

Warren County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

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Warren 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

Warren County is a rapidly growing community, increasing in population by 18% to 123,824. Yet, the rural community is still deeply rooted in diverse agricultural production. Warren County has 1755 farms and operators farm 262,198 acres out of the 346,624 acres in the county. Our livestock industry encompasses beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, equine, goats and sheep with animal sales of \$50,479,000. Crops raised include corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, hay, and canola with crop sales of \$60,417,000. Warren County is active in the growth of local food access and hosts 3 farmer's markets. Agritourism operations in Warren County had sales of product/experiences of over \$1.75 million dollars. Although agriculture and agribusiness play a huge role in the Warren County economy, there are still some urban/rural struggles. Planning and zoning regulations, land use development debates, animal rights groups, and urban/rural neighbor issues are challenges we face every day.

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

- Traditional Agricultural Production

	2017	2012
Number of Farms	1755	1648
Land in Farms	262,198,000 acres	246,708 acres
Average Size Farm	149 acres	150 acres
Market Value Crops Sold 48%	\$60,417,000	\$54,967,000
Market Value Livestock Sales 52%	\$50,479,000	\$59,738,000
Average per Farm Receiving Government Funds	\$14,347	\$9582

Demographic Data

▪ Social data				
Primary Occupation-Farming	540			
Primary Occupation-Other	1108			
Principal Operator-Male	1471			
Principal Operator-Female	177			
American Indian or Alaska Native	4			
Asian	4			
Black/African American	45			
White	2776			
More than 1 race	16			
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino Origin	53			
▪ Economic data				
Demographics Total Population, 2017 Estimate(Census)		Warren County 123,824	KY 4,380,415	US 313,914,040
% Change in Total Population 2000-2010(Census)	2.9%		0.9%	1.7%
% Population Non-White 2017(Census)	16.8%		11.0%	20.5%
% Population 64+ Years 2010(Census)	12.7%		25.5%	18.2%
% Population in Poverty 2011 Estimate(SAIPE)	18.9%		19.1%	15.9%
% Population Under 18 in Poverty 2011 Est(SAIPE)	25.1%		27.2%	22.5%
Unemployment Rate, 2017 Annual Average (BLS)	4.1%		3.6%	3.9%
Median Household Income, 2017 Estimate (SAIPE)	\$40,026		\$41,086	\$51,017

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

	Warren County	KY	US
%Population 25+ HS Diploma or GED	87.4%	86.8%	88.3%
%Population 25+ Bachelors Degree +	29.7%	24.8%	32.6%
Unemployment Rate 2012	6.9%	8.2%	8.1%
2012 Total Jobs	57,922	1,761,238	
2017 Total Jobs	56,977	1,876,430	
10th in State for Total Value of agricultural products sold			

b. Weaknesses

Rural and/or urban challenges,
Availability of affordable farmland

c. Opportunities

Sales from traditional agricultural fields, agritourism and recreational services, crop and animal sales. Products may be sold directly to retail outlets, produced and sold as value-added commodities, marketed through community supported agriculture or operated as an on-farm packing facilities.

d. Challenges

Regulations and building value added infrastructure

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

To evaluate needs of Warren County & South Central KY and allocate funds to best achieve long term farm profitability and agriculture advancement.

- Short term goals
- Livestock, Dairy and Forages: purchase of livestock equipment to improve herd health, productive efficiency and overall marketability. Improving the quality of the forage base and increasing production through use of legumes and warm season grasses as well improved varieties. Improve the genetics of bulls, replacement heifers and other breeding stock to increase the productivity and marketability. Forage crop harvesting & storage. On farm fencing.
- Alternative Enterprise Development: help tobacco producers and others explore and develop profitable alternatives and sustainable enterprise to reduce dependency on tobacco income.
- Cereal Grains and Oil Crops: Improve drainage and conservation practices by tiling, grass waterways, diversion and open ditch drainage. Development of new marketing for grain and oil crops.
- Value Added Products and Marketing: specialty livestock, farmer markets and growers cooperatives.
- Training of farmers for alternative careers: Financial support or incentives in improving technical skills.

b. Long term goals

- Livestock, Dairy and Forages: improving the profitability and sustainability of livestock and dairy by increasing efficiency forage use, improving the genetic potential of livestock and dairy, and improving marketing opportunities by maintaining sound environmental stewardship.
- Alternative Enterprise Development: development of small animal production units to achieve supplemental income. Develop aquaculture infrastructure. Development of production facilities and techniques and markets for horticulture products and commercial vegetables and fruits. Establish agritourism enterprises

such as leased hunting, pay lakes, tours and festivals, recreational trails and non-consumptive wildlife enterprise. Funding of educational projects for youth.

- Cereal Grains and Oil Crops: improve profitability of row crops by increasing efficiency, development of specialty crops and the improvement of marketing skills.
- Value Added Products and Marketing: Adding value to an commodities or price improvement through better marketing skills and marketing opportunities.
- Training of farmers for alternative careers: skills to help obtain off-farm employment produce enough income to maintain rural lifestyle.
- Energy: promote development and growth of energy creation and efficiency on farms.

c. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

Work with regional county councils and project administrators on regional projects.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

Keep up to date with ADB resources through trainings and meetings.

- Other local/state/federal resources

Work with all resources for the betterment of agriculture.

3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals are reviewed by each council member before the meeting. Presentation is offered to project administrator.
Discussion and vote on project.

Changes

Sometimes it is difficult to meet for each application sent in at random times.

b. How is success and failure measured?

Reporting

Longevity of project

Benefit to agriculture

c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised?

Look at data

Evaluate needs

Prioritize needs

Vote on plan approval