

Edmonson County  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

September 2020

**Submitted by:**

List County Council Members

**Farm Service Agency Representatives:**

DeWayne Cowles

Jack Estes

**Conservation District Board Representatives:**

Mark Meeks

Danny Vincent

**Extension Council Representatives:**

Sherry Sanders

Joshua Vincent

**At Large Members selected by other six:**

Chance Cowles

Chris Elmore

Sam Skaggs

# Edmonson 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

Year	Number of Farms	Acres of Farms	Avg. Size	Value/Acre Land and Buildings
1992	734	92,487	126	\$ 737
1997	792	95,932	121	\$1305
2002	670	93,661	140	\$1176
2007	712	96,641	136	\$2169
2012	638	84,989	133	\$2379
2017	578	81,589	141	\$3178

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

- Traditional agricultural production

See Attachment

- Non-traditional agricultural production

See Attachment

- New & emerging agricultural production

See Attachment

- Tobacco dependency

See Attachment

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

See Attachment

- Economic data

See Attachment

**2. Assessments of the County**

a. Strengths

- In general Edmonson County farmers have experience, land, facilities and the knowledge needed for further developing the beef cattle industry, poultry industry, horticulture industry and aquaculture industry.
- Edmonson County has a very progressive Agricultural community including a very active Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, 4-H & FFA Chapter, Horticulture businesses, and Saddle Club.
- Edmonson County is most suitable for developing forages.
- Edmonson County has one of the cleanest water systems in the state.

b. Weaknesses

See Attachment

c. Opportunities

See Attachment

d. Challenges

See Attachment

**3. County Council Objectives**

a. Mission/Vision Statement

Invest in the preservation of Agriculture in Edmonson County, serve as a resource for farmers to explore new enterprises, extend marketing opportunities for this region and contribute to the future of Agriculture in Edmonson County.

b. Short term goals

The Board believes that the short term priorities should include developing and adding profitability to our existing strengths such as beef, poultry, forages, timber, vegetables, horticulture and other enterprises. Additionally, short term priorities include investigating new, innovative or value-added enterprises. The Board also expresses the need to educate the community on the Board's role, the application process and fulfilling the plan for the county.

c. Long term goals

These goals include establishing marketing structures and value-added opportunities, educating farmers on new enterprises and involving potential young farmers in the agricultural community. Also using this opportunity to create a cooperative atmosphere to foster advancement of Agriculture in the county.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

See Attachment

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, in statute, is administered by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. The mission of the board is to invest these funds in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products. This includes finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities that will benefit Kentucky farms now and in the future.

- Other local/state/federal resources

See Attachment

### 3. Evaluation & Review

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

Proposals will be evaluated by the Edmonson County Agriculture Board using the Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria provided from the State Agriculture Development Board. A proposal will be scored and ranked using these criteria with emphasis placed on project fitting into the county comprehensive plan. Complete proposals will be forwarded to the State for final review.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Success will be measured on a county wide basis. At a later time the Board will evaluate the impact of the funds on the county. If possible a return on investment will be determined.

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

The county comprehensive plan will be revised by the incoming Agriculture Development Board every five (5) years. Any revisions will be made pending a majority vote of the Board. Other revisions by the sitting Board can be made at any time via a majority vote.

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i. Traditional Agricultural Production

<u>Crops 2017</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield/acre</u> <u>tons, bu, lbs</u>	<u>Production</u>
Hay (other than Alfalfa)	11,631	2.51	29,275
Alfalfa	594	2.51	1,198
Corn	2,488	161.4	401,603
Soybean	12,547	48.5	608,293

<u>Livestock 2017</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Avg #</u>	<u>Production</u> <u>per cow</u>
Beef	(D)	-----
All cattle & calves	16,422	-----
Hogs and pigs	48	-----

(D) means numbers not released by USDA

**Total Farm Cash Receipts 2017**

<u>Total Crops</u>	<u>Total Livestock</u>	<u>All Cash Receipts</u>
\$11,231,000	\$16,224,000	\$27,455,000

**County's Rank Among 120 in State 2012**

<u>Product</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Corn	60
Soybean	53
Burley	73
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	61
Cattle and calves	48
Beef Cows	53
Hogs and pigs	62

Similar rankings not included in 2017 data







Kentucky; 90 miles northeast of Nashville, Tennessee; 90 miles southwest of Louisville, Kentucky.

