### Situation Analysis Report







# Lunenburg County 2018

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#### **Table of Contents**

Introductionp. 3
Unit Profilep. 3-4
General
County Overview & Population
Housing
Income & Poverty Data
Education
Employment
Community Health
Agriculture
Community & Resident Perspectivesp. 6-7
4-H Youth Development (4-H)
Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)
Community Viability (CV)
Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
Priority Issuesp. 7-10
Appendix: Community Surveyp. 11

#### Introduction

Lunenburg County conducted a comprehensive situation analysis during the calendar year 2018. The situation analysis process was led by the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) agents and the Extension Leadership Council (ELC). The process involved the development of a Lunenburg County Unit Profile as well as a survey to gather county resident perspectives on current issues and needs in the county. Data and information from these activities were analyzed and priority issues identified by the team.

The ELC met four times during the situation analysis process, starting at the end of 2017 and working through 2018 and into 2019. ELC members reviewed the 2013 Situation Analysis report, offering suggestions for changes for both the Unit Profile and the community survey. The VCE office, ELC members, and county organizations shared both paper and online copies of the survey throughout the community to gather feedback and insight. Data gathered and analyzed included both quantitative and qualitative results. While many of the issues identified fall in line with Virginia Cooperative Extension and it's efforts, some results proved to be outside the realm of extension work. The issues relevant to VCE, paired with ELC input, and general program evaluation information will be used to assist in program focus and design as well as outreach efforts in Lunenburg County for the next five years.

#### **Unit Profile**

Lunenburg County is a rural community located in the south-central Piedmont region of Virginia, approximately 65 miles south of Richmond. Victoria and Kenbridge are the two largest towns in the county, and Lunenburg Courthouse is the county seat. Lunenburg is bounded by the counties of Brunswick, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward. The county is 432 square miles and has 27.8 persons per square mile.

Lunenburg was formed in 1746 out of Brunswick County and sports the nick-names 1) "The Old Free State" due to its willingness to part from the Union during the Civil War, should Virginia choose not to, and 2) "Mother of Counties" as many of the current Virginia counties were formed from what was originally Lunenburg County.

#### County Overview & Population

According to the 2018 U.S. Census Data, Lunenburg County has an estimated population of 12,086 and a median age of 45.4 years old. The 2010 Census Data had reported the population at 12,914, thus marking a slight decrease in population of 0.06% since 2010. Despite the slight decrease in total population, the general

demographic breakdown of the county has remained the same aside from a notable increase in the population of those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Currently, approximately 5% of the population is under the age of 5; 19% under the age of 18; 54% under the age of 65; and 22% over the age of 65. The racial breakdown of the county includes: Two or More Races comprising 2%; Black or African American comprising 34.2%; and White comprising 59.4%. The remaining 4% of the population is comprised of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native. The Hispanic or Latino population is reported at 4.8% of the total population, which is up from the 3.6% reported in 2010.

#### Housing

Currently, 4,480 of the 5,980 housing units in Lunenburg County are occupied, with 72% of those 4,480 occupied by the home's owner. The median value of owner-occupied housing units between 2013- 2017 was reported at \$108,400. Renters reported a median gross rent of \$676 per month. 94% of residents surveyed reported living in the same house they did 1 year ago.

Additionally, between the years of 2013-2017, 5.2% of Lunenburg households reported speaking a language other than English in the home. This is significantly lower than the U.S. average of 21.3%.

#### Income & Poverty

In 2017, the median household income was reported at \$39,537, with the per capita income for the county reported at \$18,555, compared to the U.S. averages of \$57,652 and \$31,177 respectively. 20.5% of the county is cited as living in poverty, 160% higher than the national average of 12.3%. Additionally, 27% of Virginia children are living in poverty, compared to 14% of children across the state. In Lunenburg, 64% of children are reported as eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

#### Education

Lunenburg County is below both state and national averages for both high school and higher education attainment rates, with 76.3% of 25+ year olds reported finishing high school and 10.6% reporting a bachelor's degree or higher.

