

Cumberland
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

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Cumberland

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

Cumberland County has a total of 395 farming operations, according to the University of Kentucky CEDIK. Of those farms, 33% are operated by females. As for commodities, cattle and calves lead the county with over \$3.3 million in sales. This is followed closely by Grain, Poultry and Eggs, Soybeans, and Corn.

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

- Traditional agricultural production

According to the 2017 Ag Census, there are a total of 653 producers in the county with the largest age range in the 35-64 category (370). Another large category is the new and beginning farmers with 211.

- Non-traditional agricultural production

Small scale horticulture (farmers' market); hemp; small animal production (sheep, goats, bees).

- New & emerging agricultural production

Within the last couple of years, more producers are experimenting with hemp production and other smaller horticulture ventures. Some producers are trying to get involved with the Farm to Fork movement too.

- Tobacco dependency

We were once one of the most dependent tobacco income counties in KY before the buyout program. Tobacco income represented approximately 21% of all personal income before 2001.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

County population = 6614 (US Census, 2019 estimate)

- Economic data

Agriculture Market Value of Products Sold: \$10.6 million (AG Census, 2017)

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

The support for local products is very evident within the community.

The farmer community is very close and willing to help each other.

The producers are willing to learn and adapt new techniques to their existing operations.

b. Weaknesses

Aging farmer population.

Access to major markets, cattle markets are good (4 within an hour or the county), however, small ruminant (sheep and goat) markets are further away (the closest is over an hour drive). Produce markets are over an hour away for auction sites. The only options are horticulture producers within the county are farmers' markets and local restaurants.

c. Opportunities

Marketing techniques (CSAs for horticulture, Farm to Fork for livestock, etc.).

Educational programs to learn new ventures.

d. Challenges

Aging farmer population.

Access to major markets, cattle markets are good (4 within an hour or the county), however, small ruminant (sheep and goat) markets are further away (the closest is over an hour drive). Produce markets are over an hour away for auction sites. The only options are horticulture producers within the county are farmers' markets and local restaurants.

Broadband service throughout the county.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

To enhance farming operations in the county with self-sustaining practices.

b. Short term goals

Strengthen the infrastructure within the agriculture community.

Reach as many producers as can be with the allotment given each year.

c. Long term goals

Enhance infrastructure on farms that could increase profit within 3-5 years for the producers.

Producers will be able to increase farm receipts by 5% within 3 years.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

Multi-county projects: Master Cattlemen, Master Stocker, Master Grazer, etc.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

State funding in local Farmers Market and commercial poultry enterprises energy efficiency project.

