

GALLATIN COUNTY  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021

Submitted by:

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# GALLATIN 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

With a land area of only 99 square miles, Gallatin is the smallest county in the state. In 2019, the estimated population of the county was approximately 8,869 residents. This represents an increase of nearly 1,000 since 2000. The county seat is Warsaw with Glencoe and Sparta comprising the other major towns within county boundaries.

Gallatin County is situated on the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky. The county is located only 75 miles from either Louisville or Lexington, and less than 40 miles from Cincinnati, OH. Gallatin County is poised within what many call the "Golden Triangle" formed by Interstates 71, 75, and 64. This locale has figured heavily into the county's recent industrial and residential expansion.

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

- Traditional agricultural production

Traditional crop production in Gallatin County has remained fairly steady with the notable exception of tobacco production steadily decreasing and in the hands of larger farmers only. Cattle production numbers have increased. More importantly, because of CAIP, both cattle and forage quality has seen a marked increase.

- Non-traditional agricultural production

The historic jump in Gallatin County's "Net Cash Farm Income" is all due to the adoption of non-traditional agricultural enterprises. Industrial hemp is being grown in the county (with mixed results and profit margins), but it's the commercial vegetable production that has really increased the net farm income of those particular producers.

- New & emerging agricultural production

As stated above, vegetable and hemp production are the main players in this category. Aside from those, there has also been an increase in the number of producers who are selling farm products direct to the consumer. The sales of frozen beef, fresh vegetables, and honey are all increasing.

- Tobacco dependency

The few producers who still grow tobacco are still quite dependent on it. As of 2021, there are fewer than ten tobacco producers in Gallatin County.

## b. Demographic Data

### **2018 Population Estimate 8,832**

2010 Census 8,589

2000 Census 7,870

1990 Census 5,393

### **Population Composition (2018 Population Estimates)**

#### **Ethnicity**

Hispanic 483

Not Hispanic 8,349

#### **Race**

American Indian or Alaska Native 24

Asian 42

Black or African American 142

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 8

White 8,444

Two or More Races 172

#### **Age Groups**

Under 18 Years 2,139

Ages 18-44 Years 2,936

Ages 45-64 years 2,524

Ages 65 and over 1,233

### **Farming and Agriculture (2017 Census of Agriculture)**

Total Number of Farms 235

Average Size of Farms 138 acres

Percent of Land in Farms 51.7%

Number of Principle Producers 316

Average Age of Principle Producers 54.8 years

**Principal Producers (More than one principal producer may be designated per farm)**

**Race:**

- American Indian or Alaska Native 0 182
- Asian 0%
- Black or African American 0%
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 0%
- White 99%
- More than One Race 1%
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin 0%

**Poverty and Income (2018 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates)**

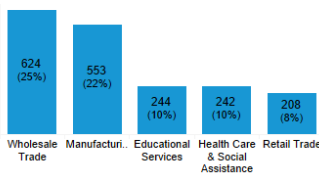
- Official Poverty Rate 15.1% (+/- 12.0 to 18.2%)
- Official Child Poverty Rate (Ages 0-17) 23.6% (+/- 17.6 to 29.6%)
- Median Household Income \$49,060 (+/- \$43,869 to \$54,251)

- Economic data

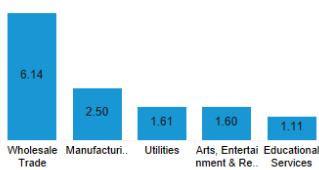
**CEDIK Economic Data Profile**

**Location**  
Gallatin County

**2019 Employment\***  
Top 5 industries (# jobs)



**2019 Location Quotient\***  
Top 5 industries (LQ)



If LQ>1, then the industry is more concentrated in the county as compared to the national average and vice-versa.

