

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A YOUNG & NEW FARMER GRANT PROGRAM  
TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

WHEREAS, the Woodford County Fiscal Court recognizes the importance of our farmers and agriculture producers; and

WHEREAS, the financial health and stability of our local farmers is critical to our food supply chain, quality of life, and economy; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact has caused great challenges, hardship and difficulties for our farmers and agriculture producers; and

WHEREAS, it is in emergent public interest that our Woodford County farmers and agricultural small business community remain viable; and

WHEREAS, Woodford County aims to cultivate a sustainable agricultural economy by supporting and fostering a new generation of farmers and offer financial assistance to young and new farmers establishing or expanding their agricultural operations within Woodford County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Woodford County Fiscal Court, Kentucky that the following shall apply:

SECTION 1

There is hereby approved the Young & New Farmer Grant Program to provide financial assistance to support sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, promote local food production and sales in Woodford County, support a viable long-term business plan, aid farm income in supporting dependents, provide additional jobs and/or local economic activity, overcome barriers to entry and challenges for new and young farmers, and relieve economic hardship and need.

SECTION 2

Applicants must be between 18 and 50 years of age (expanded young farmer definition) or new farmers in their first five years of operation. Applicants must reside in Woodford County and own, farm, operate or lease agricultural land within the County. Applicants who reside in Woodford County and own, farm, operate or lease agricultural land in surrounding counties may be considered, but the farmer must provide detailed information to support and validate their nexus to Woodford County farming and to our local economy.

Grant funds can be used for various purposes, including:

- Purchasing equipment, seeds, or livestock.
- Financing land improvements or infrastructure development.
- Enrolling in educational programs or attending relevant workshops.

Ineligible uses include:

- Funds cannot be used for refinancing existing debt, household living expenses, or personal expenditures, such as vehicles.

### SECTION 3

An application will be created, approved, and amended, if necessary, by the Fiscal Court. Those applications submitted will be considered by a screening committee appointed by the Judge/Executive comprised of agricultural professionals and community representatives and make recommendations to the Woodford County Fiscal Court. Applications will be judged on clarity, feasibility, and potential impact of the proposed project. Approved applicants will be awarded a specific sum up to \$2,000 per farmer, and no more than \$50,000.00 will be awarded in total. First priority will be given to new applicants who did not receive funding in the FY 2024–2025 grant cycle.

### SECTION 4

Applications will be due by May 15, 2026. Upon completion of an application, it will be reviewed by the Judge/Executive or his designee, and any additional information (if needed) will be requested. The final application and supporting documentation will then be sent to the screening committee for consideration at the next Fiscal Court meeting. The Woodford County Fiscal Court may approve, deny, request additional information, provide conditional approval, or table the consideration to a subsequent meeting. The program’s effectiveness will be evaluated regularly to assess its impact on young and new farmers in Woodford County.

Introduced and fully adopted at the regular meeting of the Woodford County Fiscal Court on March 10, 2026.

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JAMES KAY, JUDGE/EXECUTIVE  
WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK, WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT