

Fleming
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

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Fleming

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

Fleming County consists of 224,493 land acres and 128 water acres. The county is diverse with the southern, central, and northern parts of the county being similar to the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky, and the eastern part of the county being part of the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. Ag production varies with around 45,000 head of cattle and calves in 2019 and 700 acres and 1 million pounds of Burley tobacco production in 2018. There is also approximately 70,000 acres in commercial forest land. In 2019, Fleming County harvested approx. 3,600 acres of corn. In 2019 there were approx. 11,200 acres harvested for soybeans and 30,700 acres harvested for hay. In 2019 there are approx. 1,000 milk cows and 18,800 beef cows according to the USDA Ag Stats Service. From the USDA report in 2018 commodity values in Fleming County were as follows: Cattle and calves \$25.6M; Grains \$9.7M; Dairy Products \$3.3M; Other crops and hay \$4.5M; with other commodities bringing the total value of commodities to \$48.7M.

- a. Agricultural statistics, trends, & projections (i.e. Census Data)
 - Traditional agricultural production
 - Dairy
 - Tobacco
 - Beef
 - Timber
 - Vegetables
 - Non-traditional agricultural production
 - Vineyards/Grapes
 - Organic Vegetables
 - Specialty Crops for Farmers-market type sales

- New & emerging agricultural production

- Hay
 - Various Organic products

- Tobacco dependency

- Tobacco dependency has continued to decline in Fleming County. On the 2018 estimates for tobacco production in Fleming County it was up to 1,000,000 pounds of production. With the 2019 estimated revenue withheld due to the amount of producers being too low to remain anonymous.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

- According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, the county had a 2019 population of 14,581, with the county seat and largest city of Flemingsburg at 2,800. Fleming County had a total 3158 jobs in 2019. From the 2019 census estimates, 6.5% of the population was under 5 years old, 24.4% was under 18, and 18% were 65 or older with 1.5% being Black or African American. Unemployment rate was 5% in 2019. Average age of farmer was 56.9

- Economic data

- In Fleming County the per capita money income in the past 12 months (2018 dollars) was \$23,482 with the median household income being \$42,213. 18.6% of the population were below the poverty level in 2018.

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

- Beef, Forage, & Grain
- Forestry &-Wood Products
- Farmers Market/Diversified Products
- Ag Business Markets including
 - Stockyards
 - Multiple Farm Supply Stores
 - Slaughter Houses
 - Tractor suppliers
- Closeness to urban markets

b. Weaknesses

- Traditional Farming (Tobacco and Dairy) Decline
- Slow to progress/change
- Age of Farmers increasing
- Other new crops/ income opportunities to grow farm income

c. Opportunities

Educational opportunities are key

- Improving efficiency in beef production
- Improving hay quality through better storage and production
- Exploring new markets in ag
- Remaining profitable in tough grain markets

Welding institute to bring individuals and attention to the county
-opportunity for education on transitions and management.

d. Challenges

- Low commodity prices bring less income for producers
- Farmer's ability to manage market risk
- Transitioning from dairy, tobacco, or grain to other enterprises
- Increasing age of the farmer
- Lack of interest in farming from younger generation
- Financial burden of start-up cost for young and new farmers.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of the Fleming County Agricultural Development Council is to promote a thriving farm economy which sustains not only agriculture but our small town and rural way of life.

b. Short term goals

Short term goals includes assisting farmers in education on managing risk, creating business plans and marketing of products. Extension will play a large role in promoting and making available educational opportunities to help producers transition to new enterprises. The main focus of extension will be to promote educational programs and teach producers to be as efficient and effective of producers as possible.

c. Long term goals

The long term goal will be to have a well-educated farming population in general. Extension will work with funding administrators to create an environment where extension education is tied to funding programs. Educational subject matter will be directly related to CAIP programs. Educational sessions will be made available during convenient times for producers. Educational sessions will be held often enough for Fleming county producers to have ample opportunity to attend.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships
 - Kentucky Beef Network
 - Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
 - Horticulture Council
 - Kentucky Dairy Development Council
 - Mason County Community and Technical College
 - Morehead State University
 - Kentucky Farm Bureau

- State Agricultural Development Board resources
 - Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Staff
 - GOAP Finance
 - KAFC
 - Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development
 - Energy Programs
 - State Funds

- Other local/state/federal resources
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Kentucky Proud
 - Kentucky Department of Agriculture

3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals are presented to the council in a manner that illustrates the goals of the project on a large scale. The council reviews the information and discusses whether or not the proposal would be of benefit to the county and aid in accomplishing the goal and vision of the county council. A council representative responds to the proposal with the council's decision in a timely manner. This process needs no modification.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

The council will request a review from entities that received money. If the entity and has followed through with their proposal and it is meeting the goals and vision of the council then it is deemed a success. If there is no review made or the entity fails to follow through with the plans or if the actions of the party receiving money are not in line with the goals and vision of the council, it is deemed a failure.

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

The county council reserves the right to modify and adjust the comprehensive plan as it deems necessary as the needs and priorities of the county's agricultural producers change.

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