urban counties;
- 2 (b) Educate program participants on all aspects of farming, agriculture, and
- 3 agribusiness in an urban environment and encourage the adoption of urban
- 4 agriculture best practices;
- 5 (c) Develop participants' skills and knowledge to become informed agriculture
- 6 consumers and advocates; and
- 7 (d) Advance age-appropriate, experiential, or work-ready agricultural and
- 8 agribusiness programming, including formal internships and
- 9 apprenticeships.
- 10 (4) The length of each program term shall be one (1) year and each term shall begin
- 11 in January on a date specified by each extension service. Programs shall be
- 12 available to applicants at each extension service office located within or serving
- 13 an urban county of the Commonwealth. An office may work with an existing
- 14 state or local agricultural organization to better provide for the administration of
- 15 a program and the initiative.
- 16 (5) Each extension service office administering a program shall accept and review
- 17 applications from eligible applicants. Program participation shall be at the
- 18 discretion of each office and shall include as many participants as is practicable
- 19 on an annual basis. To be eligible to participate in a program, a participant shall:
- 20 (a) Be at least five (5) years of age and no more than eighteen (18) years of age;
- 21 (b) Have obtained parent or guardian permission to participate in accordance
- 22 with the extension service's youth protection policies; and
- 23 (c) Be available to participate in the program for the full duration of the term.