

Lewis County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

October 29,2020

Submitted by:

The Lewis County Phase I Committee is a board of six appointed representatives and three elected representatives. The committee is governed by a chair and a vice chair with administrative duties being that of the County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The committee is as follows:

Officers

Chairman: Jeremy Stamm
Vice Chairman: Bonnie McCann
Secretary: Leonard Mason

Jeremy Stamm, elected Young Farmer, representing Cooperative
Extension Service

Tom Goodwin representing Farm Service Agency

Bonnie McCann representing Farm Service Agency Underserved Audience

Mitch Esham representing Natural Resource Conservation District

Dwight Malone representing Natural Resource Conservation
District

Leonard Mason representing Cooperative Extension
Service

Christian Arnold, Young Farmer, Member at Large

Norman Roe Member at Large

Amos Nolen Member at Large

Philip Konopka, County Extension Agent

Lewis 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

550 farms, 117,417 acres in farmland 28,960 acres of harvested cropland. Average value of land and buildings per acre is \$2,096. With the average age of a farmer being 57.4

Market Value of Ag products Sold in thousand dollars:

Crops (including Nursery and Greenhouse)	8,721
Grain and Oilseed	5,887
Tobacco	1,435
Hay and other Crops	1,365
Livestock and their products	3,965
Cattle and Calves	3,664

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

▪ Traditional agricultural production

550 farms, 117,417 acres in farmland 28,960 acres of harvested cropland

▪ Non-traditional agricultural production

Currently Lewis County has approximately 30 acres of vegetable crops, multiple horticulture greenhouses, with a Farmers' Market located in Vanceburg. Multiple sawmills for lumber production on and off farms.

- New & emerging agricultural production

There is one 30 acre Water Cress Farm in the county.

- Tobacco dependency

From 1990 to 1998 burley tobacco has accounted for 54.3% of Lewis counties farm receipts. Lewis County has lost 4,375,197 pounds of effective quota for a total of \$8,312,874. This has been a devastating blow to our economy. Lewis County ranks thirty-third in the state for tobacco dependency.

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

Population 13,275	Distance to Major Cities
Households 5,435	Chicago 385
Per Capita Income \$20,059	Cincinnati 100
Percent in Poverty 25.2%	Lexington 86
Median Family Income \$31,096	Louisville 159
Labor Force 45.2%	Pittsburgh 311
Travel time to work 36.9 Minutes	Cleveland 347

- Economic data

The numerous resources Lewis County producers have to draw from are listed below in strengths and opportunities section.

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

Livestock	AA Highway
Forages	Railroad
Tobacco	Ohio River
Horticulture	Water Access (creeks, ponds, underground water)
Forestry	
Land Resources	
Diversity	
Available Work Force	
Work Ethic	

b. Weaknesses

Marketing
Management
Unemployment Rate
Irrigation Equipment
Irrigation Knowledge
Poverty Level

Lack of Supplemental Farm Income
Lack of Tourism and Recreation
Lack of Operating Capital
Lack of Venture Capital
Public Apathy
Technology

c. Opportunities

Marketing Expansion
Tourism and Recreation
Livestock Expansion
Horticulture Expansion
Timber Management
Value Added Forestry

Management Improvements
Irrigation Implementation
Forage Expansion
Horticulture Expansion
Value Added Agriculture

d. Challenges

Available Markets
Flooding
Interest Rates

Fear of New Practices
Government Regulations

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of the Lewis County Agriculture Development Board is to preserve and expand agriculture interest and opportunities for all Lewis county producer

b. Short term goals

The short-term priorities are as follows. To improve the livestock herd health, genetics and efficiency; improve the quality of our forages; to improve marketing options for grain producers; to increase productivity and quality of horticulture products while providing marketing opportunities.

c. Long term goals

The long-term goal of the committee is to help producers increase their net farm income by providing opportunities in livestock, forage production, grain production, horticulture, forestry, tourism and recreation.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

Regional Partnerships: Committee members will serve on regional committees to explore and support regional efforts that will provide opportunities for Lewis county producers to increase net farm income in accordance with the county's comprehensive plan.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

State Ag Development Board resources will be utilized to further the value of Lewis County's programs through cost share, research and guidance.

- Other local/state/federal resources

Other local, state and federal resources will be utilized, as they are available to help implement programs.

3. Evaluation & Review

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

1. What percentage of producers will this project affect now?
2. What percentage of producers will this project affect in the future?
3. Do small producers have the same ability to profit from the project as large producers?
4. What is the total cost of the project?
5. What will the potential economic benefit be?
6. How long will the payback in benefit to the community's economy be?
7. What percentage of the cost is the group or individual willing to pay?
8. Are there any grants available to help fund this project and how much will they contribute?
9. What percentage of the county's Phase I funds are being requested?

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Success and failure will be measured by determining if the economic impact or participation outlined in the proposal was met.

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

The county's comprehensive plan will be revised as needed to better serve the citizens of Lewis County.

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