#### **Employment**

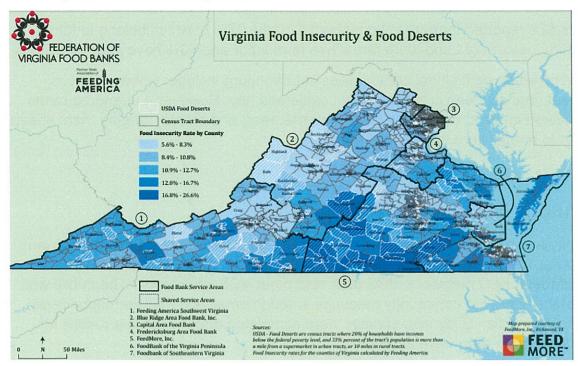
There are a total of 299 employers in Lunenburg County. The top five largest employers are 1) Virginia Marble Manufacturing, 2) Lunenburg County Public Schools, 3) Lunenburg Correctional Center, 4) Benchmark Community Bank, and 5) Lunenburg County. Unemployment rates continue to decrease as they have over the past eight years. Currently, Lunenburg County has an unemployment rate of 3.2%. The current Virginia unemployment rate is 2.9%. The demographic breakdown of Lunenburg unemployment rates remain equal by sex; however, twice as many Black or African American residents are currently unemployed than White residents.

The most common occupations in Lunenburg are: office and administrative support occupations, production occupations, and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations. Interestingly, Lunenburg has a high number of residents working in these occupations: farming, fishing, and forestry; law enforcement; and installation, maintenance, and repair.

#### Community Health

Lunenburg resident life expectancy is 76.3 years, just under the state average of 79.4 years. Fourteen percent of the population is uninsured for healthcare, and the patient to primary care physician ratio is reported at 6,140:1 compared to the 1,310: 1 state average. There is also a disparity in mental health providers in Lunenburg with one for every 2,450 people, compared to the one for every 630 in Virginia.

Fifteen percent of the county is reported as food insecure.



Lunenburg County is part of the Piedmont Health District in the Virginia Department of Health. Per the latest (2013) data, the Piedmont district reported cancer-related deaths per 100,000 people at 428.3 compared to the 417.2 for the state of Virginia. Diabetes prevalence in Lunenburg is reported at 12%, just over the state average of 10%.

Physical inactivity is reported at 25%, compared to the 22% statewide, and access to exercise opportunities are limited to 57% compared to the 82% across Virginia.

Additionally, 2018 data reported 40 teen births in Lunenburg compared to 19 for the state average.

Lunenburg is lower than the state average for percent of those under age 65 living with a disability, reporting 7.9% relative to the state's 8.7%.

#### Agriculture

Agriculture remains a large part of the culture and economy of Lunenburg County with over \$17,000,000 in sales. In 2017, there were 335 farms in the county. This is 10% less than in 2012. Due to the 2018 and 2019 growing seasons and the overall economic outlook of almost all agricultural commodities, we can expect to see this number continue to drop. Unexpectedly, we did see a 2% drop in the size of farms from 2012 to 2017. Overall farm size continue to increase across the U.S. as there are becoming fewer, but larger farms.

Farmer demographics remain primarily White and male, with 50% of farmers being over age 65. Nearly 31% of producers are female, and only 7.2% of producers are Black or African American. The 2017 census survey reported 130 new and beginning farmers.

There are 528 reported farmers in Lunenburg County, 97% of which belong to family farms. Thirty percent of Lunenburg farms hire farm labor and 70% have internet access.

The most common agricultural commodities in Lunenburg include: timber, tobacco, corn, wheat, and soybean crops, and beef cattle and hay. However, Lunenburg farms remain diverse in the commodities that they raise, rear, and create, ranging from: sheep and goats to aguaculture to industrial hemp.

#### **Community & Resident Perspectives**

Community and resident perspectives were sought through the community survey (see Appendix A). The survey was available both online and in paper, and response was solicited through ELC members, VCE staff, and other VCE volunteers. The public was notified of the survey at community meetings, through email and mail correspondence, and via social media. Sixty-nine surveys were completed and the top five results for each VCE program area were as follows:

#### 4-H Youth Development (4-H)

- 1.) After-School Activities
- 2.) Career Development
- 3.) Educational Activities
- 4.) Agriculture Education
- 5.) College & Higher Education Opportunities

#### Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

- 1.) Agricultural Profitability
- 2.) Crop Production / Agronomy
- 3.) Agricultural Legislation & Farm Finances (tie)
- 4.) Farm Safety
- 5.) Vegetable Gardening

#### Community Viability (CV)

- 1.) Healthcare: What are my options?
- 2.) Local Government: How it works
- 3.) Emergency Preparedness
- 4.) Recreation
- 5.) Understanding My Taxes

#### Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

- 1.) Aging
- 2.) Mental Health & Wellness
- 3.) Nutrition & Exercise
- 4.) Emergency Preparedness
- 5.) Chronic Disease Management

