

Executive Branch Ethics Commission  
**ADVISORY OPINION 07-30**  
August 24, 2007

**RE:** May PVA serve on local boards of directors?

**DECISION:** Yes.

This opinion is issued in response to your August 20, 2007 request for an advisory opinion from the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the "Commission"). This matter was reviewed at the August 24, 2007 meeting of the Commission and the following opinion is issued.

You provide the relevant facts as follows. You were recently appointed as a property valuation administrator ("PVA") and have questions regarding the following three situations:

1. You serve as a member of the board of directors of your county cattleman's association. The association provides educational speakers and administers local programs involving tobacco settlement monies. The board of directors seldom meets, and you ask if your membership in the association or on the board poses an ethics problem with your position as a PVA.

2. You are a licensed appraiser and serve on the board of directors of the Kentucky Association of Farm Managers/Rural Appraisers which is affiliated with a national organization. This organization networks, offers education, and performs some limited lobbying on state issues of the appraisal profession. You ask if you may continue to serve on this board.

3. You recently were awarded through your county extension office some monies to use your farm as a demo farm/cooperating farm. You will receive \$2000 for fencing, seeding, fertilization of fields, etc. You ask if you may you accept these funds for this project.

Please find enclosed for your information Advisory Opinion 05-11 which addresses whether a PVA may serve as an officer for certain organizations. Based on that opinion, as well as Advisory Opinion 04-3 (a copy of which is also enclosed), you are not prohibited from serving on the board of directors on your county cattleman's association and the Kentucky Association of Farm Managers/Rural Appraisers, provided neither of the associations is seeking to influence decisions of the Office of the PVA, and so long as you do not engage in any activity

that would require you to register as a lobbyist. You also should not use the PVA office in any way to give an advantage to either of the associations, pursuant to KRS 11A.020(1) stated below:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
  - (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
  - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;
  - (c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family; or
  - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

Further, it does not appear that you would be prohibited from accepting any funds from your local county extension office in order to use you farm for demonstration purposes. Feel free to contact the Commission if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION**

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By Chair: John A. Webb

Enclosures: AO 05-11  
AO 04-3