



AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP Meeting 1

September 23, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Paris-Bourbon County Library, 701 High St.

Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Attendees:

Allison Cox
Cynthia Criswell
Vanessa Logan
Bradley Parrent
Brenda Paul
Catesby Simpson
Randy Taulbee

Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK
Ray Tackett, Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Office
Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office
Micki Sosby, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office

Agenda

1. Welcome Presentation: Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office
2. What does the data tell us? Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Office
3. What is a goal? Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK
4. Let's craft our goals! (break out groups) Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK

Welcome presentation by Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Planning Administrator, Bourbon County Joint Planning Commission:

What is comprehensive planning?

What is planning? Planning provides a vision for the community today and what we want our community to be in the future.

Who plans? Individuals, families, organizations, public sector entities, private entities, non-profit organizations, religious institutions.

Who do we plan for? Everyone. All inclusive: existing and prospective residents, employers, employees, visitors, vulnerable populations, future generations. The heart of planning is to equitably serve people regardless of their race, ethnicity, social, and economic status in a manner that is sustainable to the environment.

Why do we plan? Good health, economic well-being, public safety. Sustainability. To be equitable. Required by KRS 100.183-.197. It is in our best interest to plan.

Community Engagement: Artwalk events; Chatauqua Days in Millersburg, On the Table Events, Focus Groups, surveys.

Flow of information for comprehensive plan:

Community engagement information (On the Table, Focus Groups, Surveys) → Working groups → Legislative Body → Planning & Zoning Commission. The Advisory Committee is involved throughout the entire process.

What is the role of a working group member?

Draft goals, objectives and action items. All draft items shall take into consideration the perspectives of the community (qualitative) and data and statistics (quantitative). The commitment is five (5) meetings over a four (4) month period.

What have we learned from the community?

Community Strengths: Natural resources, community facilities, local business, people, schools, history/architecture, small town vibe, community events, community groups.

Challenges: Housing, infrastructure, Blighted and vacant properties, mindset, economic sustainability, drugs and crime, entertainments activities, education and training, health care, local businesses.

Introduction of Ray Tackett, Bourbon County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Presentation: What does the data tell us?

What do we see in Bourbon County?

1. Hay
2. Horses
3. Cattle
4. Agritourism
5. Colorpoint

Location Quotient - What is a location quotient and why does it matter? A location quotient is basically a way of quantifying how concentrated a particular industry, cluster, occupation, or demographic group is in a region as compared to the nation. It can reveal what makes a particular region “unique” in comparison to the national average.

Location Quotient for Bourbon County:

1. Agriculture
2. Arts & Entertainment
3. Manufacturing,
4. Mining, Quarrying and Oil & Gas Extraction
5. Retail Trade.

2016 Employment:

1. Manufacturing
2. Retail Trade
3. Agriculture
4. Health Care & Social Assistance
5. Education Services

Other findings presented:

- Bourbon County is unique in its diversity in agricultural and horticultural production.
Bourbon County Livestock:
- Cattle (Beef and Dairy) outnumber people in Bourbon County: 55,399
- Sheep and goats (3,200)

- Hogs (151)
- Poultry (1,411)
- Horse and Mules. 2nd in State in sales ranking with 13,000. This number may be skewed due to the way sales are reported for horses.

Equine Facts:

- Number 2 in the state in Equine Acres, Number of Equine Sold, Value of Equine Sold, and Equine Population
- Number 3 in the state in Equine Operation Income and Value of Equine
- Total Equine population: 13,000
- Total Equine operations: 490
- Total Equine acres: 48,700
- Ranking of top five breeds:
 - Thoroughbred 9,330
 - Standardbred 980
 - Saddlebred 580
 - Quarter Horse 380
 - Mountain Horse 360
- Top five uses of horses:
 - Broodmare: 4,700
 - Young horse: 4,500
 - Show: 900
 - Idle: 890
 - Race: 8600

Percent area of Bourbon County in farms 98% - #1 in state. Other facts:

- 15th in state for total acreage.
- 3655 jobs, 4th in the state based on number of jobs
- 37.1% of workforce, 22nd in state ranking
- 2012 - Average income per farm \$119,568 annual

Production profile - crops:

- Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod. Ranks 1st. Large greenhouse operations (Colorpoint, Southerland's) skews stats.
- Hay – ranked 12th
- Tobacco – 18th

Access to local foods

- 2.2% of people don't have access to a vehicle to reach fresh food in Bourbon County

Top issues pertaining to agriculture and environment:

1. Sustainability of family farms
2. More market opportunities for farmer's (value added)
3. Less illegal dumping and littering
4. More profitable farms
5. More market opportunities
6. More crop and livestock production opportunities

How are hemp operations categorized? Row crop or horticulture? From a field operation, if used for fiber it would be considered a row crop. From a CBD standpoint, a horticulture crop. Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Hemp statistics in Bourbon County - 1,700 acres. Colorpoint and Southerland's greenhouses – big operations that will skew stats. Both will shift to hemp.

What is the farmer's opinion about farming in the future?

- Expanding to hemp
- Depends on the land requirement
- How many 5 acres tracts are there out there and how do they affect the total farm acres?
- Two biggest threats, prices of agricultural products and continued sprawl
- How does agribusiness affect the farming here?
- Some horse farms are expanding and putting pressure on local farmers

What trends might be on the radar in Bourbon County?

- Solar
- Wind
- Industrial use of agriculture land

Future of farming:

- Issues about transference of the family farms
- Need farming to be more attractive to young people. Current average age is 57 years old.
- Promoting farming through 4H programs, FFA, enterprise trainings, new farmer programs.
- Younger people are approaching farming as a business. Many might be first generation farmers and they direct market. Not wholesale, they go for retail – doing their own marketing.
- Agritourism

Introduction of Daniel Kahl, Associate Director, Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK), University of Kentucky.

What is a goal?

Goal: A desired state of affairs to which planned effort is directed. General statements of desired outcomes of the community. Should be broad but specific enough to where progress has been made.

Objective: A goal or end toward the attainment of which plans and policies are directed. More specific and a subset of goals, providing measurable strategies.

Current 2017 Goals related to Agriculture and the Environment:

- To maintain or improve air, water, and soil quality throughout Bourbon County.
- To recognize agribusiness as one of the important industries in Bourbon County and plan for its future vitality.
- To support and follow the Paris Pike Corridor Small Area Plan and Transition Zone Ordinance.

Sample Agriculture and Environment Goals

- Preserve, protect, and enhance the environment
- Protect and promote the local agriculture economy.
- Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's natural resources

- Protect and enhance the natural environment and integrate it with the built environment as development occurs.
- Support the remediation of areas with potential for redevelopment.
- Promote a more energy efficient Bourbon County.
- Reduce Bourbon County's carbon footprint
- Support hazard mitigation efforts in Bourbon County.
- Support publicly accessible green spaces, parks, and trail networks.

General consensus of goals:

1. Protect and promote the local agricultural economy – 8 votes
2. Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's natural resources. Changed to: Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's agricultural land resources – 7 votes
3. Preserve, protect, and enhance the environment. Changed to: Preserve, protect, restore and enhance the environment and natural resources - 6 votes
4. Protect and enhance the natural environment and integrate it with the built environment as development occurs - 4 votes
5. Support publicly accessible green spaces, parks, and trail networks. Reduce Bourbon County's carbon footprint. 2 votes each
6. Support hazard mitigation efforts in Bourbon County - 1 vote
7. Support the remediation of areas with potential for redevelopment. Promote a more energy efficient Bourbon County. No votes for either goal.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, October 8th from 6-8 pm
 Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Office
 603 Millersburg Rd.