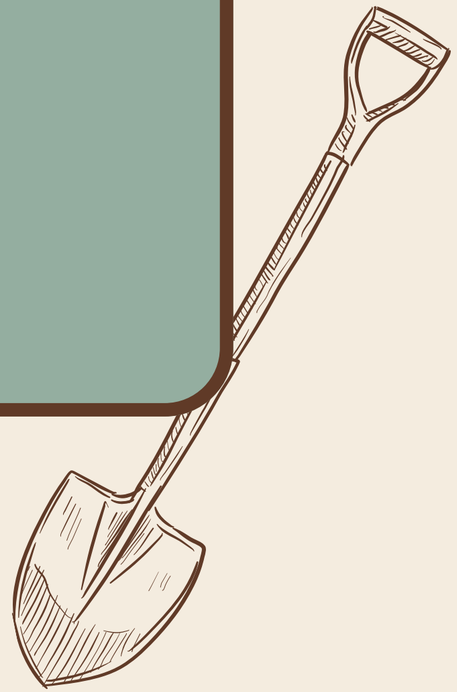
CFA Annual Meeting
Staff Report Outs
2026





We've been up to a lot this past year...





Local Food Access

KY Double Dollars

Fresh Rx for Families

Kentucky Double Dollars



Where We Are

- Nearly **100** locations
- **1** new farmstand & **2** grocery stores
- **Family Health Bucks**

Where We're Going

- Northeastern KY focused **expansion**
- **Continued partnership with KFB** for farmstand expansion
- **Grocery & retail expansion**
- **More funding** for fruit & vegetables
- **Meat, Eggs, & Dairy** for Senior & WIC KDD

Impacts

80
Markets Participating

1,000+
Farms Supported

$240,000
Double Dollars Into Farmers Pockets, YTD

$73,000
Farmers Market Administration grants



From The Field

"I love the way (Kentucky Double Dollars) program magnifies the relief & delight for folks of all ages!!! To be a part of that mission as a new farmer is **empowering**!!"

–Andrea Washington, Farmer- Herb House Farms

Fresh Rx For Families



Where We Are

- **Five** Farmers Markets
- **One** Farm Stand
- **Two** Service Agency CSA's
- **Two** Clincs CSA's
- **Two** Farm Delivery CSA's

