



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources

March 28th, 2019

**Hopkins County
Cooperative Extension Service**
75 Cornwall Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431-8780
(270)821-3650
Fax: (270) 825-5011
Hopkins.ca.uky.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

Agriculture in Hopkins County, Kentucky, according to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, contributes roughly 107 millions dollars annually to our local economy. These impacts are sure to change and diversify with the continued rapid adoption of precision technology. One such change that is currently underway includes the integration of data management on farms locally. Access to highspeed internet is a key link to ensure rapid access to diagnostic services, information and even basic needs going forward for the agriculture community.

The sky is the limit in regards to the opportunities that can be afforded with ready access to reliable internet and reliance on broadband internet access will be a need rather than a want going forward. Historically, access to highspeed internet has been a luxury only obtained within a few select areas in the county. As a champion of agriculture locally, I fully support the efforts of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court in its efforts to expand high-speed internet access to all of the citizens of Hopkins County. I believe that the region as a whole will benefit and show increased efficiency and productivity on agriculture acres due to competitive access to resources and education.

I look forward to supporting the further developments of these local efforts to increase highspeed internet access locally.

Sincerely,

Curtis Dame

County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Hopkins County Cooperative Extension Service

