



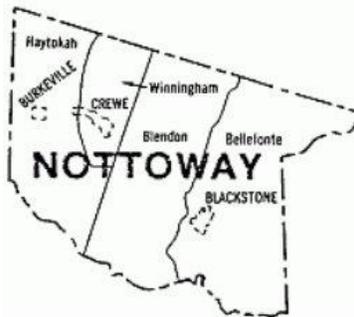
# Virginia Cooperative Extension

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# Situation Analysis Report

## Nottoway County



# 2013

### UNIT Extension Staff

Terry Abston, 4-H Youth Extension Agent / UC

Haley Norton, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent

Eric Bowen, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent/Food Safety Area

Betty Wright, UAA

Barbara Rather, FNP programming assistant

### UNIT Extension Leadership Council

Wren Hamilton – Chair

Jamie Hawley – Vice-Chair

Lynn Robertson

Rhonda Johnson

Yvonne Wilson

Lewis Williamson

John Prosis

Joe Mayton

## Introduction

Nottoway County's ELC has been evaluating the priorities of 2004 by assigning priorities to a subcommittee which reported back their findings to the overall Extension Leadership Council. Some of the priorities had been met; others were not addressed due to lack of resources. These reports were given in 2008. The ELC continued to focus on identified issues and research on our changing demographics. Through teamwork and much discussion, we have found that programming emphasis may need to be redirected to match lack of resources in Nottoway County.

In 2013, demographic information was collected by a team of individuals and was posted for our use. We also used the county's demographic information offered by the county assistant administrator. ELC members in the situational analysis committee and the office staff drafted a survey which was hand delivered to people at various county events; town hall meetings, football practice; and a dance at Life Changing Community Development Corporation. The committee did several personnel interviews with 11 key individuals of the county. These were shared and prioritized by the committee. This report reflects the responses of both interviews and surveys of Nottoway county citizens. Once priorities were identified, the ELC ranked them and voted how they be listed in the situation.

## Unit Profile

### General Population

- Nottoway population in 2006 was 15,650.
- Nottoway population in 2008 was 15,575.  
Nottoway population in 2011 was 15,845.
- Racial breakdown (2011): Caucasian – 56.76%; African American – 38.66%; Hispanic – 3.26%; Asian – 0.6%; American Indian – 1.29%.
- In 2011 sixty-one (61) percent of Nottoway's population lived below the poverty level.

In 2013 a child living in single parent households was 42%.

### Agriculture

- The number of farms in 2007 was 394.
- The number of Nottoway farm acres in 2002 was 35,819; in 2007 it was 24,877.
- Acreage of farming land continues to decrease from 2002.

- Tobacco production continues to decline with fewer farmers growing the crop. Farms are moving to other agricultural enterprises such as livestock and forestry.
- According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, Nottoway is ranked in the top ten timber producers in the state with an average annual timber harvest of 6 million dollars (2002-2011). Approximately 66% of the county is forested.

## Health

- Percent of population that could not see a doctor due to cost in 2005 was 14%.
- Percent of population having no dental visits in two years in 2004 was 22.7%.
- Percent of population overweight or obese in 2013 was 30 %, while the state rate was 26.7%. Children in Nottoway pre-school program - 16.5% are obese, compared to the state average of 18.6%.

## Education

- Percent of population 25 and older without a high school diploma or equivalent in 2011 was 7.87% compared to the state at 5.2%.
- Percent of population 25 and older with an undergraduate degree or higher in the county 2013 was 11.1 % as compared to the state's 29.5%.
- Percent of high school dropouts in 2011 was 17.17 %.
- Percent of graduates going on to post high school education in 2011 was 74.97% compared to the state at 87.1%.

## Economics

- The county's 2013 unemployment rate of 7.2 % was less than that of the state at 7.3%.
- Median county household income in 2005 was \$33,473 as opposed to the state's \$51,988.
- The average county household income in 2011 was \$37,507.
- Percent of persons below poverty level in 2011 was 61.25% for county and 40.3% for the state.

## Community and Resident Perspectives

Community and residential perspectives were garnered by two distinct means:

1. Members of the ELC and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Extension Leadership Council interviewed 11 key members of the community using a newly developed Interview Protocol Form.
2. Surveys were developed from the FCS survey listed on line with additions of agriculture focus being addressed in the survey. These surveys were distributed at various venues throughout the county. Football practice, Ruritan club meeting, 3 town hall meetings, and a dance at LCCDC in Blackstone.

Pastor Lisa Taylor of Kingdom Community Church, Crewe  
Clarence Simpson- Board of Supervisors  
Steve Bowen- Board of Supervisors  
Larry Parrish, Sheriff of Nottoway County  
Ronald Roark, Administrator for Nottoway County  
Joe Morrissette, Burkeville Mayor  
Dr. Daniel Grounard, Superintendent of Nottoway Schools  
4-H Leaders x 2  
Lewis Williamson, Farm Bureau President  
Cindy Debusk, Piedmont Health District Nurse Manager

### Findings:

As land is being divided, hobby farms and “farmettes” are being created with their own needs.

Influx of people is changing, thereby changing the county’s demographics the past 5 years. Sixty-eight (68) percent did notice change. Noted were more urban people, Hispanics, and retirees; thus having more impact on the culture and resources of the county.

