

Edmonson County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

June 2015

Submitted by:

List County Council Members

Farm Service Agency Representatives:

Becky Brannon

Virginia Wagner St. John

Conservation District Board Representatives:

Ronell Alford

Jim Luttrell

Extension Council Representatives:

Royce Vincent

Sam Skaggs

At Large Members selected by other six:

Tim Davis

Chris Elmore

William Chase Cowles

Edmonson 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

Year	Number of Farms	Acres of Farms	Avg. Size	Value/Acre Land and Buildings
1992	734	92,487	126	\$ 737
1997	792	95,932	121	\$1305
2002	670	93,661	140	\$1176
2007	712	96,641	136	\$2169
2012	638	84,989	133	\$2379

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

- Traditional agricultural production

See Attachment

- Non-traditional agricultural production

See Attachment

- New & emerging agricultural production

See Attachment

- Tobacco dependency

See Attachment

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

See Attachment

- Economic data

See Attachment

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

- In general Edmonson County farmers have experience, land, facilities and the knowledge needed for further developing the beef cattle industry, poultry industry, horticulture industry and aquaculture industry.
- Edmonson County has a very progressive Agricultural community including a very active Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, 4-H & FFA Chapter, Saddle Club, and Farmer's Market.
- Edmonson County is suitable for developing forages.
- Edmonson County has one of the cleanest water systems in the state.

b. Weaknesses

See Attachment

c. Opportunities

See Attachment

d. Challenges

See Attachment

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

Invest in the preservation of Agriculture in Edmonson County, serve as a resource for farmers to explore new enterprises, extend marketing opportunities for this region and contribute to the future of Agriculture in Edmonson County.

b. Short term goals

The Board believes that the short term priorities should include developing and adding profitability to our existing strengths such as beef, dairy, poultry, forages, timber, vegetables, horticulture and other enterprises. Additionally, short term priorities include investigating new, innovative or value-added enterprises. The Board also expresses the need to educate the community on the Board's role, the application process and fulfilling the plan for the county.

c. Long term goals

These goals include establishing marketing structures and value-added opportunities, educating farmers on new enterprises and involving potential young farmers in the agricultural community. Also using this opportunity to create a cooperative atmosphere to foster advancement of Agriculture in the county.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

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See Attachment

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, in statute, is administered by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. The mission of the board is to invest these funds in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products. This includes finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities that will benefit Kentucky farms now and in the future.

- Other local/state/federal resources
See Attachment

3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals will be evaluated by the Edmonson County Agriculture Board using the Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria provided from the State Agriculture Development Board. A proposal will be scored and ranked using these criteria with emphasis placed on project fitting into the county comprehensive plan. Complete proposals will be forwarded to the State for final review.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Success will be measured on a county wide basis. At a later time the Board will evaluate the impact of the funds on the county. If possible a return on investment will be determined.

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

The county comprehensive plan will be revised by the incoming Agriculture Development Board every two (2) years. Any revisions will be made pending a majority vote of the Board. Other revisions by the sitting Board can be made at any time via a majority vote.

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i. Traditional Agricultural Production

Crops 2012	Acres	Yield/acre	
		tons, bu, lbs	Production
Tobacco	222	2,321.0	515,351
Hay (other than Alfalfa)	14,576	1.97	28,653
Alfalfa	462	2.43	1,123
Corn	3,216	62.0	199,469
Soybean	4,865	37.3	181,415

Livestock 2012	Total	Production	Total Milk
	Avg #	per cow	production
Dairy	501	9,263*	6,484,000*
Beef	8,430	-----	-----
All cattle & calves	16,757	-----	-----
Hogs and pigs	72	-----	-----

*Production numbers are from 2007 data

Total Farm Cash Receipts 2006

Total Crops	Total Livestock	All Cash Receipts
\$6,766,000	\$13,458,000	\$20,224,000

County's Rank Among 120 in State 2012

<u>Product</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Corn	60
Soybean	53
Burley	73
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	61
Cattle and calves	48
Beef Cows	53
Hogs and pigs	62
Milk production	30

i. Non-traditional Agricultural Production

Although few numbers or data are available for most of the non-traditional agriculture production in Edmonson County, there are several different crops and livestock that are produced and marketed here.

Crops:

2012 Horticulture: 4 farms

Cut Flowers

Flowers and bedding plants

Mums

Strawberries

2012 Commercial vegetable production: 5 farms 8 acres

Cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes, cantaloupes, pumpkins, green beans, etc.

2012 Small scale vegetable production: 4 farms

Herbs

Fruits and brambles

Gourds, Indian corn

2012 Land in Orchards: 4 farms

2012 Land in Berries: 11 farms 5 acres

Livestock:	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Goats	20	418
Sheep	4	N/A
Horses	126	684

iii: New and Emerging Agricultural Production

Part of new and emerging agriculture production is increasing value and placing emphasis marketing of traditional and non-traditional products already mention as well as refining production techniques of these crops and livestock.