FreshRx for Families

CFA
Community Farm Alliance



Fresh Rx For Families

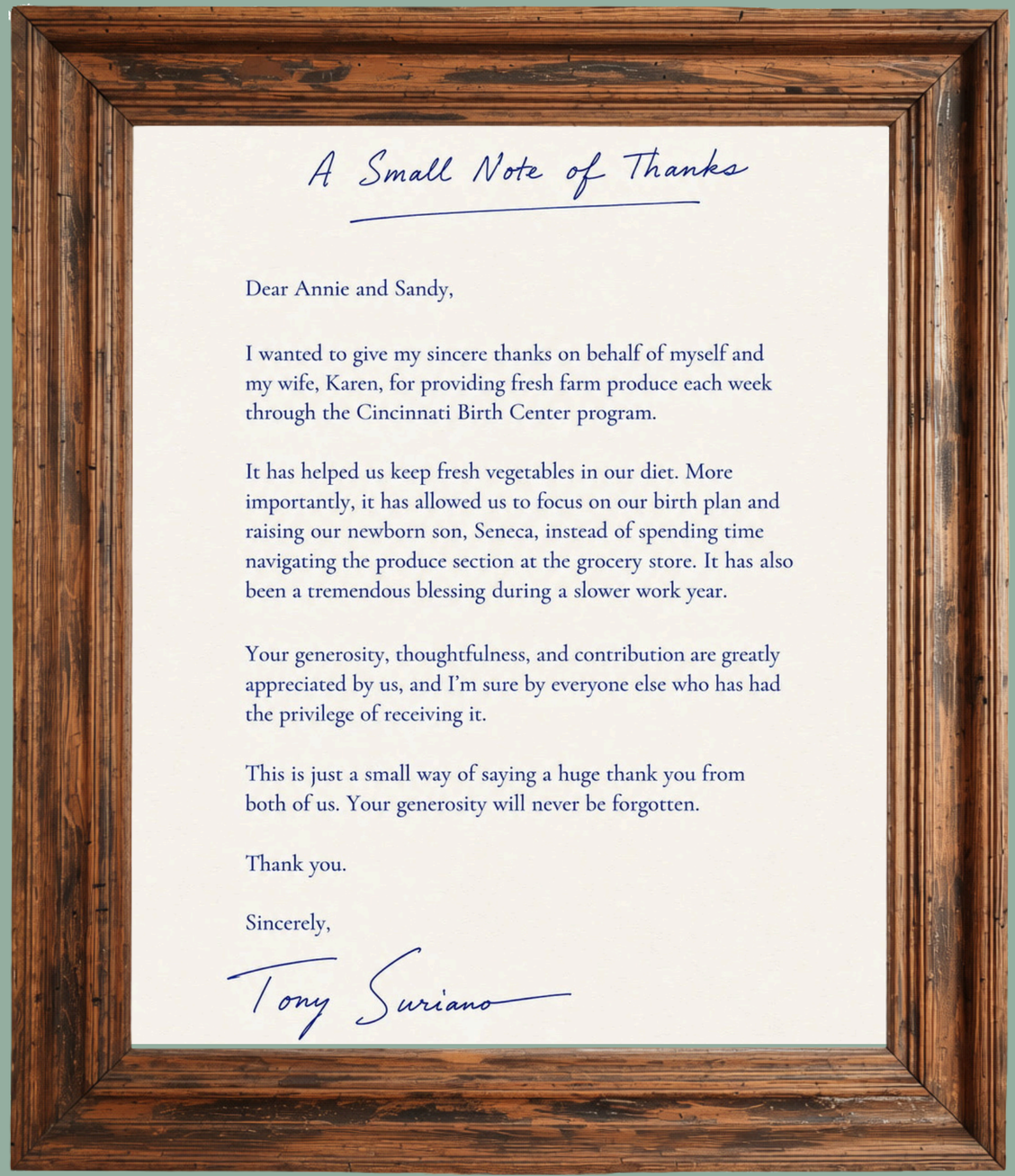


Where We're Going

The future is bright!

The program is looking to **expand** into some Eastern KY counties, as well as into some Service Agencies!

From The Field



A Small Note of Thanks

Dear Annie and Sandy,

I wanted to give my sincere thanks on behalf of myself and my wife, Karen, for providing fresh farm produce each week through the Cincinnati Birth Center program.

It has helped us keep fresh vegetables in our diet. More importantly, it has allowed us to focus on our birth plan and raising our newborn son, Seneca, instead of spending time navigating the produce section at the grocery store. It has also been a tremendous blessing during a slower work year.

Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and contribution are greatly appreciated by us, and I'm sure by everyone else who has had the privilege of receiving it.

This is just a small way of saying a huge thank you from both of us. Your generosity will never be forgotten.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony Suriano

The Patchwork Initiative & Farmer Outreach

The Patchwork Initiative

Where We Are



- 150 plus Participants
- Beginning Urban Rural Farmers
- Speciality Crop Planning
- Agritourism
- Farm Safety
- Biochar
- Season Extension
- Business Planning
- Soil Testing
- Partner Resources
- Technical Assistance



Where We're Going

- Increase policy & advocacy training
- Heris Proprty /Estate Planning
- Direct Farmer Assistance
- Farm Business Workshops





The Patchwork Initiative

From The Field











Market Development

Farmers Market Support Program

Farm to School

Regional Food System Partnerships

Market Development

Farmers Market Support Program



Where We Are

- Supporting markets via various different pathways

Where We're Going

- Up Next: Farmers Market Gathering in February!
- Continue supporting markets & farmers via specific TA
  - Market manager support, board development, healthy food access