#### **Priority Issues**

Based on the Unit Profile, ELC feedback, survey results, and current VCE Lunenburg agent positions and staff, the following topic area were identified as top priorities for Lunenburg County:

#### Issue Area 1: Finances

- Agricultural Profitability (ANR)
- Farm Finances (ANR)
- Other Related Topics: Taxes (CV), Farm Transition (ANR), Labor Management (ANR), Timber Profitability (ANR), Taxes (ANR)

#### Description

Farming and agricultural enterprises, though a way of life, are ultimately businesses and must be run as such for long-term sustainability. The current economy has farms pinching pennies and looking for income sources outside of the usual commodities.

#### Status

This issue is currently being addressed by VCE through ANR commodity production meetings throughout the winter months and working one-on-one with producers throughout the year. However, there is a *great need* for increased efforts in this area, despite producer resistance to the topic. Specialists are needed across the state to assist agents and producers with enterprise budgets and general analysis of their operations. *Great efforts* need to be made in the coming years to help producers stay afloat and remain viable in a difficult and every-changing climate. Extension programs on finances, income diversification, available assistance programs, and tax advice are all needed.

#### Issue Area 2: Government & Legislation

- Local Government: How it Works (CV)
- Agricultural Legislation (ANR)
- Other Related Topics: County Functions (FCS)

#### Description

Government plays an important role in many aspects of the Lunenburg community from community buy-in and understanding of county functions to agricultural legislation to food and nutrition funding.

#### Status

This issue is not currently being addressed by extension. VCE can work with local government to promote a greater community understanding of local government and county functions in order to increase buy-in and community support and pride.

Additionally, VCE can work with Farm Bureau, lobbyist, economists, and other agriculture legislation savvy professionals to provide education through programs and networking events.

#### Issue 3: Health & Safety

- Emergency Preparedness (CV, FCS)
- Farm Safety (ANR)
- Mental Health & Wellness (FCS, ANR)
- Other Related Topics: Healthcare Options\*, Aging, Water Quality, Chronic Disease Management, Nutrition & Exercise, Stress Management

#### Description

Health & Safety are of utmost concern in today's society, with natural disasters, ever increasing time behind the wheel of vehicles and equipment, and a growing level of stress at all stages of life.

#### Status

This issue is currently being addressed by VCE Lunenburg. Emergency Preparedness has long been an issue of concern with VCE. Partnering with the county and towns and emergency personnel, VCE can help further promote and assist with emergency preparedness efforts moving forward. On the other hand, Farm Safety has not been an area of focus with VCE, nor has Mental Health & Wellness – both of which have risen to great concern in the last two years primarily. VCE can work with Farm Bureau on safety efforts for farmers as well as seek funding for mental health and wellness training for VCE staff, volunteers, and potentially other community members.

#### Issue Area 4: After-School Activities (4-H)

#### Description

Working parents are constantly in need of both affordable care and affordable educational and recreational activities for their children. After-school activities provide a opportunity for 4-H staff to reach area youth and make a lasting impression while saving parents much-needed time and money.

#### Status

Virginia Cooperative Extension is currently working with this issue, though there is a demand for more opportunities and activities. VCE will work with local schools in the coming years to develop and implement valuable after-school programs.

#### Issue Area 5: Career & Education

- Career Development (4-H)
- College & Higher Education Opportunities (4-H)
- Other Related Topics: Agriculture Education, Educational Activities, Nutrition Education, STEM, Trades Education, Leadership Development

#### Description

Though college has long been considered the best option for young people starting out after high school, little attention has been paid to the full range of educational and career options available to young people. Lunenburg County has been no different and now residents struggle to find local tradespeople and discourage youth from remaining in or returning to their home community.

#### Status

VCE is currently working on this issue area with programs in the middle and high school to educate young people on alternative options to college and great career choices in the agricultural and technical fields. Additionally, career skills preparations such as a Job Interview Training & Contest are offered to high schoolers to help them prepare for life during and after high school. Extension will continue and potentially grow these efforts in the coming years.

## 2019 Lunenburg County VCE Situation Analysis

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) needs your help assessing the needs of Lunenburg County! If you live or work in Lunenburg County, we would like your help in identifying the needs that you see or experience here.

This is an anonymous survey to assess the effectiveness of and the changes needed in programming fro the Virginia Cooperative Extension - Lunenburg County office.

