

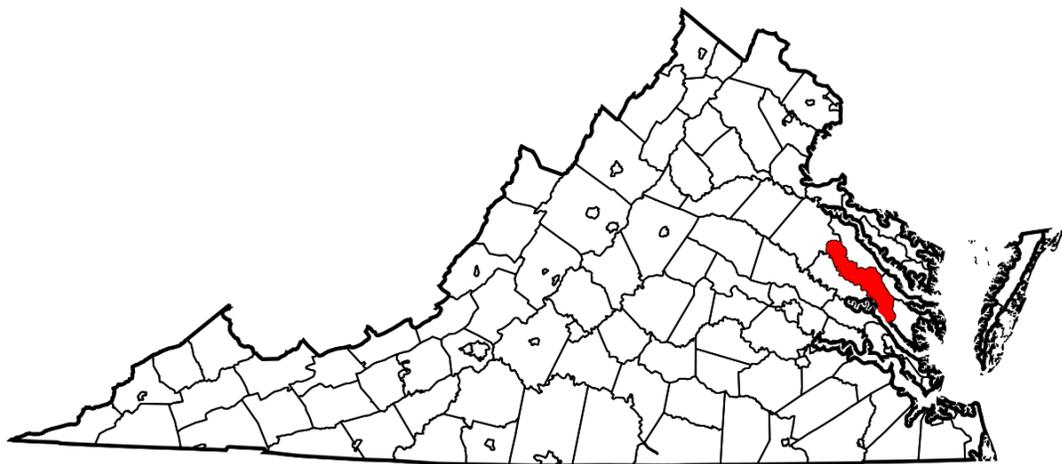


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Situation Analysis Report



King and Queen County

2018

UNIT Extension Staff

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Introduction

The King and Queen County staff conducted a situation analysis over the course of 2018. The purpose of conducting the analysis was to identify key issues in the county that Extension is able to address through educational programming. Using data from the VCE Situational Analysis Resource website, a unit profile for the county and community survey were developed. Key points from the unit profile were taken into account when creating the community survey. The survey had 40 issues and asked the respondents to rate each issue on a five point scale. The survey was administered using Qualtrics online platform.

A link to the survey was sent directly to approximately 50 residents. Recipients of the survey included county board of supervisors, county employees, school teachers, Soil and Water Conservation directors, and parents and guardians of 4-H members. The Mattaponi, Pamunkey River Associations were asked to distribute the survey amongst their membership as well as to any other resident that they thought would provide feedback. When the survey was closed in December of 2018, 8 residents had responded to the survey. The findings from the unit profile and the survey were analyzed and key issues for King and Queen County were identified.

A Unit Profile was first constructed using a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, the 2013 Situation Analysis, the Virginia Employment Commission, the U.S. Census, and the USDA's Census of Agriculture. The Unit Profile sought to capture relevant geographic, demographic, and economic data.

Unit Profile

King and Queen is a county of 326 square miles (11 of which are water) and, as of 2017, an estimated 7,003 residents, situated on the Middle Peninsula in the Southeast District's. The county shares the Mattaponi River with King William County, its neighbor to the southwest. Population density of King and Queen is 22 people per square mile. The county, roughly 70 miles long and 10 miles wide, lacks incorporated towns and any real geographic or population center. A central thoroughfare, The Trail, connects the two ends of the county. Population is expected to increase 13% by 2040. As of 2017, 66% of the population was white, 26% was black, and the remainder was made up of other minorities. Demographics are expected to change as population increases, with the white share of the population dropping almost imperceptibly to 65%, and the percentage of black residents falling more sharply to 16%. Other minority groups are expected to grow. Thus, the overall share of the minority population will not change, but its composition will.

Median age in the county is 46. As of 2017, 22.4% of the population was 65 or older, and this is expected to increase slightly to 24.5% by 2040. Also as of 2017, residents under the age of 18 comprised 18.2% of the population, and this is expected to increase close to 4 percentage

points over the following 23 years. All told, King and Queen is not likely to see major demographic changes over the next two decades.

Only three public schools serve the entire county. These are the PK-7 King & Queen and Lawson-Marriott Elementary Schools and the 8-12 Central High School. The on-time graduation rate for the 2017 cohort was 73.7%, with a 10.5% dropout rate.

Median household income in 2016 was \$52,115. The overall poverty rate for King and Queen is 13.4%--higher than the state rate of 11%. The poverty rate is even higher among certain populations, notably minors. Nearly 19% of all King and Queen Residents under the age of 18 live in poverty.

The largest industries in King and Queen are Government (state, local, and federal), Manufacturing, and Transportation/Warehousing, with the three largest employers being King and Queen Public Schools, the County of King and Queen, and Ball Lumber Company. There is a massive job deficit in the county, with under 300 people both living and working in the county. An additional 639 individuals commute in, and 3,722 residents commute out to find work.