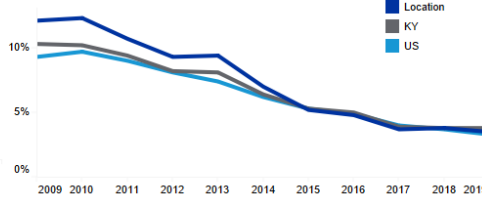
**Demographic Indicators\***

Indicator Name	County	KY	US
2019 Population	8,895	4,492,626	329,537,430
2019 Labor Force	3,967	2,088,173	165,431,597
2019 Labor Force (%)	59%	59%	63%
2019 Commute Time (minutes)	29	23	26
2019 Median Household Income	\$50,250	\$46,535	\$57,652
2019 Population in Poverty (%)	13%	18%	15%

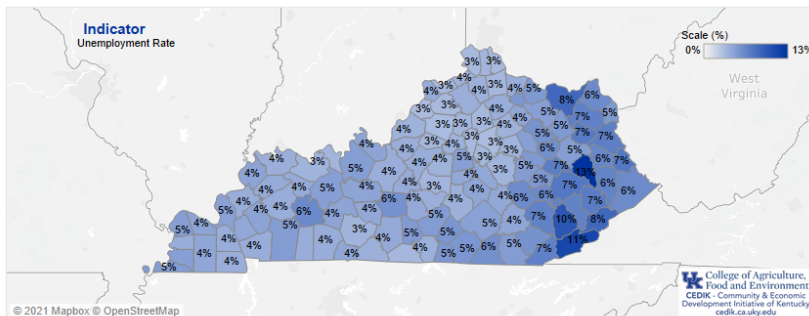
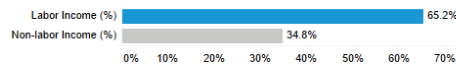
**Jobs Overview\***

Indicator Name	County	KY	US
2009 Total Jobs	2,026	1,726,701	130,118,265
2019 Total Jobs	2,504	1,897,497	147,886,638
2029 Total Jobs	2,572	1,958,748	155,875,298
2009-2019 Change (%)	24%	10%	14%
2019-2029 Change (%)	3%	3%	5%

**Unemployment Rate\***



**2018 Personal Income\*\***



Data Sources: \*JobsEQ, 2019; \*\*BEA, 2018

For questions, contact Simona Balazs, CEDIK Research Director, at (859) 218-5764 or simona.balazs@uky.edu. Special thanks to Joe Kerckmar, CEDIK Research Analyst, for his work on the data.

## 2. Assessments of the County

### a. Strengths

Once again, our geographic location must be listed among our greatest assets. With our close proximity to three metropolitan areas and the transportation infrastructure already in place (i.e., Interstates 71 & 75, the railway system, and the Ohio River) the potential is incredible for marketing most any agricultural commodity.

However, our greatest strength lies in our people. We have well-established family farms operated by highly competent farm families. As the county has changed, our farmers have been forced to change with it. They have learned to be flexible in many ways while still holding steadfast to their belief in the farming way of life.

### b. Weaknesses

Many of our weaknesses as they pertain to agricultural development are common among Kentucky counties. There is a tremendous shortage of agricultural labor; without migrant help, it would be next to impossible for our medium and large farms to plant and harvest.

The average age of farmers in Gallatin County is over 56. Few young men or women have entered into farming as their vocation. Human nature being such as it is, these older farmers are less likely to experiment with new alternative crops.

### c. Opportunities

Because of our proximity to larger population centers, our greatest opportunity revolves around horticultural crop production and direct to consumer sales.

### d. Challenges

Probably our greatest challenge is dealing with our aging farmer population and the few young farmers who want to take their place.

Another serious challenge is the state government's seemingly laissez-faire attitude towards major infrastructure funding needed for the hemp and horticultural crop industries to make a major impact on Kentucky agriculture.

### 3. County Council Objectives

#### a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Gallatin County Agriculture Development Council seeks to promote and encourage projects that will expand the overall agricultural base of our county. We feel farm families can do this by preserving and expanding existing farm enterprises and/or exploring new enterprises. The Council hopes to encourage profitable examples that may be used as models for other farm families. Our vision of agriculture in Gallatin County is one that is diversified and prosperous while being economically and environmentally sustainable.

#### b. Short term goals

To continue funding the Gallatin County CAIP.

#### c. Long term goals

To look at the possibility of funding other programs besides CAIP.

#### d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships
- State Agricultural Development Board resources
- Other local/state/federal resources

\*As things stand, the CAIP is about the only thing we have the time and people resources to manage right now. Should things change, we may look at leveraging funds from other sources.

### 3. Evaluation & Review

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

Any proposals are considered by the Ag Council and voted upon.

#### b. How is success and failure measured?

If the funding provided creates a positive outcome for producers in terms of farm safety, efficiency, or net farm income, then it's judged successful.

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

As needed.