



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Kentucky State Office Building
501 High Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
U.S. Senate
295 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Comer
U.S. House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Morgan McGarvey
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas Massie
U.S. House of Representatives
2453 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
2406 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

***Re: Support the Bipartisan Legislation to Reduce Fertilizer Costs for Kentucky
Farmers and Consumers***

Dear Kentucky Congressional Delegation:

As Kentucky's Governor, my job is to move our Commonwealth forward and help all Kentuckians achieve the American Dream. For that reason, I am requesting your support for bipartisan legislation, such as the Homegrown Fertilizer Act (S.4148/H.R.8457), to reduce fertilizer costs for American farmers and our dependence on foreign fertilizer, while at the same time lowering prices at the checkout line for American families.

The Homegrown Fertilizer Act would provide grants and low-interest loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand fertilizer production and improve storage capacity here in the United States—ensuring farmers have reliable, affordable access to the supplies they need.

Reduce Fertilizer Costs for Kentucky Farmers and Consumers

May 5, 2026

Page 2

Today, fertilizer prices are skyrocketing due to the war in Iran. Over 30% of the world's seaborne trade in fertilizer products is shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.¹ Derived from oil and gas production, urea fertilizer is among the world's most widely used farm fertilizers, including here at home. The Persian Gulf states produce nearly 40% of U.S. waterborne imports of urea fertilizer.

Farmers in southern states, like Kentucky, are feeling the pain of high fertilizer costs.² In Kentucky, farmers grow cash crops like corn, which rely heavily on applied fertilizer to increase crop yields. Dent corn is a heavy user of nitrogen. Depending on days to maturity, plant density, soil type, irrigation dent and sweet corn may require 150 to 250 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Kentucky farmers planted 1.6 million acres of corn in 2025. In Kentucky, the corn crop accounts for 17% of our total agricultural revenue, generating over \$1.4 billion annually for the Commonwealth.

Increased fertilizer costs are hurting small farms the most. Small farmers are more exposed to in-season price increases. Since they are less able to purchase fertilizer ahead of growing season they have been hit hard by the financial strains caused by the war.

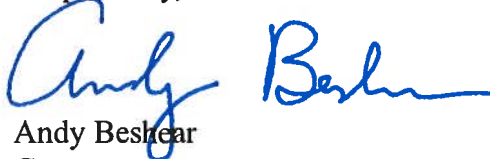
These impacts are also being felt by Kentucky livestock farmers. According to the University of Kentucky, 60% of our corn crop provides feed for livestock farmers and ethanol production. Higher input costs for corn producers mean higher prices for livestock farmers and, ultimately, Kentucky consumers.

Increasing domestic production and storage of farm fertilizer in the United States will help lower costs for our farmers and consumers. Our food supply is a vital national security interest. Building our capacity furthers that interest and helps our farmers and families make ends meet.

In this moment, Kentuckians and the American people are counting on common-sense, bipartisan leadership from the Congress. It is up to you to provide it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your attention and prompt action on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Andy Beshear
Governor

¹ March 10, 2026, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Strait of Hormuz Disruptions, available at https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osgttinf2026d1_en.pdf (last visited April 27, 2026).

² April 14, 2026, *Farm Bureau Survey Reveals Real Impact of Fertilizer Availability and Price*, available at <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/farm-bureau-survey-reveals-real-impact-of-fertilizer-availability-and-price> (last visited April 27, 2026) (“Fertilizer affordability challenges are most acute in the South”)