

Wayne County Agriculture Development Council

Comprehensive Plan

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WAYNE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY

Wayne County is located in the South Central/Southeastern part of Kentucky. We have a very diverse agriculture with significant crop and livestock production:

- Corn - 6,500 Acres
- Soybeans – 9,000 Acres
- Wheat – 2,600 Acres
- Alfalfa Hay - 750 Acres
- All Other Hay - 19,300 Acres
- All Cows & Calves - 26,500
- Hogs & Pigs - 1,000
- Dairy Cows - 500
- Ewes & Lambs - 1,000
- Goats - 1,000
- Burley Tobacco - 350 Acres
- Vegetables - 300 Acres
- Land - 285,498 Acres
- Water - 24,230
- Cobb Employees - 200

According to NASS, poultry products and research accounts for 55% of Wayne County Ag income.

Contract poultry production has become one of our major agriculture industries.

In 2013 we had 50 farms producing 350 acres of Burley tobacco.

Wayne County is the center for its geographic area in many agriculture enterprises. It has the only grain elevator in the area.

Our beef cattle farmers have access to two large capacity stockyards in adjoining counties less than 50 miles away.

A new poultry feed mill less than 25 miles from Monticello provides a local market for corn growers.

Wayne County is a rural county with approximately 19,180 residents, 7,500 of whom reside in Monticello. Over 20,000 acres of Wayne County is covered by Lake Cumberland which is at the center of a thriving tourist industry. These improvements in the non-agriculture economy have helped local residents but, even with recent improvements in the local economy, over half of Wayne County's public school children qualify for reduced or free lunch. Agriculture is still the #1 industry in the county and a strong agriculture economy is key to improving the standard of living for Wayne County residents.

REVIEW OF THE PROCESS

Our Council has met on four occasions with the Wayne County Agriculture Development Council, Inc. in open forums with the public and with commodity groups to get their input. Based on this public input the entire county council, with Extension serving in an advisory role, formulated the comprehensive plan.

ASSESSMENTS

Strengths

- Strong, capable, committed ag leadership
- Strong non-agriculture economy
- Presence of well financed poultry breeding company that can use local grain and contract producers
- Presence of well financed poultry broiler company that can use local grain and contract producers
- Grain elevator - good infrastructure
- Two stockyards in adjoining counties
- Farmers Market
- Value-added wood industry
- Well equipped, highly efficient grain producers
- Abundant forages
- Poultry feed mill in adjoining country

Weaknesses

- Soybeans and wheat have to be exported long distance for sale
- No local implement dealer
- No large animal veterinarian
- Lack of agricultural skilled labor
- Culture and language barrier with migrant labor
- Tobacco contract production outlook uncertain

Opportunities

- School system own farm adjoining school that is used for school garden
- Adding value marketing corn to poultry companies
- Cooperatively marketing beef cattle to obtain more net income
- Contract broiler production – Contract egg production for Cobb
- Adding value to timber harvest
- Direct sales to tourist
- Improve forage production and utilization
- Affordable grain to feed livestock
- Renewed interest in small swine enterprises

Threats

- Reduced tolerance for animal agriculture
- Continued cost/profit squeeze in all agriculture areas, especially grain
- Increased competition pushing smaller family operations out of business

- Non-agriculture sectors lack of understanding or indifference of the real value of the agriculture economy
- Increased environmental demands made on agriculture with no way to pay for them
- High fuel and fertilizer prices
- High seed prices
- Rising chemical prices
- Low prices offered for tobacco contracts

COUNTY COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Wayne County Council are to assist tobacco producers and former tobacco producers and their families by recommending for funding projects that add value for an immediate economic impact, projects that will positively impact the agriculture economy for many years to come, projects that appear to have an excellent chance to succeed, projects that will impact a significant number of people, projects which the applicant also has substantial investment in the project, projects that support youth, projects that enhance farm safety for the farm family, projects from a broad range of agriculture enterprises, and projects that help farmers comply with environmental regulation.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Wayne County Council to look for and encourage projects that will give the opportunity to improve and sustain the economic well being of the citizens of Wayne County.

Short Term Goal

We support on-going efforts such as getting calves ready for market in efforts such as Stewardship Verified and projects that have a quick return potential to boost the short term agriculture economy for sustainability of current enterprises.

We support, with high priority, proposals that will assist farmers in improving their genetics in beef, dairy, sheep and goats such as cost-share for bull purchases, semen purchases, heifer development programs, and cost-share for meat and dairy goat genetic improvements.

We support, with high priority, purchasing appropriate equipment for cost-share by producers in crop and livestock production including portable working equipment, pasture sprayer and vegetable equipment, emergency generators, and food safety enhancing equipment such as high pressure washers.

We support, with high priority, cost-share programs for individual farmers to assist them in improving their forage program.

We support, with high priority, cost-share for farmers to purchase cattle working equipment.

We support all of the state Model (C.A.I.P.) Programs.

Long Term Goal

The long term goal of the Council is to promote cooperative efforts among producers, allied industry and the non-farm community to provide long-term value-added opportunities for producers of agriculture products as well as employment opportunities for our citizens.

We recommend for funding projects which have a good payback and are sustainable over a number of years. In other words things that will last (ie Hay and commodity storage, cattle handling facilities, weaning pens, and bull lots).

On farm water enhancement equipment purchases for qualified diversification investments, technology and genetic improvement.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

- The Council will review each proposal based on whether it meets the goal of the state board and the local comprehensive plan.
- How success will be determined:
 - Did it create positive economic impact?
 - Did it help sustain the family farm?
 - How many people did it impact?
- The Council will periodically review the comprehensive plan and, with public input, revise as needed and submit changes to the State Board.