

Warren County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Submitted by:

County Council Members

Mark Chapman, Conservation

Benji Hudnall, Conservation

Jennifer Tucker, Extension

Joe Duncan, Extension

Bill Bush, Farm Service Agency

Landon Westbrook, Farm Service Agency

Billy Ray Smith, At Large

Michael Bush, At Large – Young Farmer

Austin Cole, At Large – Young Farmer

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

1. Overview of the County

Warren County is a rapidly growing community with 147,936 citizens. Yet, the rural community is still deeply rooted in diverse agricultural production. Warren County has 1530 farms and operators farm 262,198 acres out of the 234,924 acres in the county. Warren County is 16th in the state in Market Value of Ag Products. We rank 1st in Kentucky in Fruits, Tee Nuts and Berries as well as Sheep, Goats, Wool, Mohair and Milk. Warren County is 3rd in Aquaculture, 5th in Cultivated Christmas Trees and 9th in Horses and Ponies. We are 10th in Crops, 11th in Milk from Cows and 19th in Livestock, Poultry and Products. 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, and urban/rural neighbor issues are challenges we face every day.

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

- Traditional Agricultural Production

	2022	2017
Number of Farms	1530	1755
Land in Farms	234,924	262,198,000 acres
Average Size Farm	154	149 acres
Market Value of Ag Products	\$160,664,000	\$110,896,000
Average per Farm Receiving Government Funds	\$14,939	\$14,347

Demographic Data

▪ Social data	
Primary Occupation-Farming	540
Primary Occupation-Other	1108
Principal Operator-Male	1630
Principal Operator-Female	998
American Indian or Alaska Native	6
Asian	1
Black/African American	17
White	2517
More than 1 race	7
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino Origin	18
▪ Economic data	
Demographics	Warren County
Total Population	123,824
% Change in Total Population	9.9% +
% Population Non-White	19.4%
% Population 69+ Years	13.7%
% Population in Poverty 2012	14.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022 Annual Average (BLS)	3.3%
Median Household Income	\$64801

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

	Warren County
%Population 25+ HS Diploma or GED	87.4%
%Population 25+ Bachelors Degree +	33.4%
2022 Total Jobs	58,023

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 facility.

d. Challenges

Regulations, value of land for development

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

To evaluate the needs of Warren County & South-Central Kentucky 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 productivity and marketability. Forage crop harvesting & storage. On farm fencing.
- Alternative Enterprise Development: help explore and develop profitable alternatives and sustainable enterprises.
- 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, farmers' markets and growers' cooperatives.
- Training of farmers: 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. Funding 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 commodities or price improvement through better marketing skills and marketing opportunities.
- Training 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 training 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 are 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