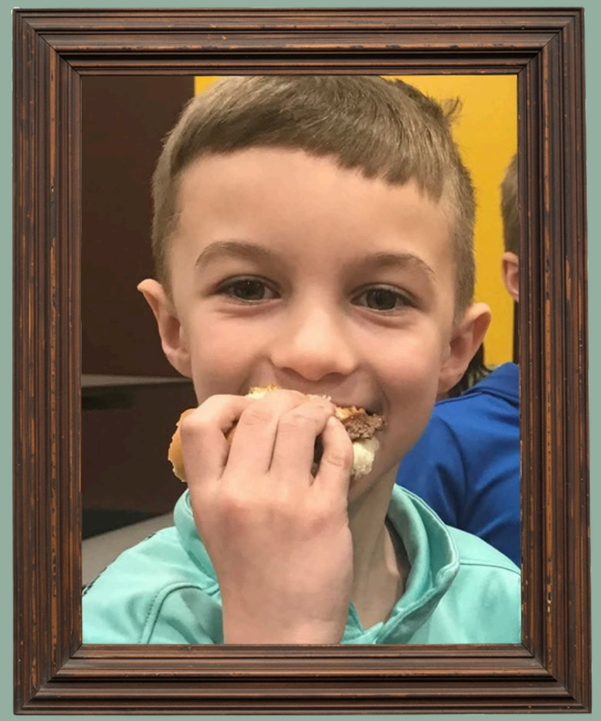
From the Field

"The markets were a dream and I am **so thankful** for the loving push you gave me. We have already started talking about **what we want to do next year.** With so much uncertainty and stress, **I didn't think I could do it but we did! And then some!"**

– Monet, Grow with Mo

Market Development

Farm to School



Where We Are

- Farm to School Network
- School garden mini-grants
- Senate Bill 5

Impacts

200+
Hours of hands-on learning

$20k
Awarded for schoool gardens

8,725
Students participated in Farm to School Challenge

Where We're Going

- Policy & Advocacy for making farm to school more accessible
- P2P Mentorship & Education
- Guides & toolkits for local food procurement



From The Field

"Yesterday was the first day that we **delivered wholesome ground beef to the school**… we were the very first one to do so in Breckenridge County in the history of the school system. **Yesterday was a monumental day for Breckenridge County Schools.**"

–Evan Tate, Tate Cattle Company

Market Development - RFSP



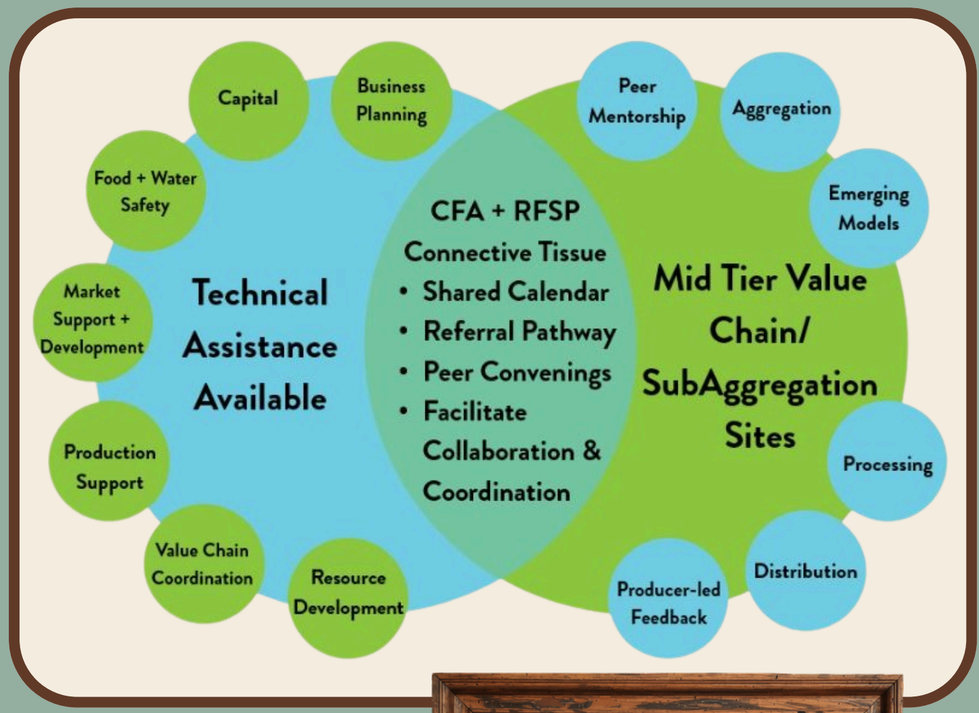
Where We Are

- **6 TA partners:** FAKY, Grow Appalachia, KCARD, KHC, OAK, UK Food Connection
- **5 MTVC partners:** CANE, FoodChain, Locals, Need More Acres, CTCT

