

Logan County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Logan 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

2012 Census:

Number of Farms:	1,060
Acres in Farms:	275,836
Average size of farm:	260 acres
Harvested Cropland:	165,344 acres
Irrigated Land:	2,706 acres

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

- Traditional agricultural production

Grain Crops			
Crop	Number of Farms	Acres	Bushels/Tons
Corn-Grain	185	64,977	4,640,528
Corn-Silage	32	3,568	54,982
Winter Wheat	128	47,643	2,500,761
Barley	15	2,375	161,259
Sorghum	4	306	4,330
Soybeans	184	62,783	2,869,484
Forages	496	24,444	52,632

Livestock and Dairy		
Animal	Number of Farms	Total Number
Cattle & Claves inventory	485	38,068
Beef Cattle	415	12,783
Dairy Cattle	21	4,413
Hogs	26	4,598
Sheep	13	223
Layers	69	1,576

Logan County Farmers have traditionally relied upon 5 major crops for their livelihood; tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley. Forages have been largely used for personal livestock consumption yet in the recent years, forage production is becoming more of a commercial commodity. Beef production is increasing with the addition of more cow/calf operations as well as backgrounder and stocker operations. Dairies play an important role in Logan County, not only on a production side, but also on an agri-tourism side.

- Non-traditional agricultural production

Commercial Horticulture:

Vegetable production has taken a giant leap in production numbers. With the local foods market and the growth of our local Farmers’ Market, there is a larger market with less capital investments for commercial vegetable production. Grape production and honey are also growing at fast speeds.

- **New & emerging agricultural production**
 Logan County is gaining a new agriculture market in the near future. Champion Petfoods, a petfood company out of Canada, has chosen Logan County as its first United States home. The company prides itself with using local producers and using little to no grains at all. This is a great opportunity for our livestock producers, vegetable producers, and our young farmers as it gives them a local guaranteed market.
- **Tobacco dependency**

Tobacco:	93 Farms	1,799 acres	4,825,193 pounds
	Dark Fire-Cured:	340	970,000
	Dark air-Cured:	1,240	3,450,000
	Burley:	670	1,540,000

Tobacco currently accounts for approximately 10% of Logan County Farm Receipts.

b. Demographic Data

- **Social data**
 Logan County is located in the South Central/western part of the state along the Tennessee border. It is a very rural community with a resident population of 26,646. Russellville is the county seat and home of many industries. The median household income is \$39,304 and 76.3% of all adults have a high school diploma or higher. Logan County has 1,060 farms totaling 275,836 acres; 69.7% crop, 15.9% woodland, 10.6% pasture and 3.8% other.
- **Inventory of resources**
 Logan County has many agricultural resources. A detailed list can be obtained in the Attachment I Appendix of this plan.
- **Review of the Process**
 Logan County's comprehensive plan was developed with input from agri-businesses, government officials, farmers, commodity organizations, lending institutions, and the general public.
 Two public meetings were held to compile and prioritize suggestions for agricultural investment. Written suggestions from a survey were also taken into consideration. The Phase I Agricultural Development Council then prioritized suggestions and developed this comprehensive plan in hopes of advancing Logan County agriculture.

2. Assessments of Logan County

a. Land

- Logan County has a high percentage of deep, fertile and well-drained soil. Over 50% of all acreage falls in Class I or II soil. Climate and rainfall are also suitable for most any crop. Pastureland utilizes many of the acres that cannot be row cropped so all farmland is well utilized.

Local Resources: As indicated on our resource inventory, there are numerous commodity markets for the agricultural products being produced at present.

Modern Technology: Most Logan County farmers are very progressive and are willing to learn and try new enterprises or new farming methods.

Road and Railways: Logan County also has good roads for moving agricultural products to markets. Major transportation routes include US 68-80, a four-lane east-west highway leading to Interstate 65 at Bowling Green to the east and Pennyrile Parkway at Hopkinsville to the west, and further west to Interstate 24. US 431 north-south leads to Western Kentucky Parkway to the north. US 100 will also connect to Interstate I-65. Three of the elevators in the county are services by railroads.