Crops:

Horticulture

Greenhouse and high tunnel tomatoes and other vegetables

Mushrooms

Organic produce

Agronomic

Specialty crops such as canola

Livestock: 2012 Census Data

Honeybees (As pollinators and for honey production)

Rabbits

Alpacas

Deer (farm raised)

Elk

Llamas

Commercial contract poultry houses (10 producers in the county)

Turkeys

Ducks

Other:

Agri-tourism

Internet marketing of products

Horse boarding, training, tack sales

Leased hunting

iv: Edmonson County Dependence on tobacco

Average effective quota (mil lbs) 1990-99:	1.90
Average Burley production (mil lbs) 1990-99:	1.73
% of effective quota produced 1990-99:	87.30
Average Burley value (mil \$) 1990-99:	3.20
Tobacco Value as a % farm receipts 1990-1998:	24.90
Tobacco Value as % total personal income 1990-1998:	3.30

A. Inventory of Resources

Land

Edmonson County, with a land area of 302 square miles, is located in south central Kentucky on I-65, less than 15 miles from Bowling Green,

Kentucky; 90 miles northeast of Nashville, Tennessee; 90 miles southwest of Louisville, Kentucky.

Water, Rainfall, etc.

Average yearly rainfall:	44.5 inches
Average annual snowfall:	3 inches

Climate

Normal Average Temperature:	54.9 degrees
Average Prevailing wind:	South 7 mph

Capital

Bank of Edmonson County (est. 1925)
P.O. Box 99, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2175
PBI Bank (est. 1899)
P.O. Box 9, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2138

Labor:

Labor Market County (2006):	5,550
Edmonson County Population (2006):	12,054
Average Unemployment rate:	6.8%
Average Weekly wages:	\$578.01

Grain Market:

Sun Valley Feed Mill
P.O. Box 301, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2420

Agriculture Suppliers and Businesses

Mammoth Cave Transplants

5394 Brownsville Road, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2533

Sun Valley Feed Mill
P.O. Box 301, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2420

Farm Organizations

Farm Bureau
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(27) 597-2127

Edmonson County Farmer's Market
Cooperative Extension Service Office
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-3628

Edmonson County Cattlemen's Association
President, Royce Vincent
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2462

Government Organizations

USDA/Farm Service Agency
925 Lovers Lane, Suite 100
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42103
(270) 843-1111

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-2761

University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service
116 Mohawk Street
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210
(270) 597-3628

Other Resources

Mammoth Cave National Park
(270) 758-2251

Nolin Lake State Park
(270) 286-4240

2. Assessments of the County

A. Weaknesses

- Edmonson County lacks cropland suitable for traditional row crops and topography is not conducive for large farms.
- Edmonson County is an economically depressed area due to lack of industry within the county.
- Most of the labor force works outside of the county.
- Edmonson County has not capitalized on Tourism opportunities afforded by Mammoth Cave National Park and Nolin State Park.
- Most farmers have little capital to invest in new ventures.
- Many farmers lack knowledge of consumer trends.
- Many farmers fail to utilize University and Government resources available at little or no charge.

C. Opportunities

- Edmonson County is located several major tourist attractions including Mammoth Cave National Park, Nolin State Park, Barren River State Park, Rough River State Park, National Corvette Museum and Scenic Green River.
- Park Mammoth Resort includes the Rockcastle Shooting Center, Cave Valley Golf Club, Cave Valley Winery and Vineyard, and 100 room hotel.
- There is a significant amount of timber in Edmonson County.
- The willingness to try an alternative to tobacco is at an all-time high.
- Large amount of resources available from regional universities, technical schools, Land grant universities and Government agencies.
- Close proximity to Trans-Modal Park.

B. Challenges

- Many young people are moving away.
- Rising land cost, input costs, and low farm prices make it nearly impossible for young people to start farming.
- Increasing land prices are also tempting many farmers to sell out for real estate development.
- High cattle prices have tempted many producers to sell off entire herds.
- Little opportunity within the county for supplemental off-farm employment.

C. Tactics for leveraging funds:

The Board will expect proposals to show significant evidence of in-kind or matching funds from the applicant. The level of applicants' contribution will play a major role in the Board's evaluation of proposals. Proposals should clearly outline who the funds are directed to and who will be responsible for the expenditures. Proposals should include a budget that outlines anticipated expenses, income, cash flow and growth potential. Applicants are encouraged to use these funds as seed money for other grants, loans, "buying-down" interest on loans or membership/startup costs in cooperative ventures.