



Situation Analysis Report



Dinwiddie Unit

2018

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Introduction

The Dinwiddie County unit of Virginia Cooperative Extension conducted a comprehensive situation analysis during the calendar year 2018. The purpose of the analysis is to identify key issues facing the community. The results provide Extension staff with up-to-date information to use when developing educational programs for the community. A Situation Analysis is the first component of the Extension Programming Model and helps the organization provide needs-based programming that varies by time and place.

The process was led by the Extension Leadership Council (ELC) and involved gathering quantitative data, which added to the development of a Unit Profile. In addition to the quantitative data, qualitative data was collected from community members and residents through a questionnaire. Data and information from these activities were analyzed by the ELC and priority issues were identified. Issues analyzed by the ELC were related to agriculture and natural resources, family and community sciences, community resource development and 4-H youth development.

Unit Profile

Dinwiddie County is a rural county located in Virginia's Southeastern Piedmont area with neighboring counties of Chesterfield, Amelia, Town of Colonial Heights to the north, Prince George, City of Petersburg to the east, and Sussex, Greensville and Brunswick to the south and Lunenburg and Nottoway to the west. Population estimates on July 1, 2017 were 28,208 in Dinwiddie County. The more urban areas of Richmond and Hopewell are both within 30 miles away.

Population growth in Dinwiddie County has fluctuated slightly up and down over the past 7 years with the population being 28,000 in 2010 and 28,208 in 2017. The county remains mostly rural with the highest concentration of the population living near the City of Petersburg and the border of Chesterfield.

The age of Dinwiddie County residents increased in the last decade in all age groups. The younger age group populations increased slightly over the last 10 years, including a 20% increase in children under age 18. People age 65+ increased by approximately 17%.

The racial diversity of Dinwiddie County changed somewhat between 2013 and 2017. There was an increase in the percentage of white and black populations, as well as the Hispanic population. This change represents an emerging change in the county's demographics.

Agriculture data indicates several trends over the past 10 years. Land has been lost to development and the number of farms has decreased. Gross agriculture receipts dropped over

the last 5 years in Dinwiddie County. Evidence shows that full-time farms and mid-sized farms are decreasing in intensity and acreage, mid-sized, and small farms less than 50 acres are increasing. The county's number one agriculture industry is Grains. Cotton and Peanuts are in a transition period from the years of down prices and adverse weather. The next largest industry is beef cattle and forage production which has contracted some due to changing over to traditional row crops and the impact of weather stresses on forages. The production of tobacco as a cash crop has remained steady for the past 4 years and recently we have seen some reduction with contracts. Dairy, sheep, swine, and peanut operations have all decreased in size.

Community and Resident Perspectives

Agriculture

Issues that surfaced during the situation analysis process were similar to needs identified by farmers to the unit ANR agent during the past 5 years. The results of the survey are ranked below:

1. Agriculture Production
2. Pesticide Safety
3. Water Quality
4. Soil Management and Conservation
5. Integrated Pest Management
6. Agriculture Marketing and Risk Management
7. Pesticide Permit Recertification
8. Cover Crop Management
9. Livestock Production and Management
10. Conservation Tillage
11. Forestry/Timber
12. Agriculture Recycling
13. Farm Transition
14. Horticulture (urban/rural)
15. Farm Security/Bioterrorism

Some additional survey comments:

- Our environment. Provide education on our environment and how people can protect it.
- Provide good farming practices for farmers.
- We need to be better prepared for any risk that can affect our farmers.

- Community education on fungus and disease is important. This allows you to gather issues and determine if the county has an issue or just this person.
- Organic farming in Dinwiddie, less pesticides.
- Agriculture, forestry, and other activities all depend on maintaining good soil quality. We need to be aware of the extent that other activities (e.g. mining) affect the structure and nutrients of our soil.
- Horticulture. It is important that low income families are able to eat healthy with fresh vegetables and to be knowledgeable about plants and trees that can help our environment. Again, education on home gardens.
- Cover crop management – cover crops are an important tool in building soil and improving water quality. Information on planting methods, varieties and termination would be worthwhile.

4-H Youth Development

The following list ranks survey and key informant responses as they relate to youth development in the county:

1. Youth Leadership and Development
2. 4-H Camp
3. Senior Programs, ages 14-18 yrs.
4. Junior Programs, ages 9-13 yrs.
5. In-School Programs
6. Environmental Programs
7. Agriculture Program
8. Community Involvement
9. Shooting Sports Education
10. Character Building Program
11. STEM Education Programs
12. Camp Counselor Training
13. Cloverbud Programs, ages 5-8 yrs.
14. Horse Clubs/Shows/Livestock Clubs/Shows
15. State Level Involvement

Some additional survey comments:

- Youth development community talk back
- Peer Pressure
- In school programs should be added to schools in Dinwiddie. If 4-H school programs were put in elementary schools, young kids would

become familiar with 4-H and the amount of participants within the county would increase.

- County fairground – the county needs a place that allows yearlong agriculture shows, community events that can't be held indoors, somewhere for youth that are not just into sports can have more space to make 4H clubs more "active". Help to show our agriculture roots and display them to the public. Also somewhere to hold agriculture seminars.
- STEM – because we need to keep up with the latest technologies.
- Youth development – we need strong leaders in the agricultural field and good programs in the youth sector is the way to get them.