Where We're Going

A "**No Wrong Door"** within KY's local food system:

- **Strengthen** public-private coordination & shared learning
- **Increase** private and philanthropic investment
- **Foster** replication of successful local & regional market models



From The Field

"There is **something powerful about bringing people together** who care deeply about the future of our region. Our time at FoodChain reinforced that the relationships we build are just as important as the work itself. **We're grateful to Community Farm Alliance** for creating space for collaboration & excited about **what we can accomplish together to strengthen local food systems across KY."**

–Erica Meadows, FAKY



Policy & Advocacy

Policy & Advocacy

By The Numbers

Since our last annual meeting...

30+
Bills Tracked

3
Priority Issues Advanced

2
Bills Passed Into Law

10+
Farmers Engaged

10+
Meetings with State Legislators

5
Meetings with KY Congressmen & Staff

3
Farm Bill Trainings

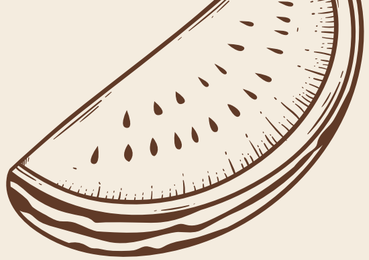
3
Policy & Advocacy Trainings

3
In-Person Policy & Advocay Events

4+
Media Interviews & Articles

7+
Years of Advocacy Behind Our Biggest Win





Legislative Wins



Senate Bill 73: Expanding On-Farm Poultry Processing

- **Expanded** opportunities for limited on-farm poultry processing.
- **Removes** a key barrier to processing access for small-scale farmers.
- A **multi-year advocacy effort** advanced through strategic legislative action.

Senate Bill 5: Growing Farm to School Markets



- Gives school districts **more flexibility** to purchase KY grown products.
- **Reduces** state-level bidding barriers.
- **Creates** more market opportunities for KY farmers.

Senate Joint Resolution 23: Advancing Food is Medicine Through KY Ag

- **Advances exploration** of how local food can improve public health.
- **Builds connections** between agriculture, healthcare, & state agencies.
- **Creates opportunities** to connect KY farmers with food-based health initiatives.

From The Field



"I can't believe it **actually** happened. I thought I was gonna have to **hang it up.** This is going to **save me at least a few thousand dollars** a year."

-Blackaby Hill Farm







New chicken processing waiver will keep small KY farmers from running afoul of the law

Kentucky becomes 49th state to allow processing on small farms

BY **KIM KOBERSMITH** - JUNE 29, 2026 5:30 AM



A seat at the table

That's when Marshall started working with Community Farm Alliance, a state-wide farmer advocacy group that had been pushing to pass the chicken bill for over a decade. Kimmie Ishmael, CFA's Policy Specialist, noted that the only other state that excluded the practice was Arkansas; both states have major industrial poultry producers. She says it was a crucial policy for the growing number of small farmers here.



Ishmael sees her role as getting farmers a seat at the table about issues that affect them. She believes many legislators were not aware of the possibility and need for the law; as an agriculture state, accepting the waiver closed a huge opportunity gap in the local food system.

Ishmael helped Marshall develop relationships with state leaders. Marshall hosted a pivotal encounter between food system and governmental leaders at BearFruit & Grow last summer. The Policy for Chickens event featured a panel discussion with four Kentucky farmers sharing how this policy affected their real-life farm businesses.

