

Adair County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

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Adair 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 Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy staff may provide guidance to county councils throughout this evaluation.

1. Overview of County

In Adair County, Agriculture makes up one of the largest industries in the County, comprised primarily of poultry and cattle. Adair County farmers continue to adapt cutting edge technologies and management practices to improve on farm income and their sustainability. In the past 20 years, grain crop production has expanded significantly while tobacco production is now limited to just a few producers. Adair County is home to Lindsey Wilson University. Adair County is benefiting from major improvements in roadways with the new access to the Cumberland Parkway, HWY 55 bypass and the expansion of the Heartland Parkway project.

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

▪ Traditional agricultural production

Adair County consists of 142,751 acres of farmland comprised primarily of hay and pasture. Agriculture in Adair County contributed \$103 million dollars to the local economy in 2022. Primary ag products include poultry (\$31 million), dairy (\$22.5 million), beef (\$29.1 million), and grain (\$15.5 million).

▪ Non-traditional agricultural production

In Adair County, a limited amount of small ruminant and vegetable production exists. While the local farmer's market attracts a large customer base, demand exists for additional vegetable and fruit growers. A small number of producers market direct to consumer beef and poultry.

- New & emerging agricultural production

The poultry industry has expanded by over \$10 million since the 2017 Ag census. Growth has also been observed in the feeder calf sector. Growth in the grain crop sector seems to be slowing and dairy decline has slowed.

- Tobacco dependency

Only three farmers are known to still produce tobacco in Adair County

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

As of 2022, Adair County had a population of 19,067 with 6,803 households.

- Economic data

In 2022, the median household income was \$44,153. The poverty rate is 21.3% with child poverty rate at 31.9%.

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

In general, most Adair County farmers have experience, land, facilities, and knowledge needed for further developing ag enterprises.

*Adair County has a very progressive agricultural community including a very active Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, 4-H and FFA chapter.

*Adair County ranks third in the state in dairy production.*Adair County is suitable for developing forages. *There are good roads leading in/out of the county. *Vast expansion of Broadband internet in the county *Chamber of Commerce Training and Development Center *Industrial Development Park *Lindsey Wilson College

b. Weaknesses

- *Adair County lacks the cropland needed for large expansion of row crops.
- *Adair County is located far from any urban center. (Markets)
- *Adair County is in an economically depressed area of the state due to the relocation of the garment industry.
- *Most farmers have little capital in which to start new ventures.
- *Lack of nearby grain markets.
- *Broadband is improving, but still lacks service in parts of the county.
- *Utility infrastructure needs updating and expanding to meet the need of growth in farms and factories.

c. Opportunities

- *Adair County has a large number of youth willing to go into farming if the profit is there.
- *Adair County is located near two major tourist attractions, Green River Lake and Lake Cumberland. This could provide potential market opportunities.
- *There is a significant amount of timber on many of the farms in Adair County.
- *Population of retired citizen's (consumers) is increasing.
- *Adair County has a large school system, Lindsey Wilson University and Adair Regional Juvenile Detention Center that may serve as an outlet for locally produced food.

d. Challenges

- *Many young people are moving away.
- *Rising land costs and volatile profit margins make it difficult for young people to begin farming.
- *Lack of good jobs available for those who farm part-time.
- *Lack of quality, available workforce.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

To improve on-farm income through sound investments of county funds that will have a direct impact on farmers income, quality of life, and well-being.

b. Short term goals

The Council believes the following are our top short-term priorities:

*There is an excellent opportunity to increase farm net profits by improving forages in Adair County. Priority will be to improve net farm income through improved forage quality, quantity and efficient use.

*Improved genetics for dairy and beef production. The development of livestock handling facilities for the purpose of adding value through herd health improvement, genetic improvement and cooperative marketing.

*The council encourages and will consider proposals for the development of entrepreneurial enterprises that offer new market opportunities.

c. Long term goals

Long-term goals include evaluating projects to assure increased profitability, establishing marketing structures and value-added opportunities. Educating farmers on new enterprises and involving potential young farmers in the agriculture community are also priorities

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

▪ Regional partnerships

NRCS, FSA, Commodity Associations

▪ State Agricultural Development Board resources

CAIP, KADF Special Projects, and KADF Loans

- Other local/state/federal resources
 - Local leaders and elected officials

3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals are measured against their ability to meet the mission statement and the short and long term goals of the council.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Successes and failures will be measured by having funded applicants report back on the success of their program, and by the number of local farmers the project has positively impacted.

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

The county comprehensive plan will be revised as new ideas and proposals are reported, every five years by the County Ag Development Council, or as instructed by KY GOAP.

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