

# Kentucky



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Kentuckians.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

Tobacco farmers in eastern Kentucky have seen markets shrink in recent years - but they’ve also found a profitable transition in the form of sweet potatoes. With relatively low input and capital costs and a short learning curve, they are able to earn gross returns of up to \$7,000 per acre, mostly through local sales. USDA support has helped the University of Kentucky research and demonstrate sweet potato production on several farms.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Kentucky, USDA has invested in 1,659 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



### SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **276 rural businesses in Kentucky thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



### RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms.

**Rural manufacturing supports 90,258 jobs in Kentucky.** USDA has invested **\$62.4 million** to help rural manufacturers in **Kentucky** increase production and capacity.



### GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$2.3 billion** to **Kentucky’s** economy.

The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



### HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **26,771 Kentucky families** purchase or repair homes.



### CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$321.9 million** in telecommunications projects serving rural Kentuckians, which has helped

to expand access to state-of-the-art health care, educational, and cultural resources and helps rural businesses compete in the global economy.



### WATER

USDA has invested **\$399.5 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and

wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Kentuckians** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.