

Boyle County  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Submitted by:

Brandon Ellis  
Fred Durham  
Sandra Smock  
John Hines  
Joey Gilbert  
Patrick Horn  
Logan Goggin  
Carly Guinn  
Laura Welty

Tyler Ray- ANR Extension Agent

Boyle 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**

Boyle County is located 42 miles south of Lexington, KY. Boyle County is comprised of many flourishing communities such as Danville, Perryville, Junction City, Parksville, and Gravel Switch among others. Danville serves as the county seat.

The agricultural industry in Boyle County is made up of beef cattle, forages, grain crops, tobacco, and horticultural crops. Livestock and poultry products have a higher percentage of sales than crops of any kind. Beef cattle is a major enterprise in the county. In Boyle County there are 96,306 acres in farmland and 491 farms according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

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

- Traditional agricultural production  
Traditional farming enterprises in Boyle County include beef cattle (cow-calf, and stocker) and forages, grain crops such as corn, soybeans, and tobacco. Cows and calves account for over 94 percent of livestock sales in Boyle County according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Grain crops account for over 80 percent of crop sales in Boyle County according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Tobacco production has declined in the county over the past several years.
- Non-traditional agricultural production  
Farming enterprises that are considered non-traditional can be found throughout the county. Boyle county has seen an increase in small, diverse farms with the intent of selling directly to the consumer, or to the food service industry. These operations include horticultural crops such as fruits,

vegetables, flowers, grains, and meat, and small ruminants. Fruit, vegetables, nursery, and floriculture crops accounted for 1 percent of crop sales according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

- **New & emerging agricultural production**  
New and emerging agricultural enterprises in Boyle County include horticultural crops as previously mentioned, marketing products directly to consumers through farmers market, local CSAs, and selling off the farm. Another new emerging enterprise is new marketing opportunities in beef cattle such as freezer beef and retained ownership in cattle on feed.
- **Tobacco dependence**  
Tobacco dependence in Boyle County is decreasing. There are only three tobacco growers left in the county.

#### b. Demographic Data

- **Social data**  
In 2022 Boyle County's estimated population was 30,904 of which around 85 percent are White/Caucasian, 8 percent Black/African American, and 3 percent Hispanic. 60 percent of the population falls between 18 and 64. The median household income is \$57,975 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Economic data**  
The median household income is \$57,975 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. According to the Small Area and Income Estimates program at the U.S. Census Bureau 14.8 percent of Boyle County's population is in poverty. The market value of agricultural products sold in 2022 was \$54,742,000 according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

## 2. Assessments of the County

### a. Strengths

1. **Forage Base:** Boyle County has the capacity to grow an abundance of forage that is utilized by grazing livestock, and hay producers. Through better management in forage production can improve forage yields and quality ultimately leading to improved livestock production.
2. **Collaboration between Agricultural Organization and Agencies:** Boyle County is fortunate to have active collaboration between organizations and agencies such as

Boyle County Farm Bureau, Boyle County Cattlemen's Association, Boyle County Conservation District, Boyle County Cooperative Extension, USDA NRCS, USDA FSA, among others.

3. Transportation: While an interstate highway doesn't cross through Boyle County, it is centrally located to access interstate highways I64/I75 and Bluegrass Parkway with ease. US127, a four-lane highway, stretches through Boyle County from North to South. Most roads in the county are well maintained.

4. Water and Internet Access: In Boyle County 98 percent of rural homes and farms have access to waterlines and 77 percent of farms have internet access.

5. Local Industry: As it is more common to Boyle County it is fortunate to have many different local industries. As it is more common for farmers to also have an off-the-farm job, Boyle County is fortunate to have many different local industries such as manufacturing, distilling, education, health care, and more. These industries draw employees from surrounding counties. This has a major impact on our local economy.

6. Health Care: As the age of American farmers are trending upwards coupled with more stress, farmer health is a top priority. Boyle County is fortunate to have a major hospital located in downtown Danville.

