

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 January 1, 2027, 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 September 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.