



Bob Farmer



**COMMISSIONER
OF AGRICULTURE**



James Comer



SECTION 1	BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION	
<i>Education</i>	University of Kentucky, B.A., 1972	Western Kentucky University, 1993, B.S. (Major - Agriculture; Minor - Government), Magna Cum Laude; Monroe County High School, 1990
<i>Occupation</i>	Marketing and Advertising company owner since 1982. Professional public speaker. Spokesman for The Farmers' Almanac.	Full-time farmer and Kentucky State Representative for the 53 rd House District
<i>Family</i>	Married 40 years with two sons	Married to Tamara Jo with three children
<i>Civic/Religious Involvement</i>	Westport Road Baptist Church, Kentucky Speakers Association, Kentucky Storytellers Association, Country Music Association, NRA member	Member, First Baptist Church of Tompkinsville
<i>Personal Interests</i>	Family and Church; Golf, hiking and fishing	Enjoy farming, spending time with kids, and golf
SECTION 2	RESPONSES	
<i>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky agriculture?</i>	"The most important issue facing Kentucky's agriculture is profitable product diversification and rural economic development while defending agriculture's progress from extremists."	"The agriculture industry in Kentucky is under attack from liberal extremists in Washington. Kentucky must have an Agriculture Commissioner that is educated and well-spoken who can effectively defend the agriculture industry against excessive regulations that are placing our farmers at a competitive disadvantage."
<i>What innovation(s) do you propose to better market Kentucky-grown products?</i>	"We will create and implement an aggressive advertising, marketing, and public relations program to benefit Kentucky's agriculture within and outside Kentucky. This will be done on a local, regional, national, and worldwide level."	"First, I will place more emphasis on expanding exports. I have experience in exporting my own beef cattle to foreign countries. Second, I will update KDA's marketing techniques by better utilizing social media and other modern marketing outlets."
<i>What will you do to improve rural Kentucky and the vitality of the small family farm?</i>	"This will take a three-pronged approach. First, we will expand agricultural education. Second, we will actively pursue economic development in rural areas by bringing in new businesses. Third, pursue a diversification of agricultural products to increase small farm profits."	"We can revitalize our rural economies with agriculture. Most small farmers need off-farm income. Rural economic development will be a priority. I will recruit new agricultural processors and industries which will 'finish' the product in rural Kentucky."
<i>What would your top three priorities be if elected as Commissioner of Agriculture?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage the taxpayers' dollars and assets wisely and efficiently. 2. Fulfill our regulatory and consumer production duties with the least amount of burden on businesses and individuals. 3. Aggressively promote the value of Kentucky's agriculture worldwide." 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand markets for Kentucky agricultural products. 2. Enhance rural economic development. 3. Make the Kentucky Department of Agriculture budget completely transparent."



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<p><i>What are your recommendations for trimming the budget and cutting government waste?</i></p>	<p>"As an independent businessman since 1982, I know no other way to operate a business other than lean, effective, and profitable. I have never been a politician or a government employee and I will run the department like a business."</p>	<p>"I will make the KDA budget transparent so every Kentucky taxpayer can view every expenditure. Transparency will make every employee and department head think twice before making unnecessary expenditures. This will lead to less government waste."</p>
<p><i>What are your proposals to diversify Kentucky's agriculture industry?</i></p>	<p>"Diversification comes from education first and continued education of young people will be a priority. Alternative products must be promoted and profitability must be proven. Economic development of rural areas and bringing in new businesses will be essential to diversification."</p>	<p>"I will be an active co-chairman on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and work closely with leaders in the agriculture community to help utilize Tobacco Master Settlement Funds dollars to diversify Kentucky's agriculture economy."</p>
<p><i>After four years, what will your office have accomplished to improve life in Kentucky?</i></p>	<p>"1. Agriculture education will be stronger. 2. Agriculture businesses will be expanded. 3. Kentucky agriculture products will be more in demand. 4. Kentucky agriculture will be more diversified and profitable. 5. The bio-fuel industry in Kentucky will be greatly expanded. 6. The thoroughbred industry will be stronger."</p>	<p>"Kentucky's total farm cash receipts will rise due to the expansion of markets for existing farm products and the development of new markets for new agriculture products. Rural economies will prosper from new agriculture related jobs."</p>
<p><i>What strengths do you possess that make you the best candidate for this office?</i></p>	<p>"I have never run for office or taken a paycheck from taxpayers. I don't view this office as a step stone to a higher office. I'm a long-term business owner specializing in sales and marketing, just what Kentucky Agriculture needs. It's not about who's the best farmer, but who is best for the farmers."</p>	<p>"I am a working full-time farmer of a progressive farming operation. I have experience in agriculture lending, due to my service as director of a bank. I have experience as a conservative legislator. I have been a lifelong leader in the agriculture community."</p>
<p><i>Why would you be more effective in this office than your opponent?</i></p>	<p>"I have a 100% non-political, non-government background. I have no preconceived ideas and can be objective. My 30-year record of business management, marketing, and public relations is unmatched by any other candidate and will benefit Kentucky's agriculture greatly."</p>	<p>"I am the overwhelming choice among the voters in the agriculture community. The agriculture community wants an active, informed and accessible Commissioner of Agriculture with a strong agriculture background. I have the most experience, knowledge, and ability."</p>
<p><i>To know you more personally, what issue(s), unrelated to the office you seek, are you passionate about?</i></p>	<p>"I am passionate about preserving democracy, the American family and the free enterprise system, and limiting government interference into individuals' lives."</p>	<p>"Government waste! I have fought tirelessly as a Kentucky State Representative to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in state government. I want to reduce the size of government and make every government agency accountable to the taxpayer."</p>

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www.farmerforkentucky.com

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www.jamescomer.com



SECTION 3

OPTIONAL VALUES QUESTIONS

<p><i>Amnesty for illegal aliens OR Stronger enforcement of current immigration law</i></p>	<p>Candidate declined to respond to the “Optional Values Questions.”</p>	<p>“I want stronger enforcement of current immigration law. I favor cutting welfare programs and making more citizens go back to work on farming related jobs. This would lead to less need for immigrant workers.”</p>
<p><i>Pro-Choice OR Pro-Life</i></p>		<p>“100% Pro-Life. Endorsed by Kentucky Right to Life.”</p>
<p><i>Domestic partner benefits should become a state policy OR Such benefits should not be an option</i></p>		<p>“I am against Domestic Partner Benefits.”</p>
<p><i>Gambling should be expanded OR Should not be expanded</i></p>		<p>“The people should be allowed to vote on this divisive issue. As our next Agriculture Commissioner, I will work to see that our equine industry rebounds and that Kentucky remains the Horse Capital of the world.”</p>
<p><i>Same-sex marriage should be considered OR Traditional marriage should be protected</i></p>		<p>“Traditional marriage should be protected.”</p>
<p><i>Unions must be able to collect dues from the entire work force OR Kentucky should become a “Right to Work” state</i></p>		<p>“Kentucky should become a ‘right to work’ state.”</p>
<p><i>Kentucky should oppose OR Support the President’s health care program</i></p>		<p>“I oppose Obamacare and Kentucky should opt out.”</p>