

FCR 12

Office of the President
March 19, 2013

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPROVAL OF COLLABORATION AGREEMENT
FOR THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF EDEN SHALE FARM

Recommendation: that the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration be authorized to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Kentucky Beef Network, LLC for the day-to-day operation and management of the Eden Shale Farm.

Background: The University of Kentucky owns a 961-acre farm in Owen County, Kentucky known as the Eden Shale Farm. For over fifty years, the College of Agriculture had operated Eden Shale Farm as a research facility. Over time, the cost of operation of Eden Shale Farm had become cost-prohibitive, in part due to the lack of proximity to Lexington, Kentucky as well as ever-increasing costs associated with said farm's agricultural research projects. The College of Agriculture essentially ceased most research and demonstration activities in 2012, although certain modest projects remain on-going. After extensive discussions, the College of Agriculture and the non-profit Kentucky Beef Network, LLC ("KBN") have negotiated a collaboration agreement that provides for KBN to assume the majority of operational and financial responsibility for Eden Shale farm, with the goal of operating the property as a learning center and demonstration farm. The goal is to operate the property in a way that demonstrates cutting-edge research into beef production practices in Kentucky. This arrangement will allow the College of Agriculture personnel to continue collaborative activities.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____