

**Kentucky
Candidate
Information
Survey**



www.votekentucky.us



Bill Polyniak

**COMMISSIONER
OF AGRICULTURE**

Republican Primary - May 21

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Ryan Quarles

SECTION 1	BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION	
<i>Education</i>	Sacred Heart Catholic School K-6 , Washington Jr. High 7-8, Salinas High School Graduated 1989, Heald Institute of Technology Degree Computer Science , Heald Institute of Technology Networking Technology Degree Networking Technology.	1) BS Agriculture Economics - UK, 2) BS Public Service & Leadership - UK, 3) MS. Agriculture Economics – UK, 4) MA Diplomacy & International Trade, 5) Ed M – Higher Education from Harvard University, 6) Juris Doctor – UK 7) ED.D Higher Education – Vanderbilt University
<i>Occupation</i>	Corrugated manufacturing industry 20+ years, Small Business Owner, Farmer	Commissioner of Agriculture; part-time farm hand at Quarles Farms
<i>Family</i>	Wife: Adriane, Sons: Gunner (16), Colten (13), Parents: Thomas and Joanne Polyniak, Brother: Thomas, Jr. and Sister: Karen	Father, Roger Quarles; Brother & Sister-in-law, Clint & Jackie Quarles; 1 nephew and 1 niece
<i>Civic/Religious Involvement</i>	Fayette County Republican Party: Member, Executive Committee Member-at-Large, Steering Committee; Southern Heights Baptist Church	Member of Southland Christian Church
<i>Personal Interests</i>	Spending time with my family, Fishing and Hunting. Flying large scale R/C aircraft.	Farming, dry-stone masonry, fishing, kayaking, shooting, anything outdoors
SECTION 2	RESPONSES	
<i>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky agriculture?</i>	"The biggest issue currently facing Kentucky agriculture is overregulation. In just about all markets, the regulations stifle growth and opportunities for Kentucky small farmers."	"Inconsistent farm income and a lack of agriculture literacy are the two biggest issues facing Kentucky agriculture. Our farms need market access to increase prices and the consumer needs to better know where their food comes from. Progress has been made."
<i>What innovation(s) do you propose to better market Kentucky-grown products?</i>	"Currently the California dairy industry advertises its dairy products in Kentucky. I will work to promote Kentucky Dairy and Kentucky Beef in states like California. Adding value of Kentucky farmers."	"Under my administration we have grown Kentucky Proud to over 8000 members. We also created the "Buy Local" program that gets local food into our restaurants, schools and grocery stores. Also, I'm proud we have more Farmer Markets that ever at 168."
<i>What will you do to improve rural Kentucky and the vitality of the small family farm?</i>	"Kentucky's small farmers have an opportunity to participate in the hottest new crop – hemp. Reducing fees, opening opportunities and providing training to Kentucky's small farmers will allow them to add a significant amount of income to their farm."	"As Commissioner, I have systematically supported small farm initiatives such as our industrial hemp program, dedicating 50% of our tobacco settlement money for agriculture, and advocated for rural broadband internet. I know small farms because I grew up on one."
<i>What would your top three priorities be if elected as Commissioner of Agriculture?</i>	"My top 3 priorities are: 1. Hemp education for current farmers and future farmers, i.e. 4-H and FFA Programs. 2. Food safety testing program to build consumer confidence. 3. Rebuild Kentucky Dairy industry."	"1. Increase on farm income by opening markets both abroad and domestic, as I've done in the first term. 2. Promote Agriculture Education with my three mobile science units and continue to raise \$400,000 annually for 4-H and FFA. 3. Maintain Kentucky as the epicenter for industrial hemp."

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<p><i>What ideas do you have to increase Kentucky's exports of agricultural products?</i></p>	<p>"Hemp is going to be a 22 billion dollar industry. Currently Kentucky agriculture is a 5 billion dollar industry. Hemp, under the proper leadership, can lead Kentucky to increase its agriculture receipts up to 10 billion."</p>	<p>"Agriculture exports from Kentucky are up under my administration. Additionally, I helped open trade with China for our racing industry which benefits all sorts of Kentucky farmers. I also led the first ever Ag export mission to Canada in 2018."</p>
<p><i>What are your proposals to diversify Kentucky's agriculture industry?</i></p>	<p>"As a farmer who brought a new crop to the state, all I needed was someone who would listen. I believe my job as Commissioner of Agriculture will be to listen and support farmers' ideas for the future."</p>	<p>"Kentucky agriculture is more diverse now than ever as I have routinely supported new alternative crops such as hemp, kenaf, hops and small ruminants like goats and sheep. I also chair the AG Development Board and AG Farmers Board that support diversification."</p>
<p><i>After four years, what will your office have accomplished to improve life in Kentucky?</i></p>	<p>"After 4 years in office, voters can expect hemp education to be in schools, a food safety lab at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and a huge reduction in pharmaceutical pills due to the increase in Kentucky CBD products."</p>	<p>"In the next four years, my administration will continue the success of industrial hemp, connect consumers with our farm community, increase our KY Proud program, increase meat processing, and position Kentucky as an Ag-Tech hub of America."</p>
<p><i>What strengths do you possess that make you the best candidate for this office?</i></p>	<p>"As a farmer and businessman in the industry, I have a true understanding of the industry that offers the greatest opportunity for success for our state and farmers. Since 2014, I've not only built my successful, local business but also educated, encouraged and provided opportunity for other farmers to flourish."</p>	<p>"As the incumbent who has the broad support of Kentucky's agricultural community, my strong working relationships with our farm organizations will allow my administration to continue to be effective. Being raised on a Kentucky farm is my greatest strength."</p>
<p><i>Why would you be more effective in this office than your opponent(s)?</i></p>	<p>"My opponent is funded by special interest groups and is motivated by things that will only progress his personal, political career. I, on the other hand, truly wish to empower and provide opportunity to Kentucky farmers of all sizes."</p>	<p>"I grew up on a Kentucky tobacco and cattle farm, coming from a family that has farmed here since the 1780s. I have built the relationships needed to be effective in my first term and will continue to make Kentucky Proud."</p>
<p><i>To know you more personally, what issue(s), unrelated to the office you seek, are you passionate about?</i></p>	<p>"Right to Life – Helping those that do not have a voice. Many children and mentally handicapped are currently overexposed to pharmaceutical pills and not enough natural options. These pills often make problems worse for these individuals and create other hardships on the body."</p>	<p>"I am passionate about reducing food insecurity in Kentucky. Even though my job description does not include hunger, I have rewritten KY's food donation law, had 150+ refrigerators donated and started the Kentucky Hunger Initiative to combat food insecurity."</p>

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