To learn more about VCE or VCE-Lunenburg County, please check out our website:

<a href="http://www.lunenburg.ext.vt.edu">http://www.lunenburg.ext.vt.edu</a>
or follow us on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/LunenburgCountyVirginia4H/ or https://www.facebook.com/LunenburgAg/



Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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All responses are requested by Friday, April 26, 2019. Thank you!

Please remember that this is an anonymous survey - your identity will not be known by anyone at VCE.  We ask these questions to be sure we reach every demographic group in Lunenburg County. Your nonest and accurate information is very helpful to us. Thank you!								
1. With which g	ender do you identify?							
○ Female								
○ Male								
Other								
2. Which of the	following best describes your ethnicity and race? Please select all that apply.							
	Non-Hispanic or Latino							
Canada de la canad	Hispanic or Latino							
The second secon	American Indian or Alaska Native							
CARROLLANDICAL CONTRACTOR CONTRAC	Asian							
Control borrows and Contro	Black or African American							
ALTER ATT AND	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander							
	Caucasian or White							

3.	What is your age group?
	○ Youth: Less than 18 years old
	○ Adult: 18 - 29 years old
	○ Adult: 30 - 49 years old
	○ Adult: 50 - 69 years old
	○ Senior: 70 - 89 years old
	○ Senior: 90+ years old
N.	
4.	What is your highest level of education?
	○ No formal education
	○ Some elementary or middle school
	○ Some high school
	○ High school degree/ GED
	○ Some college
	○ Associates Degree
	○ Bachelors Degree
	○ Masters Degree
	○ Doctorate Degree

5. Which of the following best represents your gross total family income during the last year?
○ Less than \$10,000
○ \$10,000 - \$19,999
○ \$20,000 - \$29,999
○ \$30,000 - \$39,999
○ \$40,000 - \$49,999
○ \$50,000 - \$59,999
○ \$60,000 - \$69,999
○ \$70,000 - \$79,999
○ \$80,000 - \$89,999
○ \$90,000 - \$99,999
○ \$100,000 - \$149,999
○ More than \$150,000
6. How long have you lived in Lunenburg County?
○ 0- 3 years
○ 4 - 7 years
◯ 8 - 11 years
○ 12 - 20 years
○ Over 20 years
◯ I do not live in Lunenburg County.

7. V	Vhat is your :	affiliation with Lunenburg County? Please select all that apply.							
	Approximately to the second se	I live in Lunenburg County.							
	Sentition (	I work in Lunenburg County.							
	COMMUNICATION OF THE PROPERTY	I shop in Lunenburg County.							
	Announce of the second	I own a second residence or property in Lunenburg County, but do not reside there full time.							
	SERVICE DE LES CONTROLLES CONTROL	Other							
Virg	gisia Coope	rative Extension							
		are you with Virginia Cooperative Extension? do you know what VCE is or what it does?							
	○ Extremely familiar								
	O Very fam	niliar							
	○ Moderat	ely familiar							
	Slightly f	amiliar							
	O Not fami	liar at all							
	•	er participated in a Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) program? H program, canning class, gardening class, agricultural program, etc.							
	ୁ Yes								
	○ No								
	O I don't kr	now							
10.	What value	did you receive from extension programs in which you have participated?							

11.	What do you	ı like most about Lunenburg County?						
12.	What do you like least about Lunenburg County?							
13.	Which of the	following topic categories pertain to you or your family? Please select all that apply.						
	Recreationa	4-H Youth Development: Career Development, Higher Education, Leadership Development, I Activities, Etc.						
	Quality, Etc.	Agriculture & Natural Resources: Farming, Forestry, Pest Management, Profitability, Water						
	Preparednes	Community Viability: County Government, Legislation, Taxes, Healthcare, Emergency ss, Etc.						
	COUNTRY IN STREET	Family & Consumer Sciences: Nutrition & Exercise, Dependent Care, Finances, Canning, Etc.						
•								

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**: How would you rate the availability of information, resources, and programs available to you on each of the following YOUTH DEVELOPMENT topics?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Terrible	Not Applicable
After School Activities					$\bigcirc$	<b>~</b>
Agriculture Education		<b>\rightarrow</b>				
Career Development						
College & Higher Education Opportunities	<u></u>			$\circ$	$\Diamond$	0
Educational Activities	$\bigcirc$		AND			
Leadership Development						
Natural Resources & Environment Education	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	
Nutrition Education						
Personal Finances						
Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Education		$\bigcirc$				
Trades Education		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$			$\circ$