2027
Policy Priorities

How We Got Here

CFA's Policy Priority Decision Making Process



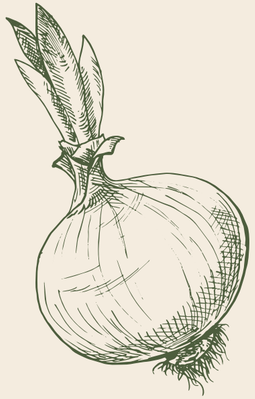
These priorities were developed through member input, committee review, & opportunities for feedback.

May 2026

Staff + Board Policy Committee assembled.

June 2026

Staff + Board Policy Committee drafts, edits, & finalizes the policy priority member survey.



July - August 2026

Survey period: From July 8th to August 28th our member & supporter survey circulated, receiving over 100 responses.

September 2026

Analysis: Survey responses reviewed to identify frequently mentioned issues & policies.
Committee Review: Staff + Board Policy Committee reviewed & ranked priorities based on mission alignment, member interest, & feasibility.

How We Got Here

CFA's Policy Priority Decision Making Process



These priorities were developed through member input, committee review, and opportunities for feedback.

October 2026

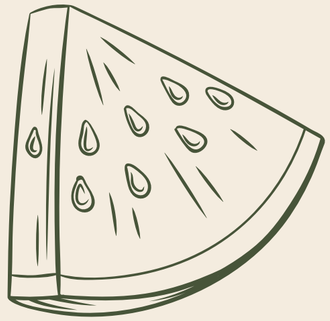
Member Review: On October 12th members were invited to review the proposed priorities for alignment with CFA's mission, vision, & values.

Committee Revisions: Feedback reviewed & necessary edits incorporated.



October 29, 2026

Final proposal presented to the CFA Board for approval.

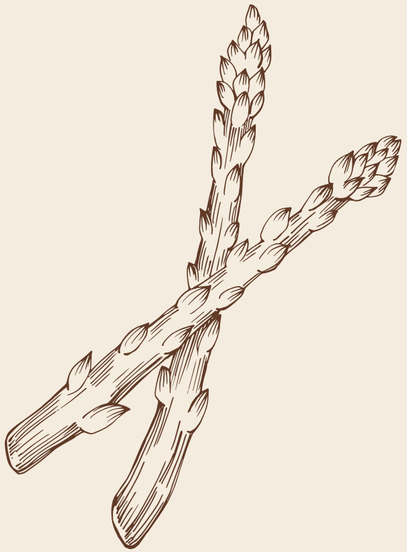


November 9, 2026

Approved priorities unveiled at CFA's Annual Meeting.



Understanding the Proposed Priorities



This is how the priorities are organized.

Main Campaign Priority

The primary focus for campaign development, grassroots organizing, & advocacy within a broader policy area.

Supporting Priorities

Related issues that remain part of CFA's policy & advocacy work. They may be incorporated into current campaigns, advanced through existing policy efforts, or developed into future campaigns.

Campaign Categories

Grassroots Campaigns: Member-driven campaigns built through grassroots organizing & advocacy.
Partnering Campaigns: Issues advanced in collaboration with aligned organizations & partners.
Other Possible Categories: Emerging Issues and Sign-On & Support

2027 Grassroots Campaigns

These are **member-driven campaigns led by CFA** to build grassroots support and advance policy change.

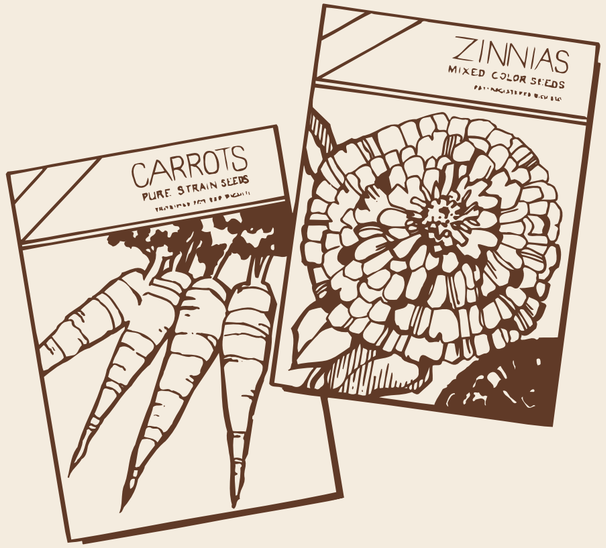
Campaigns may include **farmer and community organizing**, in-person events, trainings, member-led advocacy, legislator education, and pursuing funding opportunities.

