

Crittenden County  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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**Submitted by:**

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# Crittenden 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

Crittenden is situated in the northwest edge of Kentucky along the border with Illinois. Agriculture Census of 2012 statistics show that there are 148,795 acres used for farm operations with 55.8% of that used for cropland. The total income from farm operations was \$4,447,000. Crittenden County has a diverse agriculture landscape. The county ranks in the top 50% of Kentucky counties in production in most areas.

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

- Traditional agricultural production

Traditional agriculture is mostly grain crops (corn, wheat, soybeans), hogs and cattle within the county.

- Non-traditional agricultural production

Crittenden County vegetable production is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> of Kentucky counties. Apiary is very popular in the county and mum production in the fall.

- New & emerging agricultural production

Canola production has increased in the county partially due to easier access of market opportunities in western Kentucky. Hemp has the potential to emerge as a new crop in the near future.

- Tobacco dependency

Crittenden County has little to no dependency on tobacco.

## b. Demographic Data

- Social data

According to Census data the population of the county in 2012 was 9,280.

- Economic data

According to the 2012 Census, Crittenden County has 2,011 jobs in county. The median household income is \$33,570. Top 10 industries by employment is 1) local government, 2) food services & drinking places, 3) hospitals (private), 4) machinery manufacturing, 5) wood product manufacturing, 6) nursing & residential care facilities, 7) food and beverage stores, 8) credit intermediation & related activities, 9) administrative & support services, 10) ambulatory health care services.

## 2. Assessments of the County

### a. Strengths

Crittenden County has several strengths to work with, especially in the agricultural field, There are a large diversity of crops and agricultural goods within the county. Tradition agriculture (grain and cattle) producers have easy access to markets that are within an hour drive of the county. Crittenden County also has an abundance of natural resources including wildlife and forests.

#### b. Weaknesses

Transportation infrastructure is a weakness of Crittenden County. Currently the main way in and out of the county for goods is through roads. The main roads are US highways however they are two lane and do not have limited access designations.

#### c. Opportunities

Opportunities exist for Crittenden County agriculture to grow. With the abundance of natural resources, an opportunity exists to grow wildlife management practices. There are also opportunities for cattle feeding facilities, slaughter facilities, and more utilization of the swine buying station.

#### d. Challenges

Eventhough Crittenden County is considered rural, agriculture literacy is a challenge within the community. Agriculture awareness education is needed within the county. Like many counties in the Commonwealth drug use is problematic. Crittenden County also has a lack of well paying jobs within the county. Census data indicates that in 2012 there were 2,011 jobs in the county and the median household income was \$33,570.

### **3. County Council Objectives**

#### a. Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of the Crittenden County Agriculture Development Board is to encourage sustainable growth for agriculture in the community. It is our goal maximize the impact of county agriculture funds through wise investment decisions. It is our goal to encourage better utilization of existing resources and support the development of new and innovative opportunities.

b. Short term goals

Improve marketing opportunities by supporting farmers markets  
Educate the public on agriculture literacy issues  
Promote Kentucky Proud  
Promote efficient use of agriculture resources

c. Long term goals

Sustain and grow local agriculture economy  
Promote quality agriculture products  
Promote Kentucky Proud  
Promote efficient use of agriculture resources

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

Potential for partnering with Kentucky Beef Network, Kentucky Proud, Natural Resources Conservation Services, local Conservation Districts, Farm Service Agency and commodity groups.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

The Crittenden County Agriculture Development board will encourage leveraging of funds through cost share, in-kind matching of local, state or federal monies when the opportunities arise.

- Other local/state/federal resources

The Crittenden County Agriculture Development board will encourage leveraging of funds through cost share, in-kind matching of local, state or federal monies when the opportunities arise.

### 3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals will be evaluated on an as needed basis as they are submitted,

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Reports on grants funded will be given at periodic times.

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

The Crittenden County Agriculture Development board will revise the plan as needed.

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