Weaknesses

Lack of Crop Diversity: Farmers are dependent on five main crops.

Lack of Local Processing Plants for Crops: In order to better utilize the crops grown by farmers, there needs to be some means to process the crops rather than sending them out of the county for processing. Vegetable production is limited as there is a short window of time in which a farmer can utilize the crop before it spoils.

Fewer Farmers: The high input cost and low profit margin is keeping many young people from entering agricultural enterprises.

Lack of Local Processing Plants for Livestock and Livestock Products: There are no local plants for processing livestock or livestock products.

Opportunities

Logan County is gaining a new agriculture market in the near future. Champion Petfoods, a petfood company out of Canada, has chosen Logan County as its first United States home. The company prides itself with using local producers and using little to no grains at all. This is a great opportunity for our livestock producers, vegetable producers, and our young farmers as it gives them a local guaranteed market.

Versatility: The county has the land, climate and water that are adaptable to any profitable crop enterprise. The farmers have the initiative to evaluate other enterprises that may be profitable.

Growing population: With two major urban communities within a 50-mile radius, farmers should be able to capitalize on fresh produce markets, agri-tourism, and speciality markets.

Beef Production: Cattle production is one area in which producers can become more efficient and more profitable. Herd expansion and backgrounding are opportunities to increase net farm income.

Challenges

Urban Sprawl: The loss of farmland to subdivision, factories and other non-farm uses present one of the biggest challenges. Farms continue to be cut into small tracts and sold as baby farms or building lots. The competition for land for non-farm use continues to put pressure on land values, which are increasing dramatically.

Low Commodity Prices: Low commodity prices are forcing the small farmer off the farm and large farmers into a crisis situation.

Labor Shortage: With a booming economy there is not supply of local labor. Farm labor is very dependent on migrant labor.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Logan County Ag Development Council will invest monies in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers along with other agriculture person across the state through stimulating markets for Logan County and Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities for Logan County and Kentucky farms and farm

products.

b. Short term goals

Invest in projects that will affect the greatest number of people and will make the most valuable impact on the future of agriculture. The Major Priority Areas as professed by those in Agriculture community are:

Livestock

Tobacco

Grain

Forage

Horticulture

New Technology

In addition to the main priority areas, irrigation, bees & honey, equine, and agri-tourism were also mentioned as priority areas. However, all projects will be taken into consideration.

c. Long Term Priorities

The council's goals are that the investments made will act as a catalyst to improve and advance agriculture and the agriculture community of Logan County. Our goal is that Logan County Farmers will still be benefiting from the investments ten years from now.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

The Logan County Agricultural Development Council is very encouraging to regional partnerships, the use of State Ag Development Board Resources, and searching for other local/state/federal resources to help aid the funding for future projects proposed. The agriculture community is built on partnerships and will only succeed if everyone benefits. By utilizing a diverse financial portfolio, the Logan County Ag Development Council can aid more projects.

4. Evaluation & Review

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

Evaluation and review shall follow the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board rules and guidelines. Evaluation times will be published in the local media. Proposals will be evaluated on

Dependency on tobacco

Applicants share contributed to the project (A 50% in-kind or cash cost share is required)

Can it become self-sustaining?

Does it sound practical and provide the necessary supporting documentation?

Does the project provide a realistic opportunity to increase farm profitability?

Will the applicant share knowledge gained and can it be duplicated?

How well does it fit the county/state comprehensive plan?

How many people will this project benefit?

Based on this criteria proposals will be ranked on a high, medium, and low level. Each proposal will be individually be reviewed by council members and a rank will be given with the majority prevailing. Discussion and vote of percent funding for each proposal will be established according to the availability of total funds. Proposals will be prioritized and sent to the State Board for final approval.

b. How is success and failure measured?

The Logan County Agriculture Development Council will request updated progress reports on approved proposals periodically and one report upon completion of the project. Success will then be measured on investments made to the agricultural community.

c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised?

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