

Boyle County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

List County Council Members

Matthew Coyle
Darrell Ferrell
Allen Goggin
Marjorie Hines
Patrick Horn
Danny Lay
Brad Godbey
Drew Reynolds
Dale Sheperson

Boyle County

Comprehensive Plan Update

County Agricultural Development Councils have the responsibility to evaluate the needs of the local agricultural economy. The updated County Comprehensive Plan should identify programs and projects best suited for agricultural development fund investments in the County.

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy staff may provide guidance to county councils throughout this evaluation.

1. Overview of County

Danville, the county seat of Boyle County is located 42 miles south of Lexington. Boyle County's agriculture is made up of beef cattle, forages, row crops, tobacco, and commercial horticulture crops. Boyle County is unique in that livestock has always generated more dollars than crops even when tobacco was being grown on a majority of farms.

Beef cattle remains a major enterprise. There are 101,549 acres in farms (2012 census data) which consists mostly of pasture and hay land. There are 39,134 beef cows and calves in the county which is a 31% increase over 2007 levels other ag enterprises include soybeans, wheat, tobacco and all types of hay.

a. Agricultural statistics, trends, & projections (i.e. Census Data)

- Traditional agricultural production

39,134 head of cows and calves	29,000 acres of hay
3,000 acres of corn	
2,000 acres of soybeans	
600 acres of wheat	
500 acres of tobacco	

- Non-traditional agricultural production

- 8 acres of horticultural crops
- 12 acres of organic horticulture crops
- 150 beef calves marketed through all natural labels
- 10 acres of industrial hemp

- New & emerging agricultural production

Beef Cattle
Industrial Hemp (possible)
Horticulture Crops

- Tobacco dependency

We only have about 15 producers left growing tobacco. A few of those are bigger growers. 60-90 acres. Tobacco dependency is less every year.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

Population of 29,706 a small increase from 2008.
90% is caucasian
10% is minority

- Economic data

Median household income - \$ 42,058

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

1. Age of farmers - several young people are going into farming after high school and college this is definitely a strength for our county.
2. Progressive leadership in the agriculture sector.
3. Boyle County has an abundance of forage production, but through better management we can improve the forages we have to allow us to improve livestock production.
4. Boyle county has a strong agricultural leader base. The Boyle County Cattlemen's Association and the Farm Bureau organization are both very active in county and state programs. The Boyle County/University of Kentucky Extension Service, Boyle County/USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Boyle County/Natural Resource and Conservation Service serve the local agriculture community with essential educational programs, and informational services. This type of support will be vital to agriculture in Boyle County. (attached page)

b. Weaknesses

A small county acreage wise, compared to surrounding counties.

c. Opportunities

Due to the forage base in the county livestock production can be increased. More niche markets for - all natural beef and organic horticulture products. Due to the demand for building sites and urban people wanting to move to the county there are more and more situations where the urban citizens don't understand agriculture and typical production practices. This leads to misunderstandings between the farm and non-farm interests. Land prices are a challenge as well. A more serious threat is the environmental restrictions being implemented in Kentucky and the whole U.S. that could possibly cripple livestock production. The farm community will need to deal with these issues because farm life as we know it will become even more difficult to maintain.

d. Challenges

More urban sprawl
More subdividing of farms
Land prices

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council will invest monies from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in proposals that have the potential to increase net farm income and positively effect the quality of life of farm families and the communities they live in. Priority for funding will be assigned to those proposals that the council deems to be sound investments in the future success of agriculture in Boyle County.

b. Short term goals

The short term priorities will be to support and encourage cooperation among individuals to develop proposals that are broad based and will show benefit to more than one producer.

While group proposals are preferred, individual proposals will be considered if they show evidence that the project will improve existing agricultural enterprises, or provide new agricultural opportunities for the future.

c. Long term goals

The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council will accept proposals that will impact the future of agriculture. We will develop a working relationship with neighboring counties so future area proposals will be possible.

The improvement of existing farming enterprises, expanding new opportunities, developing markets and providing educational opportunities to allow producers to continue to farm will remain the top priority.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

The board will need to see evidence from the proposals that cost share which includes in-kind, matching money, or other support equal to 50 percent of the total cost of the project will be provided, the county council reserves the right to waive the cost-share requirements for special proposals from not for profit agencies and associations. Proposals should provide a detailed budget and a contact person who will be responsible for project expenses.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

- Other local/state/federal resources

3. Evaluation & Review

- a. How are proposals evaluated and does this process need modified?

Proposals will be evaluated on their perceived potential to increase production efficiency, improve marketing effectiveness, broaden the educational base, add value, and/or create new products with new markets for Boyle County farmers. The evaluation process seems to work, but the continual tweaking of the scoring system is frustrating to the county councils.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

The strongest measure of success comes from testimony of the participants and how the program has increased their profitability and sustainability of their farms. Overall farm gate receipts have increased since starting the program.

- c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised?

We will take input from all agriculture groups and update the plan as changes in the county and agriculture economy happen.

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ASSESSMENTS:

STRENGTHS OF BOYLE COUNTY CONTINUED

5. Boyle County has a Planning and Zoning Commission with regulations, there is a County comprehensive land-use plan in place. Zoning regulations were rewritten. There was a lot of opposition to the rewrite of the agriculture regulations and because of that, a farmer committee was set up to make recommendations to the commission. A plan was developed that does not make everyone happy, but it is something that the majority can live with.
6. 98% of our farms and rural homes in Boyle County have access to public waterlines on their properties.
7. Boyle County has an outstanding road system to get to the major interstates. U.S. 127 (4 lane) goes North and South leading to I-64, and Bluegrass Parkway, U.S. 150 can take you South to I-75 and U.S. 34 can take you to U.S. 27 to Lexington.
8. Boyle County has two outstanding public school systems that serve 4515 students. We also have three Christian schools, a business college, Centre College, an off campus site for Eastern Kentucky University, an off campus site for Midway College and a soon to open state of the art Technical School. Educational opportunities in Boyle County are one of our strongest assets.
9. Boyle County has a tremendous amount of industries located in the Industrial Park. These industries pull their labor force from the seven surrounding counties. This has a major impact on the local economy.
10. Boyle County is blessed with a major medical facility that remains aggressive in providing healthcare for our county as well as the surrounding area.