Other:			9		Ó		
YOUTH DEVELO							
Youth Developm	cs according to	o their importa	·		ese topics to	you, person	ally?
1 being the mos 12 being the lea	•	•					
After Sc	hool Activities						
	re Education						
	Development	nation Onnart	unition				
	& Higher Educ onal Activities	запон Орропі	uniues				
	hip Developm	ent					
<del></del>	Resources & E		Education				
	Education						
Persona	l Finances						
Science	, Technology,	Engineering,	& Mathemati	cs (STEM) Ed	ducation		
Trades I	Education						
Othor							

#### AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES:

How would you rate the availability of information, resources and programs available to you on each of the following AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES topics?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Terrible	Not Applicable
Agricultural Profitability			٥			
Agricultural Legislation	Second Second	Comp.		de la constant de la		
Crop Production / Agronomy					$\Diamond$	
Farm Finances		9				
Farm Safety		0				$\bigcirc$
Farm Transition: Preparing for the Next Generation	0	0		$\bigcirc$		
Health & Wellness on the Farm		(2)	,70% 30 War <sup>2</sup>	AND STREET	Ö	
Labor Management		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Landscaping & Ornamental Plants		٥	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		0	
Lawns		$\bigcirc$	Ö		0	
Livestock Production						
Pest Management						
Protecting Water Quality	Ö		0	Ö	0	
Timber Management			Ö			
Timber Profitability				0	$\Diamond$	

Vegetable Gardening		(_)	٥			
Other:		0	0	Ö	0	
AGRICULTURE & NAT Why do you feel this wa						
AGRICULTURE & NAT	URAL RESO	URCES: How	would you rar	k the importa	nce of each of	these topics to
you, personally?  Number the topics acco	<del>-</del>		you, with:			
1 being the most impo 17 being the least imp	•					
Agricultural Pro	gislation					
Crop Productio Farm Finances Farm Safety						
Farm Transition Health & Welln Labor Manager	ess on the Fa	ırm				
Landscaping &	Ornamental I	Plants				
Livestock Prod Pest Managem Protecting Wat	ent					
Timber Manage	ement					
Vegetable Gard						

#### **COMMUNITY VIABILITY:**

How would you rate the availability of information, resources, and programs available to you on each of the following COMMUNITY VIABILITY topics?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Terrible	Not Applicable
Local Government: How it works?		( <u>.</u> )	<b>\(\)</b>		0	0
Emergency Preparedness: Being ready for a disaster	0	$\circ$		0		0
Healthcare: Understanding My Options and Opportunities		0		0		· •
Taxes: Understanding My Taxes	0	٥		0		Ö
Recreation						$\bigcirc$
Community Involvement			J. Markey.	3 mm		
Other:						
COMMUNITY VIA Why do you feel t		se elaborate.				

Please number the topics according to their importance to you, with:  1 being the most important to you, and  7 being the least important to you.						
Local Government: How it works?						
Emergency Preparedness						
Healthcare: What are my options?						
Understanding My Taxes						
Recreation						
Community Involvement: How can I do my part?						
Other:						

Community Viability: How would you rank the importance of each of these topics to you, personally?

#### **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES:**

How would you rate the availability of information, resources, and programs available to you on each of the following FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES topics?

TOHOWING TO NAME	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Terrible	Not Applicable
Aging		, ma.				(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Canning & Food Preservation			0			
Chronic Disease Management		\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\				
County Functions	0	Q			O	Ö
Dependent Care						
Drug Abuse or Addiction				And Section 1		
Emergency Preparedness				0		Ô
Family & Personal Finances			٥			
Food Safety		,	Ö			
Nutrition & Exercise					$\Diamond$	
Stress Management				0		
Other:						O

	 	 	 			 ,				 	 	 				 		 										

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EXPLANATION: Why do you feel this way? Please elaborate.

Family & Consumer Sciences: How would you rank the importance of each of these topics to you, personally?
Please number the topics according to their importance to you, with:  1 being the most important to you, and 13 being the least important to you.
AgingCanning & Food PreservationChronic Disease ManagementCounty FunctionsDependent CareDrug Abuse or AddictionEmergency PreparednessFamily & Personal FinancesFood SafetyMental Health & WellnessNutrition & ExerciseStress ManagementOther:
Closing
14. What other topics do you feel need our attention?
15. Is there anything else you would like to include about the needs you see in Lunenburg County?
Thank you for taking the time to assist Virginia Cooperative Extension - Lunenburg County!  Your response is important to us.