The most pressing/developing problems or concerns facing the county today are: water resource issues; declining state funding; lack of job skill training; needing more agriculture education; insufficient living wage job opportunities; an increase in crime; drug abuse; and lack of county resources to support after-school youth programs.

There is an increase in drug use within the county, as well as an increasing number of ‘gang wannabes’ among youth.

There is a dramatic increase in sexually transmitted diseases in 2011, 302 cases reported; in 2013, 517 cases were reported.

There is an increase in fraud within the county (e.g., fraudulent checks).

Piedmont Health Director stressed it would be cost effective for VCE and Health Department to collaborate in their educational efforts. In 2012 a position creation of a food safety agent hopefully will help with this gap in agencies.

County continues to be underserved in health services. Availability, access and affordability were important factors for underserved persons, coupled with the high percentage of county residents below the poverty level.

Mental health is considered to be a huge issue in the county. The most commonly written prescriptions are for mental conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, etc). The relationship between depression and diabetes among county children or adults is unknown.

There continues to be evidence of an association between incidence of Type 2 Diabetes in children and an increased incidence of obesity.

Nutrition is a huge problem. Poor nutritional habits are handed down from parent to child and economic restraints tend to lead to the purchase of less nutritionally valued foods.

There continues to be a major concern over disease prevalence and access to care for dental disease. The number of public health dentists has been significantly reduced along with availability of dental care provided by mobile clinics to the impoverished.

Recreational program and facilities were a concern of Nottoway citizens. The lack of organizational structure and facilities were two concerns mentioned at two different town hall meetings. Volunteers are stretched and organizational structure is needed to continue what programs are available to county citizens and their youth.

## **Priority Issues**

### **Issue #1**

Education for youth and adults was identified as a pressing issue in Nottoway County. After school education, including drug and alcohol use prevention for youth and all ages, is a major need identified by key community leaders and surveyed citizens. Community activities for youth and adults of all ages are a must in order to become a learned and productive community. VCE has been addressing some of these concerns with program such as Character Counts (anti bullying) program and Lend A Ear have worked to decrease suicides in the county; 4H Health Rocks; partnering with Army National Guard to offer a Drug Task Force program at 4-H Camp, and day camps such as summer buddies hosted by Nottoway Middle School, developing a leadership program for teens at the middle and high school levels, offering camping programs that address the /natural resources/environment and law enforcement procedures. VCE is partnering with LCCDC to offer these and other programs, but a lack of volunteers has hindered this offering. VCE in Nottoway continues to develop and partner with other agencies to address this need.

## **Issue #2**

Health and nutrition was identified as one of the most pressing issues in Nottoway County. Health and nutrition programs including exercise opportunities and healthy food choices were identified by community members and key leaders as programming needs. Poor nutritional habits have been identified as being handed down from parent and child, and economic restraints tend to lead to the purchase of less nutritionally valued food. VCE has addressed some of these needs through 4-H Fun with Foods program and Teen Cuisine enrichment program in the high school and middle school. VCE also held Kids Market Place to give youth at the intermediate school a realistic look at the cost of running a home. VCE has partnered with the town of Crewe on the HEAL project which addresses healthy eating and active living. This committee of concerned citizens and VCE personnel are identifying needs within the town of Crewe and in the future, Nottoway County. Nottoway County Schools do not take advantage of Extension's Food and Nutrition in-school program due to time limitations in their curriculum. There is still a priority of VCE to address this limitation and other avenues are being researched.

## **Issue #3**

The stability and growth of production agriculture continues to be a top priority for Nottoway County's economic health. In addition to supporting conventional agricultural pursuits, new programs for non-traditional production – such as farmers markets, pick your own operations, and the production of biofuels – expand the positive impact on both the local community and the fiscal health of the county.

## **Issue #4**

There is a need for programming in the area of food safety pertaining to temporary food vendors, starting a home food based business, food safety on the farm and at markets and home food preservation. The Piedmont Health District is currently conducting ServSafe courses for the food service industry to ensure certification classes are offered. The Food Safety Agent is currently offering the Cooking for Crowds course to meet the need for food safety education that temporary food service vendors need to ensure safe food service. The Cooking for Crowds class is a three hour class offering a food safety course certificate vendors can display. A workshop is offered throughout a five county region for entrepreneurs desiring to start their own home food based business and is a collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and local colleges/universities to provide participants with information regarding regulations, entrepreneurship, business planning and food safety. Workshops are offered specifically for fruit and produce growers who sell directly from the farm and/or participate in area Farmers' Markets. These workshops provide growers with agricultural best management practices and how these practices relate to providing customers with safe food and also provides participants with food safety class certificates that may be displayed. A series of classes are offered to residents who desire to preserve food in their homes that they have grown or obtained from

local producers. These classes provide participants with the science of food preservation and opportunities to participate in experiential workshops where participants spend three hours learning food safety while actually canning specific items using either hot water bath or pressure canners to preserve their food.

## **Issue #5**

In an effort to meet the needs of target groups identified in the 2008 Situational Analysis (Hispanics, urban citizens, and retirees) VCE has conducted programming such as a Household Drinking Water Clinic, a New and Beginning Farmer Resources Program, and has established a sewing club with a large Hispanic membership. Statistics show increases in African American populations and those that identify themselves as 'some other race.' There have been increases in adult obesity and physical inactivity in the county. VCE can meet the needs of these target groups through continued programming in youth development, agriculture, and food safety.

