
Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Loan Program



Guidelines

Purpose: To assist agri-entrepreneurs with the purchase, establishment or expansion of a business that sells agricultural products or services to farmers or consumers.

Eligibility:

1. KAFC will loan **up to 50% of the project cost not to exceed \$250,000**. If applicant has existing agricultural debt with the participating lender and/or FSA, this debt can be used as match such that KAFC can participate up to 100% of the project costs. KAFC will otherwise be limited to 50% of the total project cost.
2. Priority consideration will be given to borrowers with agricultural education and/or experience in agriculture.
3. Borrower must be a Kentucky resident, as evidence by a Kentucky driver's license or other valid documentation.
4. Project must be located on property in Kentucky.
5. Household and/or operation may have multiple KAFC loans but is limited to an aggregate balance of \$250,000 in all programs, excluding the Agriculture Processing Loan Program.

Terms:

1. Participating lender must be a financial institution with offices in Kentucky.
2. Lead lender is required to prepare and submit the loan application. There must be a commitment by a participating lender who will work with the borrower to capitalize the initial investments outlined in the three-year business plan. The lender will continue to evaluate additional credit needs, however, any additional credit will be at the discretion of the lender and according to their normal underwriting policies.
3. Interest rate on the KAFC portion of the loan will be fixed at **2% a.p.r.** for the life of the loan. KAFC reserves the right to adjust the rate on any new loans as market conditions change.
4. Lender must agree to service the KAFC participated loan for no more than **0.75% (75 basis points)**, for the life of the loan. This fee will be added to the KAFC rate to determine the blended rate.
5. Maximum KAFC loan term shall not exceed **15 years or useful life** of asset, collateralizing loans. Loans secured by real estate may be amortized over 25 years with a 15 year balloon.
6. Loan must be secured with both fixed assets and the personal guarantee of the borrower.

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7. K AFC will consider subordinating debt to participating lender. No future debt can be incurred on mortgaged property without notification of K AFC.
 8. Borrower must submit a three-year business plan (outline available) showing a reasonable return and an ability to retire the K AFC debt.
 9. Startup ventures may be required to submit a feasibility study documenting that this business does not unduly compete with other existing businesses providing similar products or services.
 10. Borrower must identify a Mentor who meets the criteria described in the application, who will assist the applicant in carrying out the proposed business plan objectives, who has no financial interest in the borrower's farming operation, who is not an immediate family member (father/mother, son/daughter, brother/sister), and who agrees to meet with the borrower at least once a year, throughout the term of the loan. The mentor is asked to provide an annual report outlining these meetings for a minimum of five years or until notified otherwise.
 - a. K AFC and the applicant recognize the mentor as a **volunteer advisor** and release the mentor of any liability
 11. Borrower must acquire all relevant permits and the project must meet all required construction codes. Property must be in compliance with all environmental regulations.
 12. Construction projects must **commence** within **six months** of loan approval and must be **completed** within **eighteen months** of loan approval.
 13. Participating lender and/or borrower will provide interim financing during construction of project. K AFC will transfer loan proceeds upon satisfactory completion of project.
 14. Any principal and interest payments made by borrower will be shared pro-rata by lender and K AFC unless both parties agree to modified terms. There shall be **no prepayment penalty** on the K AFC participated loan.
 15. Only expenses incurred after the DEAL Application has been received by K AFC will be eligible for consideration under this loan program.
 16. No Borrower may participate in this program for more than 15 years.
 17. K AFC shall review each application and supporting documentation; loan approval will be at the discretion of the K AFC board.
 18. The K AFC Loan Review Committee must review applicants with credit scores below 600 for evaluation and funding recommendation.
 19. Applications with a combined loan-to-value up to 85% may have a government guarantee, but it is not required.
 20. Applications with the approval and obligation of a government guarantee, shall not have a combined loan-to-value greater than 100%.
 21. Any application with a combined loan-to-value greater than 85% without a government guarantee will be referred to the K AFC Loan Review Committee for evaluation and recommendation.

Eligible Projects:

- Applicant must receive equity equal to the investment being provided
- Business into which borrower is investing must show a positive gain in net worth over the past five years
- Equipment purchases
- Facilities
- Funds to invest in a partnership, LLC or other agribusiness business structure
- Permanent working capital
- Real estate
- Other agricultural investments at the discretion of the KAFC Board

Not Eligible: Operating or refinancing loans