

Wayne County  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

2020

**Submitted by:**

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# Wayne 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

Wayne County is a rural county with approximately 20,468 residents, 7,500 of whom reside in Monticello. Over 20,000 acres of Wayne County is covered by Lake Cumberland which is at the center of a thriving tourist industry. These improvements in the non-agriculture economy have helped local residents but, even with recent improvements in the local economy, over half of Wayne County's public school children qualify for reduced or free lunch. Agriculture is still the #1 industry. According to NASS, poultry products and research accounts for 2/3 of Wayne County Ag income. Wayne County ranks 10th in the state in poultry production. Contract poultry production has become one of our major agriculture industries. In 2017 we had 50 farms producing 430 acres of Burley tobacco. Wayne County is the center for its geographic area in many agriculture enterprises. It has the only grain elevator in the area. Our beef cattle farmers have access to two large capacity stockyards in adjoining counties less than 50 miles away. A new poultry feed mill less than 25 miles from Monticello provides a local market for corn growers.

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

- Traditional agricultural production

Corn - 4196 A Down

Wheat - 1172 Down

Cows & Calves - 20,699 Down

Soybeans - 8587 A Steady

Hay - 15974 Down

Burley Tobacco - 430 A Steady

- Non-traditional agricultural production

Greenhouse Bedding Plants & Flowers - Up

Sheep - 1181 UP

Poultry and Eggs - 2/3 of Ag Income, Sales 38,614,000 Up

Vegetables - 300 A Up

Goats - 300 Down

- New & emerging agricultural production

Wayne County has an expanding market for home raised produce. On-farm markets are doing well.

- Tobacco dependency

Wayne County tobacco income is about the same as 2015. 430 acres of tobacco was grown in 2017

b. Demographic Data

- Social data

16.5% Food Insecure in 2017

45% Adults are Obese

16% of Adults have Diabetes

- Economic data

Market value of produce sold - \$57,975,000

710 Farms

Average Farm is 135 acres

## 2. Assessments of the County

a. Strengths

Strong, capable, committed ag leadership

Plans for biodiesel plant extruding local soybeans in adjoining county

Presence of well financed poultry breeding and broiler companies

Grain elevator - good infrastructure

Two stockyards in adjoining counties

Farmers Market

Value-added wood industry

Well equipped, highly efficient grain producers

Abundant forages

Poultry feed mill in adjoining county

b. Weaknesses

- Soybeans and wheat have to be exported long distances for sale
- No local implement dealer
- No large animal veterinarian
- Lack of agricultural skilled labor
- Culture and language barrier with migrant workers
- Tobacco contract production outlook uncertain

c. Opportunities

- School system owns farm adjoining school that is used for school garden
- Adding value marketing corn to poultry companies
- Cooperatively marketing beef cattle to obtain more income, add value to calves
- Contract boiler production - contract egg production for Cobb
- Adding value to timber harvest
- Direct sales to tourists
- Improve forage production and utilization, ie. rotational grazing stockpile fescue
- Affordable grain to feed livestock
- Renewed interest in small swine enterprises

d. Challenges

- Reduced tolerance for animal agriculture
- Continued cost/profit squeeze in all agriculture areas, especially grain and beef
- Increased competition pushing smaller family operations out of business
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Non-Ag sectors lack of understanding or indifference of the real value of Ag
- Increased environmental demands made on Ag with no way to pay for them
- High seed, fuel and fertilizer prices
- Rising chemical prices
- Low prices offered for tobacco contracts

### 3. County Council Objectives

a. Mission/Vision Statement

It is the mission of the Wayne County Council to look for and encourage projects that will give the opportunity to improve and sustain the economic well being of the citizens of Wayne County.

b. Short term goals

We support adding value to weaned calves, genetic improvement in beef, sheep and goats. Developing marketing strategies to return more value to producers. Group purchases and selling to improve bottom line. Making available appropriate equipment for producers to share. Educational programs that empower our farmers to adopt BMPs for their farm enterprises.

c. Long term goals

The long term goal of the Council is to promote cooperative efforts among producers, allied industry and the non-farm community to provide long-term value-added opportunities for producers of agriculture products as well as employment opportunities for our citizens.

We recommend for funding projects which have a good payback and are sustainable over a number of years. In other words things that will last (ie Hay and commodity storage, cattle handling facilities, weaning pens, and bull lots). On farm water enhancement equipment purchases for qualified diversification investments, technology and genetic improvement.

d. Tactics for leveraging funds

▪ Regional partnerships

Work together to market farm products  
Work together to purchase products  
Use technology to connect groups together  
Stockyards in adjoining counties  
Grouping calves in truckload lots  
Supporting poultry feed mill in adjoining county

▪ State Agricultural Development Board resources

Adopt State Model programs  
Participate in incentive based programs  
Energy grant for poultry and grain

- Other local/state/federal resources
  - Department of Ag Farmers Market and Farm to School programs

### 3. Evaluation & Review

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

The Council will review each proposal based on whether it meets the goal of the state board and the local comprehensive plan.

- b. How is success and failure measured?

Did it create positive economic impact?  
Did it help sustain the family farm?  
How many people did it impact?

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

The Council will periodically review the comprehensive plan and, with public input, revise as needed and submit changes to the State Board. This revision is based on data collected by extension in our Community Assessment.

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