

Livingston County  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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**Submitted by:**

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# Livingston 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

In 2012, Livingston County had 403 farm operations on 123,200 acres, which represented 61.5% of the total county land. In comparison, Kentucky's farm operations made up 51.6% of the state's total land area, and U.S. farm operations made up 40.5% of total land area in the country. Livingston County has many diversified agricultural operations ranging from row crop operations raising, corn, soybeans, and wheat, to livestock operations ranging from beef operation to small animals such as sheep and goat operations. Livingston County also has a beekeeping and horticulture community that is growing.

From 2007 the average farm income per farm has risen from \$26,117 to \$52,898 in 2012. This puts Livingston County ranking as 63rd in total value of agricultural products sold in the State.

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

##### ▪ Traditional agricultural production

In 2012 total cash value of crops sold in Livingston was \$10,731,00 soybeans making up 53%, corn making up 30% and all other crops ie wheat,hay, vegetables, and honey making up 17%. The total cash sales of livestock was \$10,587,000 with cattle sales making up 57%,poultry and eggs making up 38% and sheep, goats ,and horses making up 5%.

##### ▪ Non-traditional agricultural production

Livingston County has a rise of interest in small animals, beekeeping and a revived interest in vegetable production.

- New & emerging agricultural production

Small animal and honey production. We have also seen an increase in forage production for cash crops in Livingston.

- Tobacco dependency

We have little to no dependency on tobacco in Livingston County.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

As of 2012 Livingston County population was 9,423. Also the percent of population that is non-white was 2.1%. The population that is older than 64 years was 19.1%. The percent of the total population in poverty was 15.5%. The population that was under 18 years old and in poverty was 25.4%. The unemployment rate in 2012 was 8.2% and the Median household income was \$38,724.

- Economic data

Livingston County as of 2012 has 2,722 jobs which is an increase of 185 jobs from 2007. The top ten industries in Livingston County is, local government, mining, construction, food services, Hospital, transportation, recreation industries, Nursing homes, Federal government, and merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods.

## 2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

Livingston County continues to provide great opportunities for agricultural growth and sustainability. First Livingston County has many acres suited for row crop and livestock production. Second the county has great potential for transportation due to the fact we have three large rivers that are capable of moving large amounts of bulk commodities. The county also has a thriving livestock market that moves a large amount of cattle every week. They have also developed a monthly red tag sale which is a value added stocker calf sale. This sale attracts order buyers for large feed yards every month. In the Southern end of the county a thriving tourism industry exist because of Barkley lake. Also the county has a vast amount of timber that can be used as a resource from timber to hunting tourism.

b. Weaknesses

There has been many threats faced by farmers in the county. One weakness is the unstable price of grain due to the increase in world production, and weather that has such an effect on the end product when it comes time to harvest. Also the rising cost of production will make it harder to achieve sustainable profit margins in the future. The last weakness is the nature of our most productive land pertaining to grain production is prone to flooding in different times of the year making production challenging.

c. Opportunities

The county is well suited for expansion in the livestock industry. Also the demand for high quality forages presents a new and upcoming market to some of our farmers. We also have a great resource in a river port that ADM owns and operates in our county moving grain on the rivers. We also have a opportunity to expand in our hunting and speciality crops such as honey and vegetable production in the county due to a major interstate in our county.

d. Challenges

One challenge in Livingston County is the increased loss of farm land. Due to flooding in different times of the year coupled with a slow increase of residential areas popping up in the county more and more land is becoming non productive for agriculture.

### 3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of the Livingston County Agriculture Development Council is to promote and support programs and activities that will sustain and enhance farm profitability now and in the future. It is our goal to increase the value of Livingston County agriculture production by supporting innovative ideas in existing farm activities and support the development of new opportunities. Our goal is to encourage better utilization of existing resources and to develop new innovative enterprises to provide profitable opportunities in the future.

b. Short term goals

Add to existing farm enterprises.

Cooperate with other counties or regional Agriculture Development Councils on economic development initiatives that will benefit our region.

Seek training or education that would enable the development of new alternative or value added agriculture enterprises.

c. Long term goals

1. Add value to county commodities when possible.

2. Promote more efficient use of county agricultural resources.

3. Provide educational opportunities to county farm families.

4. Develop non-traditional farm enterprises.

5. Establish profitable cooperative effort in the area.

6. Sustainability of economic viable family farms, that have productive soils, woodlands, water resources, and wildlife habitat.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

▪ Regional partnerships

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

▪ State Agricultural Development Board resources

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

- Other local/state/federal resources

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

### 3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals will be evaluated on their potential to increase production capabilities, improve marketing efficiency, add value, or create new production with new market potential. Proposals requiring multiple counties, regional or state funds must demonstrate economic benefit to Livingston County and surrounding farmers.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

The Livingston Agricultural Development Council requires a minimum annual progress report on grants funded by the County monies. More frequent reports will be accepted.

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

The Council will review county plan yearly to make any needed adjustments.

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