

Livingston County
Agriculture Development Council

Update of
County Comprehensive Plan

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Livingston County
Comprehensive Plan Update

County Agricultural Development Councils have the responsibility to evaluate the needs of the local agriculture economy. The Updated County Comprehensive Plan should identify programs and projects best suited for agriculture development fund investments In the County.

The governor’s office of Agriculture Policy staff may provide guidance to county councils throughout this evaluation.

1. Overview of County

In 2022 Livingston County had 360 farm operations on 144,892 acres, which represented 72.5% of the total land in comparison, Kentucky’s farm operations made up 49.2% of the States total land area, and U.S. farm operations made up 40.5% of total land area in the country. Livingston County has many diversified agricultural operations ranging from row crop operations raising corn, soybeans, and wheat, to livestock operations ranging from beef operations to small animals such as sheep and goat operations. Livingston County also has a beekeeping and horticulture community that is constantly growing. Livingston County is ranking as 58th in total value of agricultural products sold in the state.

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

- Traditional agriculture production
In 2022 total cash value of crops and Livestock sold in Livingston County was 46,594,000. Crop sales make up 80% of cash sales while livestock makes up 20% of cash Sales.
- Non-traditional agriculture production
Livingston County has a rise of interest in small animals, beekeeping, and a revived interest in vegetable production.
- New and Emerging agriculture production

Small animal and honey production. We have also seen an increase in forage production for cash crops in Livingston County.

- Tobacco dependency

Livingston County has little to no dependency on tobacco.

b. Demographic Data

- Social Data

As of 2012 the Livingston County population was 9,423. Also, the percentage of population that is non-white was 2.1%. The population that is older than 64 years was 19.1%. The percentage of the total population in poverty was 25.4%. Unemployment rate in 2012 was 8.2% and the median household income was \$38,724.

- Economic Data

Livingston County as of 2012 has 2,722 jobs which is an increase of 185 jobs from 2007. The top ten industries in Livingston County is local government, mining, construction, food services, hospitals, Transportation, recreation Nursing Facilities, Federal Government, merchant wholesalers, and nondurable goods.

2. Assessment of the County

a. Strengths

- Livingston County continues to provide great opportunities for agricultural growth and sustainability. First Livingston County has many acres suited for row crops and livestock production. Second the county has great potential for transportation due to the fact that Livingston County has the three largest rivers that are capable of moving large amounts of bulk commodities. Livingston County also has a thriving livestock market that moves a large amount of cattle every week. They have also developed a monthly red tag sale which is a value assess stocker calf sale. This sale attracts order buyers for large feed yards every month. In the southern end of the county a thriving tourism industry exists because of Barkley Lake. Also, the County has a vast amount of timber that can be used as a resource from timber to hunting tourism.

b. Weaknesses

- There has been many threats faced by farmers in the County. One weakness is the unstable price of grain due to the increase in world production, and weather that has had such an effect on the end product when it comes to

harvest. Also the rising cost of production will make it harder to achieve sustainable profit margins in the future. The last weakness is the nature of most productive land pertaining to grain production is prone to flooding in different times of the year making production challenging.

c. Challenges

- One challenge in Livingston County is the increased loss of farm land due to flooding in different parts of the year coupled with a slow increase of residential areas popping up in the county increased land is becoming nonproductive for agriculture.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

- The mission of the Livingston County Agriculture Development Council is to promote and support programs and activities that will sustain and enhance farm profitability now and in the future. It is our goal to increase the value of Livingston County agriculture production by supporting innovative ideas in existing farm activities and support the development of new opportunities. Our goal is to encourage better utilization of existing resources and to develop new innovative enterprises to provide profitable opportunities in the future.

b. Short Term Goals

- Add to existing farm enterprises. Cooperate with other councils or regional agriculture development councils on economic development initiatives that will benefit our region. Seek training or education that would enable the development of new alternative or value added agriculture enterprises.

c. Long Term Goals

1. Add value to county commodities when possible.
2. Promote more efficient use of county agriculture resources.
3. Provide educational opportunities to county farm families.
4. Develop non-traditional farm enterprises.
5. Establish profitable cooperative effort in the area.

6. Sustainability of economic viable family farms, that have productive soils, woodlands, water resources and wildlife habitats.

- d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional Partnerships

The Livingston County agriculture development board will encourage leverage of county funds through cost share, in-kind matching of local, state or federal monies when the opportunities present themselves.

- State Agricultural Development Board Resources

The Livingston County agriculture development board will encourage leverage of county funds through cost share, in-kind matching of local, state or federal monies when the opportunities present themselves.

State Recourses to consider for County Comprehensive Plans

Projects funded by Kentucky Agriculture Development Board (Since 2001)

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Cattlemen Association/Kentucky Beef Network
Kentucky Horticulture Association
Kentucky Dairy Development Council
Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development
Kentucky State University
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Community Farm Alliance
Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office
Kentucky Association of Food Banks
Kentucky AG Council
Kentucky Horse Council
Kentucky AG and Environment in the Classroom
Kentucky State Beekeepers Association
UK Farm Business Analysis

Other State Resources

USDA Rural Development
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
Kentucky Division of Water
Kentucky Small Business Development Center

- Other Local/State/Federal Resources

The Livingston County Agriculture Development Board will encourage leverage of County Funds through cost share, in-kind matching of local, state or federal monies when the opportunities present themselves.

3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals will be evaluated on their potential to increase production abilities, improve marketing efficiency, add value or create new production with new market potential. Proposals requiring multiple counties, regional or state funds must demonstrate economic benefit to Livingston County and surrounding farmers.

- b. How is success measured?

The Livingston Agricultural Development Council requires a minimum annual progress report on grants funded by the county monies. More frequent reports will be accepted.

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

The council will review county plan yearly to make any needed adjustments.