CFA builds the relationships, knowledge, and collective power needed to move these priorities forward.

#1 Climate Change & Sustainable Ag

Main Campaign

Soil Conservation & Soil Health



Supporting Priorities

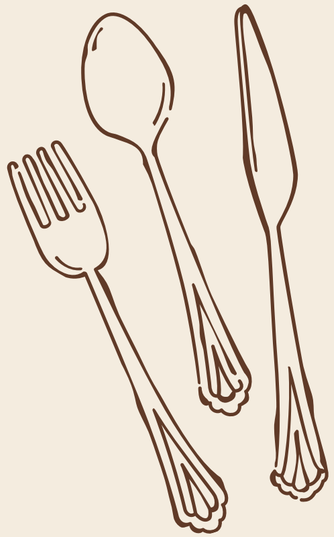
1. Pollinator & Ecosystem Health
2. Rural Disaster Preparedness & Climate Resilience
3. Conservation Program & Agency Staffing



#2 Local Food for Hunger & Health

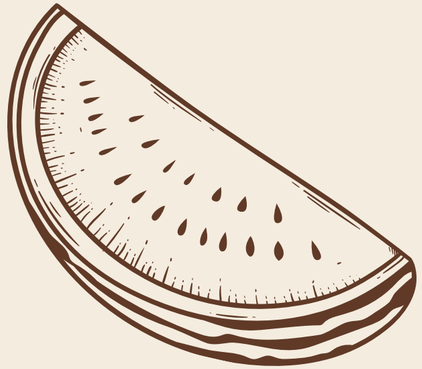
Main Campaign

Funding for Healthy Local Food Access Programs



Supporting Priorities

1. Food as Medicine
2. Local Food Nutrition Incentive Programs
3. GusNIP
    a. WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
    b. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

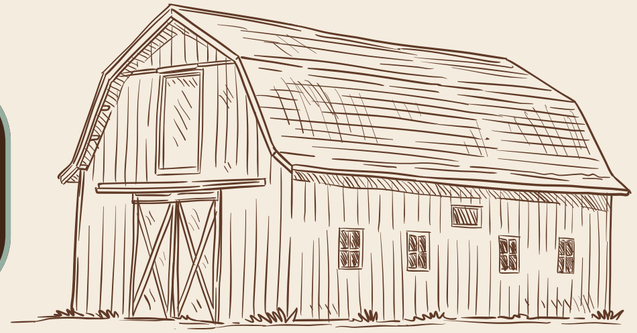




#3 Farmland for Farmers

Main Campaign

Heirs' Property Rights

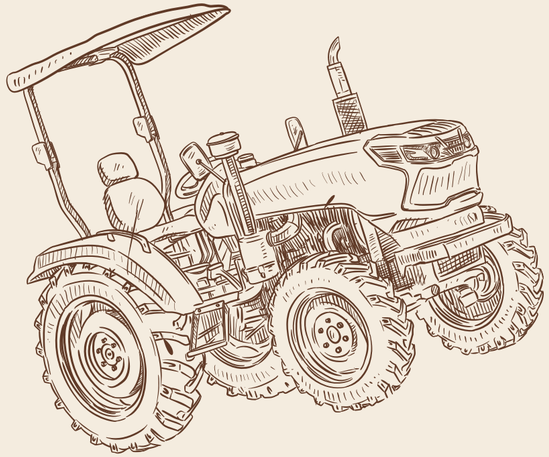






Supporting Priorities

1. Farmland Transition
2. Farmland Preservation, Land Use & Development Pressures
3. Farm Succession & Young Farmer Land Tenure
4. Farm Financial Security & Tax Policy