**Water, Rainfall, etc.**

Average yearly rainfall:	49.75 inches
Average annual snowfall:	7.32 inches

**Climate**

Normal Average Temperature:	56.2 degrees
Average Prevailing wind:	South 7 mph

**Capital**

Bank of Edmonson County (est. 1925)  
P.O. Box 99, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210

(270) 597-2175

Limestone Bank  
P.O. Box 9, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210

(270) 597-2138

**Labor:**

Labor Market County (2017):	5,009
People living & working in County	672
Living in County, working elsewhere	3,797
Living elsewhere, working in County	540
Edmonson County Population (2019):	12,150
Average Unemployment rate: Average	4.9%
Weekly wages (2018):	\$795.38

**Grain Market:**

Sun Valley Feed Mill  
P.O. Box 301, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-2420

**Agriculture Suppliers and Businesses**

Mammoth Cave Transplants

5394 Brownsville Road, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-2533

Sun Valley Feed Mill  
P.O. Box 301, Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-2420

Sunny Point Gardens  
685 Sunny Point Road, Brownsville, KY 42210  
(270) 991-2539

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
3530 Chaleybeate Road, Smiths Grove, KY 42171  
(270) 597-1153

#### **Farm Organizations**

Farm Bureau  
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(27) 597-2127

Edmonson County Cattlemen's Association  
President, Royce Vincent  
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-2462

#### **Government Organizations**

USDA/Farm Service Agency  
925 Lovers Lane, Suite 100  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42103  
(270) 843-1111

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-2761

University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service  
116 Mohawk Street  
Brownsville, Kentucky 42210  
(270) 597-3628

## **Other Resources**

Mammoth Cave National Park  
(270) 758-2251

Nolin Lake State Park  
(270) 286-4240

## **2. Assessments of the County**

### **A. Weaknesses**

- Edmonson County's topography is not conducive for large traditional row crop farms and most of the best land for row crops is located in the national park or being bought by developers.
- Edmonson County is an economically depressed area due to lack of industry within the county.
- Most of the labor force works outside of the county.
- Edmonson County has not capitalized on Tourism opportunities afforded by Mammoth Cave National Park and Nolin State Park.
- Most farmers have little capital to invest in new ventures.
- Many farmers lack knowledge of consumer trends.
- Many farmers fail to utilize University and Government resources available at little or no charge.

### **3. Opportunities**

- Edmonson County is located near several major tourist attractions including Mammoth Cave National Park, Nolin State Park, Barren River State Park, Rough River State Park, National Corvette Museum and Scenic Green River.
- There is a significant amount of timber in Edmonson County.
- Large amount of resources available from regional universities, technical schools, Land grant universities and Government agencies.
- Close proximity to Trans-Modal Park.

## B. Challenges

- Many young people are moving away.
- High land cost, input costs, and low, volatile farm commodity prices make it nearly impossible for young people to start farming.
- Increasing land prices are also tempting many farmers to sell out for real estate development.
- Recent low cattle prices have hampered many producer's plans for beef herd expansions.
- Little opportunity within the county for supplemental off-farm employment.

## C. Tactics for leveraging funds:

The Board will expect proposals to show significant evidence of in-kind or matching funds from the applicant. The level of applicants' contribution will play a major role in the Board's evaluation of proposals. Proposals should clearly outline who the funds are directed to and who will be responsible for the expenditures. Proposals should include a budget that outlines anticipated expenses, income, cash flow and growth potential. Applicants are encouraged to use these funds as seed money for other grants, loans, "buying-down" interest on loans or membership/startup costs in cooperative ventures.