

# Agricultural Development Council

## PIKE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2021-2022

Submitted by:

List County Council Members

		First Name	Last Name	Organization Representing	Minority or Young Farmer? (select if applicable)	
		Robert	Murphy	Farm Service Agency		
		John	Lowe	Farm Service Agency		
		Joey	Collins	Extension		
		David	Walker	Extension		
		Matt	Hager	Conservation	Young	
		Forrest D.	Johnson	Conservation		
		Matt	White	At Large	Young	
		Elizabeth	White	At Large	Minority	
		Michelle	Sword	At Large	Minority	

## 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.

**Overview of County--** Pike County Kentucky was founded in 1821 and named for Zebulon Pike. The largest city and county seat is Pikeville. Pike County has a total of 789 sq. Miles, making it the largest county east of the Mississippi. **Census for 2010 shows a population of 65,024 people with a density of 83 people/sq. miles. Population is down 3% to date.** Pike is Kentucky's most eastern county, it is also the state's largest county in terms of land area. Pike County is the 11th largest county in Kentucky in terms of population. Pike County is Kentucky's third largest banking center, with financial institutions and holding companies having more than \$1 billion in assets. Pike County is the seventy-first Kentucky County, in order of creation.

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

- Traditional agricultural production-- According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture for Pike County, Pike County had 56 farms bringing in \$561,000. In 2017, Pike County had 85 farms (up 52%) and brought in \$744,000 and farm related income of \$272,000. 100% of farm operators are white. Land in farms increased to 19,478 acres (up 45%). Greatest increase in age of operators is for those between 35-44 yrs. of age, with the average age of operator being 60. The average operator has 19 years on the farm. Market value of products sold was up 33% and Farm related incomes was up 327%.
- Non-traditional agricultural production-- 17 operators are women and have 4,296 acres in farms and account for \$57,000 in income. Pike County has 16 acres in orchard production. It has 8 acres in vegetable production. Size of farms has increased from 1,027 to 1,401 while the number of farms has decreased .9%. Average investment has gone from an average of \$10,123 to \$29,731. Feed purchased had more than doubled from \$129,000 to \$262,000.
- New & emerging agricultural production—Pike County is experiencing an increase in non-traditional agriculture with producers growing and direct marketing many types of fresh produce and value added products. Direct marketing has increased from \$8,000 to \$40,000 and continuing upwards.

- Tobacco dependency-- There is little dependency on tobacco for Pike County. Several of our farmers also own farms in other areas of the state that have tobacco bases, but Pike County has no tobacco base.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data-- In Pike County we have several higher education options to offer we have a four year liberal arts college, the University of Pikeville and a campus of the Big Sandy Community and Technical College. Pike County also is home to the University of Pikeville Kentucky & School of Osteopathic Medicine. Population has decreased by 3% since 2010.

- Economic data-- Pike County has a 23% Poverty level compared to 14.8% nationally and a 24.9% disability population. It also has a -5.5% employment change because of problems in the coal industry. Pike County has a median income of 32,961 and a per capita income for the last 12 months of \$19,351. 73% of residents own their own home.

## 2. Assessments of the County

- a. Strengths-- Transportation in and out of Pike County comes primarily from U.S. 23, North to South and U.S. 119 East to West as well as

U.S. 460. We also receive service from both CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. Due to the decline in the coal industry and an aging population of miners who aren't willing to sell homes and move at this stage of their life are looking for new areas in which to make money and are willing to learn.

- b. Weaknesses-- Population has a limited amount of experience when it comes to farming either traditional or non-traditional. Limited access to good used farming equipment and repair services. Limited choices when it comes to fertilizer selection and transplant materials.

- c. Opportunities-- There are opportunities in almost all phases of agriculture. Many of our strip mines have been reclaimed for farm use. Much of our fertile bottom land is ideal for vegetable production. Pike County is considered a Food Desert and therefore is an ideal situation for vegetable production. Several opportunities lie in the development of direct marketing. Such as Farmers Markets, on farm sale of products, etc. Because of tourism there is great opportunity for value added products. Production of alternative crops such as shiitake's, ginseng, grapes, and other items, have great potential.

- d. Challenges-- Most producers are unsure and concerned about producing alternative crops or products they haven't grown before.

Many producers are not comfortable with attempting new methods of marketing crops and products. Another challenge is the small acreages and terrain which many producers have available. One of the biggest challenges is getting producers to think outside the box and diversify their products.

### **3. County Council Objectives**

- a. Mission/Vision Statement--The Pike County Agriculture Development Council will dedicate whatever means of support and resources that are available to the development of profitable, sustainable farm/agriculture enterprises. The Pike County Agriculture Development Council will strive to identify, develop, and promote projects that have a positive economic impact on the Pike County Community. The Council will emphasize cooperative efforts especially in the areas of production and marketing of agriculture and natural resource products.
- b. Short term goals -- The Pike County Agriculture Council will support both existing and emerging efforts in the production and marketing of established and alternative agriculture products. The Pike County Agriculture Council will support both existing and emerging efforts in the production and marketing of established and alternative agriculture products.

Emphasis will be placed on those projects that show cooperation between different groups and/or individuals that have outcomes which benefit many individuals or parties.

However, individual projects will be considered as long as that project demonstrates a probability of having broad impact on local production and marketing structure. The Pike County Agriculture Council will

support both existing and emerging efforts in the production and marketing of established and alternative agriculture products.

c. Long term goals -- Long term goals of the Pike County Agriculture Advancement Council will be to support the development of group production and marketing efforts.

Another goal is to support the development of infrastructure that will add value to local products before sale.

To encourage all agriculture endeavors that are sustainable and help improve lives in Pike County.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships -- The Pike County Agriculture Development Council will dedicate whatever means of support and resources





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