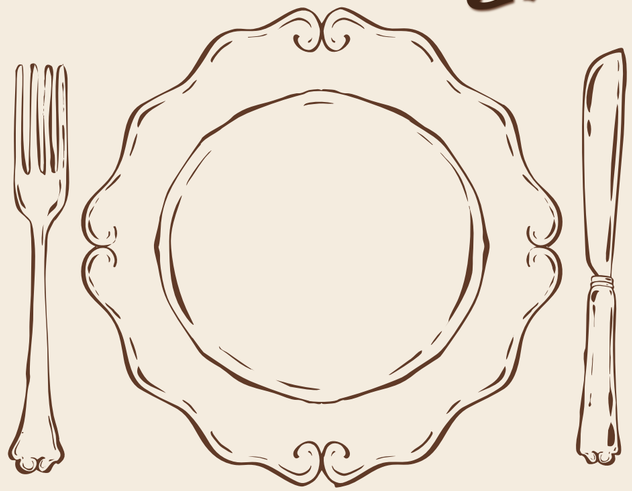


#4 Market Development & Access

Main Campaign

Farm to School







Supporting Priorities

1. Value-Added Product Regulation
2. Supporting Outlets for Small Farmers, including farmers markets, retail stores, & farm stores
3. Regional Food System Support
4. Farm Safety Net, Price Supports & Supply Management
5. Decreasing Food System Consolidation

2027 Partnering Campaigns

These are priority areas where **CFA partners with organizations with specialized expertise** to advance policy change.

CFA recognizes that **complex issues,** like healthcare, benefit from the leadership of **organizations working on them every day.**

Rather than leading these campaigns alone, CFA will **collaborate** with partners, **support** shared advocacy efforts, and **connect** members to opportunities to learn and take action.

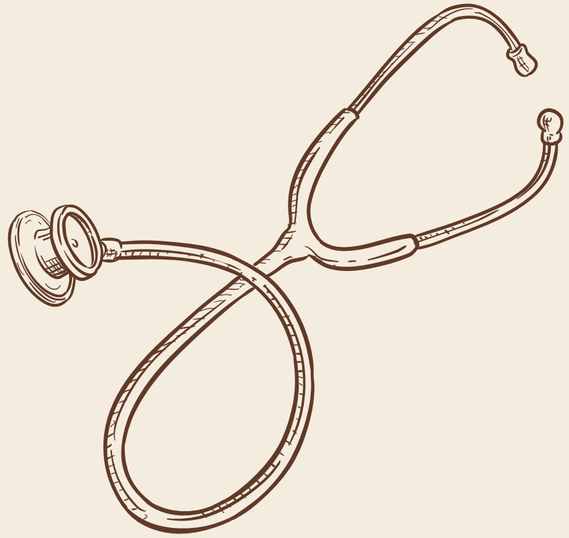
Farmers' Mental & Healthcare Access

Proposed Partners

KY Voices for Health, New Vista, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and other aligned partners.

Supporting Priorities

1. Mental Health Resources
2. Technical Assistance with Medicaid and/or Medicare
3. Rural Hospital Development
4. Pesticide, Herbicide & Chemical Exposure



2027
Federal Campaigns

The **Farm Bill & Federal Appropriations are a major priority for CFA,** connecting our grassroots organizing with national partnerships to advance policies that support farmers and strengthen local food systems.

CFA will **work with farmers, members, and national partners to advocate** for a strong Farm Bill, pursue funding opportunities, and create ways for members to engage through policy trainings, trips to Washington, D.C., congressional roundtables, and other advocacy events.

Our work extends beyond individual programs or provisions to advancing the Farm Bill as a whole.

Implementation & Flexibility

How will CFA use the approved priorities during 2027?

- Main campaign priorities will guide the organization's primary campaign development, grassroots organizing, & legislative advocacy.
- Supporting priorities will inform ongoing policy work, coalition engagement, & responses to legislative opportunities.
- CFA may work on additional issues as circumstances change, while remaining grounded in our mission, member input, & approved priorities.
- Partnering & federal campaigns may require coordination with external organizations & changing legislative timelines.







Thank You!

Let's Answer Some Questions!