Agriculture is the fifth largest industry, but also sees the third-largest turnover.

In 2012, 20% of King and Queen's area was farmland. From 2007 to 2012, the county saw a 17% decline in the number of farms (153 to 127) with an even larger, 21% loss of total farmland (53,125 to 41,979 acres). Consequently, average farm size declined by 5% (347 to 331 acres). This is the opposite of the trend seen in neighboring King William, although farm income did show the same bi-modal distribution seen south of the Mattaponi. Income was concentrated at the low end, with 31% of farms earning less than \$1,000, and 65% earning less than \$10,000. Twenty-five percent of farms earned more than \$50,000, leaving only 10% of farms earning between \$10,000 and \$40,000. The largest commodities were soy and corn, followed by small grains. About two thirds of farm operators counted on farming as their primary occupation; roughly four fifths of principal operators were men. The average age of a principal operator was 56, and they were overwhelmingly white, despite the fact that minorities comprise over a quarter of the county's population.

Community and Resident Perspectives

In 2013 the situation analysis identified Life Skills for Youth and Sustainable Agriculture as the top two issues. Leadership and Parenting were the last two issues identified. In our open ended questions Youth issues and Agriculture were still the top issues, but the rest had changed.

By summarizing key words we found a few issues were repeated by more than one person. The issues mentioned by more than one person are included in the chart below. Other issues

identified were community services, high speed internet, food security, and opioid abuse. Some issues were combined as the topics are related.

Issue	Number of people that identified it
Youth	8
Agriculture	4
Careers and Businesses	2
Financial Management	2

When looking at the results of the closed ended questions, the responses showed Youth Activities as the highest rated issue, obesity and housing were tied in second highest rating and obesity was the next highest rated when looking at the mean rankings.

Priority Issues

Based on the unit profile, the resident perspectives and the data collected from the survey the following issues were selected as the priority issues in King and Queen County. Interconnected issues were grouped together.

Issue 1: Youth Development

The top issue in King and Queen County is Youth Development programs. Several of the youth related issues were ranked highly, as well as mentioned the most in the open ended questions of the survey. Youth activities, teen community involvement, teen leadership and before and after school issues all ranked as very important. Currently there are two 4-H clubs, Brothers Keepers, and scouting in King and Queen County as non-school sponsored youth programs.

VCE response: Currently 4-H has approximately 12 youth enrolled in a horse club and a teen leadership club. 4-H conducts programming at King and Queen Elementary School regularly. Efforts will be made to expand programming to recruit more King and Queen Youth for 4-H clubs and camps. 4-H will continue to try to expand programming into Lawson-Marriott and Central High School. 4-H will schedule day camps in King and Queen County and recruit adult volunteers.

Issue 2: Environmental Concerns

Natural resources production and profitability, water quality, wildlife and environment all ranked highly in the survey. This is not surprising as King and Queen's economy is greatly affected by its lumber industry and the vast majority of the county is farmland or forest. The Mattaponi River makes up the western border of the county the York River flows along the southern end.

The vast majority of the county has private wells. These resources need protection through awareness and education.

VCE response: King and Queen VCE in conjunction with VT's Biological Engineering Department, King William and Essex Counties a household drinking water clinic and well water testing program will be held in the spring of 2019. Along with DGIF, VDOF, Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District and the Mattaponi River association 4-H will continue River Camp and other natural resources programming. Presently King and Queen does not have an ANR agent, who could have educational efforts that focus on Water Quality, Natural Resources and agricultural BMPs.

Issue 3: Health and Nutrition

Obesity was one of the highest ranking issues in the community survey. Nutrition for both youth and adults ranked highly as well. The county does not have many existing services addressing health and nutrition.

VCE response: King and Queen does not have the population to support a Family Nutrition Program Assistant, nor is there an FCS agent. 4-H can provide some health and nutrition programming in school.

Issue 4: Work and Economy

Lack of career opportunity, small businesses and entrepreneurships was ranked highly. As stated in the unit profile almost half of the county residents commute out of county, very few residents are employed within the county. Respondents addressed lack of education for adult about small business and entrepreneurship.

VCE response: VCE does not have the resources to address these issues at this time.

Issue 5: Agriculture

Agricultural awareness was mentioned by respondents as was, new agricultural production and agricultural fiscal management. Agriculture Sustainability/Preservation, Agricultural marketing, and Public Awareness of Agriculture all ranked highly in the survey. As agriculture is the fifth largest industry in the county this is not surprising.

VCE response: At present King and Queen does not have an ANR Extension agent, and is being covered by other agents in the area. In order to provide effective educational programming to local producers we must hire an ANR agent as soon as possible. VCE will continue to partner with local agencies like Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District to provide youth agricultural programming and continue agricultural awareness events at local schools, as well as 4-H day camps and 4-H clubs.