7. Leadership and Local Government Support: Boyle County is fortunate to have progressive agriculture leaders and both the city and county government that support the local agricultural community.

8. Education: Boyle County is fortunate to many educational options. The county is home to two public school systems and many private schools. The county is also home to two higher education institutions: Centre College and BCTC. The Boyle County Cooperative Extension Service provides community educational opportunities and technical assistance.

9. Agricultural Businesses: Unlike other counties, Boyle County is fortunate to have many agricultural businesses either within the county or in a neighboring county. Businesses include seed and fertilizer dealers, farm equipment dealers, equipment repair shops, feed mills, farm/greenhouse supply stores, custom applicators, livestock markets, and more.

#### b. Weaknesses

One weakness of Boyle County is the small county size compared to the other surrounding counties. Land is often one of the most limiting factors for farm expansion especially when competing with incoming subdivisions and urban sprawl causing land values to increase. Another weakness seen across Boyle County and many counties across the commonwealth is the lack of availability of large animal veterinarians. As livestock accounts for most sales having more availability with a large animal veterinarian can ensure help ensure healthy herds, and increased profits.

#### c. Opportunities

There is a tremendous opportunity to raise all species of livestock within the county and utilize the forage base available. In addition, new marketing channels opening across the state allow for potential growth opportunities in alternative crops including alfalfa, horticulture and row crops.

#### d. Challenges

The main challenge is competition for land, limiting farm expansion and increasing land values. Another challenge seen across Boyle County and many counties across the commonwealth is the lack of availability of large animal veterinarians.

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

#### a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council, working on behalf of the agricultural community and citizens of Boyle County seeks to preserve and perpetuate the agricultural industry by promoting and encouraging projects that will expand and diversify the agricultural base of this county and region. This base shall be economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially responsible so that we may preserve our economy for our prosperity.

#### b. Short term goals

Short term goals of the Boyle County Agricultural Development Council include supporting and encouraging cooperation among individuals to develop proposals that are broad based and will impact more than one producer. While group proposals are preferred, individual proposals will be considered if they show evidence that the project will improve existing agricultural enterprises or provided new agricultural opportunities for the future.

#### c. Long term goals

Long term goals of the Boyle County Agricultural Development Council include encouraging an atmosphere of cooperation among producers, rural and urban citizens, and public and private sectors toward efforts that maintain both the economic and historic aspect of Boyle County. The improvement of existing farming enterprises, expanding new enterprises, developing markets, and providing educational opportunities will also remain of major importance to continue to strengthen the agricultural economy of Boyle County.

#### d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- **Regional partnerships**  
The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council will seek to partner with other agencies and combine resources on projects that will have impact in Boyle County or impact on Boyle County producers.
- **State Agricultural Development Board resources**  
The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council where appropriate will look for opportunities to combine county and state funds on projects that will have impact in Boyle County.
- **Other local/state/federal resources**  
The Boyle County Agricultural Development Council will seek to partner with other agencies and combine resources on projects that will have impact in Boyle County or impact on Boyle County producers.

### **4. Evaluation & Review**

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

The council reviews proposals in advance, listens to the accompanying proposal if any and then discusses. The proposals are evaluated on their perceived potential to increase production efficiency, create new marketing opportunities, and broaden the educational base for Boyle County farmers.

b. How is success and failure measured?

The main measure of success will be the testimony of participants in programs such as CAIP, DAR, NextGen, and YAIP and how the program has increased their farm's sustainability. Applicants/Administrators receiving funds may be asked to report to the Boyle County Agricultural Development Council on the status/impact of their project/program upon request.

c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised?

The Boyle County Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed on a timely basis and revised every five years as per the direction of the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy.

You may save this document to continue editing or to email at a later date.

Please save document and submit to:

SarahR.Bryant@ky.gov or Bailey.Siry-Crowder@ky.gov