

Martin County
Agricultural Development Council

Update of
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

September 2020

Submitted by:

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Martin 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

Martin County, formed on September 1, 1870 from parts of Pike, Floyd, Johnson and Lawrence counties, was named in honor of Col. John P. Martin. The county seat, Inez, is situated in a valley, surrounded by beautiful hills and mountains. In 1986 Martin County had about one hundred coal mines in operation, however, today coal mining is at an all time minimum.

Martin County has a population of about 11,195 with 39.1% of the population below poverty level. (U.S. Census 2019)

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

- Traditional agricultural production

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture land in farms was 11,039 acres with the current average farm size of 368 acres.

The total average market value of agriculture products sold per farm was \$7,144.00 in 2017.

- Non-traditional agricultural production

There were only 30 farms in 2017 with an average size of 368 acres. The unemployment rate in 2019 was 8.1%. There is virtually no production agriculture in Martin County.

- New & emerging agricultural production

Several opportunities lie in the development of direct marketing. Such opportunities might include larger farmers markets and on farm sale of other alternative crops. County producers would benefit from combining agriculture products with other area producers. Production opportunities include the development of alternative crops such as fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, ❏

- Tobacco dependency

No tobacco production in Martin County

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

There is a current estimated labor supply of 2,925 persons available for employment in Martin County. The county, also, has another 2,172 people between the ages of 15-18 ready to enter the work force.

- Economic data

Martin County private non-farm establishments employed 2460 jobs in 2013. There were only 30 farms in 2017 with an average size of 268 acres. The unemployment rate in 2019 was 8.2%. There is virtually no production agriculture in Martin County.

2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

Martin County now has a fairly well developed road system with access to Route 23 via Route 645 and Route 3. These roads open a direct path the surrounding areas such as: Ashland, Paintsville and Prestonsburg. The county has several hundred acres of timber. Other Natural Resources include natural gas, coal and water. There are, also, several acres of land suitable for specialty crops and other alternative agriculture.

b. Weaknesses

One of the recognized weaknesses in Martin County Agriculture is the lack of land suitable for the production of traditional crops. A majority of the county consists of steep, forested hillsides. Land that is suitable for crop production is often geographically remote making management difficult. The limited number of farms and small size of individual farms have made marketing efforts fragmented. Most producers market products individually resulting in the farmer having little price control due to the small market share. Overall there is very little development of production and marketing infrastructure to support farming initiatives.

c. Opportunities

Several opportunities lie in the development of direct marketing. Such opportunities might include larger farmers markets and on farm sale of other alternative crops. County producers would benefit from combining agriculture products with other area producers. Production opportunities include the development of alternative crops such as fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, and others, which would have a higher profit potential for our small farms.

d. Challenges

It is the opinion of the Martin County Agriculture Council that producers undertaking new agriculture enterprises often lack the proper resources to market these various products. Therefore, the Council will give the highest priority to projects addressing marketing concerns particularly as they relate the following areas: reaching new customers, product packaging, direct marketing and exploring potential markets.

3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Martin County Agriculture Development Council will dedicate whatever means of support and resources available for the development of profitable, sustainable farm enterprises.

b. Short term goals

The Martin County Agriculture Council will support both existing and emerging efforts in the production and marketing of established and alternative agriculture products. Emphasis will be placed on those projects that show cooperation between different groups or individuals and have outcomes, which benefit many people. However, individual projects will be considered as long as the project demonstrates a probability of having broad impact on the local production and marketing structure.

c. Long term goals

One of the long-term goals of the Martin County Agriculture Advancement Council will be to support the development of group production and marketing efforts. Another goal is to support the development of infrastructure that will add value to local products.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships

The Martin County Agriculture Development Council will expect proposals to show evidence of in-kind, matching money or other support equal to 50% of the total cost of the project. Projects must follow the guidelines outlined in the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund Investment Program Grant Application.

- State Agricultural Development Board resources

Projects funded by the Kentucky Agricultural 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

- Other local/state/federal resources

The Council works with the District Soil Conservation Service, the University of Kentucky Extension Service and always seeks state and federal funding.

3. Evaluation & Review

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

The Council will meet on an ongoing basis to review any proposals that have been submitted. Each proposal will be judged individually and then sent to the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board for final review and approval. Those submitting projects should pay particular attention to the Guiding Principals For Board Investment contained on pages four and five of the Grant Application. These guidelines will assist in writing a more effective proposal.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

The Council will expect progress reports (either quarterly or semi-annually as designated by the Council) on the status of each project.

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

The Council will meet to revise the plan as needed.

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County	Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Organization Representing	Minority or Young Farmer? (select if applicable)	Identify Chairman (X)	Address1	Address2	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	E-mail
1 Martin		Dean	Fannin	Farm Service Agency			1334 South Mlio Rd		Tomah	KY	41262	606-298-7133	
2 Martin		Paty	Moore	Farm Service Agency	Minority		291 Thurman Moore Rd		Inez	KY	41224	606-395-6089	
3 Martin		James	Cline	Extension			Davella		Inez	KY	41224	606-298-3522	
4 Martin		Lowell	Preece	Extension			P.P. Box 266		Inez	KY	41224	606-298-7906	
5 Martin		A.J.	Haney	Conservation			Blacklog Rd		Inez	KY	41224	606-626-5191	
6 Martin		James	Ward	Conservation			261 Main Street		Inez	KY	41224	606-626-7440	
7 Martin		Wesley	McGinnil	At Large	Young Farmer		4365 Rockhouse Rd		Tomah	KY	41262	859-608-2675	
8 Martin		Sarah	Moore	At Large	Young Farmer		291 Thurman Moore Rd		Inez	KY	41224	606-395-6089	
9 Martin		Ryan	Young	At Large			12 Lazy Lane		Inez	KY	41224	606-626-9635	