



Governor  
Paul E.  
**PATTON**

The dedicated efforts of the people who work in Kentucky agriculture reaches deep into our communities. Their efforts and vision are helping us all succeed in a world changing for Kentucky farmers just as it does for other

businesses and industries.

The financial viability of our farms affects every person, home and community. All Kentuckians must understand the connection between our life quality and the success of the enterprises in our agricultural infrastructure.

My establishment of the first Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy directly connected the governor's office with the complex issues that face Kentucky farmers.

Farmers benefited from the creation of the National Tobacco Growers Settlement Trust in 1999. Some 150,000 cash settlements totaling more than \$458 million have already been distributed, and this year the trust delivered another \$150 million to tobacco quota owners and growers. Because our administrative costs are the lowest of all 14 participating states, more of these dollars efficiently support Kentucky agriculture.

Helping farmers take innovative, progressive approaches to their operations will ensure their strength for many years to come. The economic health of Kentucky's agricultural community benefits the entire Commonwealth.

I have enjoyed an exceptional partnership with Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the farming community. Realizing that cooperative and collaborative efforts produce the best results, all of us can take pride in the promising future in store for Kentucky agriculture.



Commissioner of  
Agriculture  
Billy Ray  
**SMITH**

Weather and disease combined to reduce farmgate income in Kentucky in 2002 to its lowest level since 1995. At the same time, a firm foundation has been laid for the

future of Kentucky agriculture, and as I prepare to leave office at the end of 2003, I am optimistic that better days are ahead.

Kentucky's signature horse industry felt the effects of Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome in 2001 and the outbreak of West Nile virus. Low prices and a midsummer drought cut into beef cattle income, and poultry income failed to match 2001 levels. Tobacco production in Kentucky was the lowest since 1936, due in part to drought.

But there were many positive signs in 2002. The meat goat industry emerged as Kentucky's fastest-growing agricultural enterprise. Kentucky's produce cooperatives and the catfish cooperative in Graves County enjoyed significant growth.

Our state leaders wisely have continued to invest half Kentucky's tobacco settlement money into agricultural diversification, and these one-of-a-kind investments already are yielding results. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture launched the Kentucky Fresh marketing program in 2002, helping consumers find great Kentucky food products.

KDA has led the way in helping Kentucky producers prepare for the tobacco industry's uncertain future. I am pleased I had the opportunity to serve you in this pivotal time in the history of Kentucky agriculture. Thank you for placing your confidence in me.

Best wishes and God bless.



State Statistician  
Leland E.  
**BROWN**

size, tenure, type of organization, market value of products sold, and type of enterprise. By working together we make it known that *Agriculture Counts!*

The voluntary cooperation of thousands of farmers and agri-businesses, and the invaluable efforts of the KASS office staff in compiling the collected data, are essential for us to maintain reliable facts on the changes in Kentucky agriculture. My special thanks to the dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators who spent many hours collecting data. They are truly our goodwill ambassadors to Kentucky's agricultural community.

This book is only one of many ways to receive statistical reports on Kentucky agriculture. You may visit us on the Web and view all our reports there. Reports can be delivered free to your e-mail address, or hardcopy reports are available for a small fee. Please contact us any time with your questions, comments, or requests for information. The staff of the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users.

The Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service collects and provides accurate, up-to-date information on nearly every aspect of Kentucky's \$3.1 billion agriculture industry.

KASS also coordinated data collection for the 2002 Census of Agriculture in Kentucky, for which county and state totals will be available in early 2004. We thank all farm operators who completed a census form or spoke with us about their farms'