Family and Community

Survey responses and key informant responses to open ended questions were similar. The top issues were as follows in priority order:

1. Farm Good Agricultural Practices
2. Household Water Quality
3. Food Safety at Farmer's Markets
4. Nutrition
5. Food Safety Certifications
6. The Aging Population, Adult Care
7. Effective Parenting Skills
8. Food Safety Preservation
9. Cooking Skills
10. Food Based Business
11. Healthy Lifestyles
12. Personal Financial Management
13. Consumer Issues

Some additional survey comments:

- Water quality: Vital to life of all in the county. All business activities (timber harvesting, animal husbandry, and agriculture) must be done in ways that maintain the purity and adequacy of our water.
- Food safety (at farmers' markets and for production/sale): essential for health and to maintain reputation of our area producers.
- Food based business: This is a growing phenomenon in Dinwiddie County, from home baked goods to food trucks. It is important that safe food practices be available and taught to those wishing to try to benefit from the income generated from these endeavors.

Priority Issues

Issue 1: Agriculture Production and Farm Good Agricultural Practices

Description: The Situation Analysis survey indicated the need for an increased emphasis to be put on Agriculture Production since Dinwiddie is such a diverse agricultural county.

VCE's Role: Dinwiddie Extension will continue to conduct several crop production meetings, pest management clinics, and farm business management programs for the Dinwiddie agriculture community. The office will also continue to utilize technology (e-mail, Facebook, and VCE website) where appropriate to disseminate timely information to participants. This was the top priority issue among the surveys that were returned.

Issue 2: Youth Leadership & Development along with age Level Programs (9-13 yrs, and 14-18 yrs)

Description: The Situation Analysis survey indicated a need to provide Dinwiddie youth with programs to develop leadership and citizenship skills.

VCE's Role: Dinwiddie Extension will continue to be involved with community events such as the Dinwiddie County Fair, Teen Expo, Farm Days and the Live Well Expo. During these events, opportunities for youth to take a lead in facilitation will be offered.

Issue 3: Integrated Pest Management along with Pesticide Safety and Recertification

Description: The Situation Analysis survey indicated a need from the farmers needing to stay up to date on issues and practices as well as up to date on their pesticide recertification.

VCE's Role: Dinwiddie Extension will continue to develop new or improved pesticide applicator training programs and farm safety education programs. The office will also utilize technology (e-mail, Facebook and VCE website) where appropriate to disseminate timely information to participants.

Issue 4: Water Quality (including Household Water Quality)

Description: The Situation Analysis survey indicated a need, from farmers and residents, for increased emphasis to be put on Water Quality, both for farmers and residents.

VCE's Role: Dinwiddie Extension will conduct water quality and water testing programs, when available, for farmers and residents of the county. The office will continue to provide literature and will continue to utilize technology, as stated in above issues, where appropriate to disseminate timely information to participants.

Issue 5: Food Safety at Farmer’s Markets and Food Safety Certifications

Description: The Situation Analysis survey indicated a need for increased emphasis to be put on Food Safety at Farmer’s Markets and how to/obtaining Food Safety Certifications.

VCE’s Role: Dinwiddie Extension will work on developing new or improved trainings and workshops in Food Safety for producers and residents in the county. The office will also continue to provide literature and utilize technology, as stated in above issues, where appropriate to disseminate timely information to participants.

Appendices

Assessment Surveys issued to the community via e-mail, Qualtrics, hand distributed at meetings and Facebook posts.

AGRICULTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Please note: Information provided will go towards developing the Dinwiddie Extension Office's Situational Analysis Report. All information is voluntary. Thank you for your time.

Issues:	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	No Opinion
Agriculture production						
Agriculture marketing and risk management						
Integrated pest management						
Horticulture (urban/rural)						
Pesticide safety						
Farm security/bioterrorism						

Forestry/timber						
Water quality						
Agriculture recycling						
Cover Crop Management						
Livestock production and management						
Pesticide permit recertification						
Soil management and conservation						
Farm transition						
Conservation Tillage						
Other						

Question:

Please list and prioritize the three most important issues that you feel are important to Agriculture in Dinwiddie County. Also, indicate your suggestion on how it could be done.

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

How Familiar are you with Virginia Cooperative Extension?

Not Familiar Somewhat Familiar Familiar Very Familiar

Have you ever participated in educational programs offered by VCE? If so, please list:

Additional
Comments:

All information is voluntary:

Gender: Female Male

Age: Under
 21 21-24 25-44 45-64 65 and over

Education: Please indicate your level of education

Did not graduate from high school High School Graduate

Some College College Graduate (Associate Degree)

College Graduate (Bachelor Degree) Some course work for graduate or professional degree

Graduate degree or professional degree

Ethnicity/Race: Asian Black Hispanic

Native American White

How long have you lived in Dinwiddie? 0-3 4-6 7-10 11-15

 yrs. yrs. yrs. yrs. 15 or more

4-H NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Please note: Information provided will go towards developing the Dinwiddie Extension Office's Situational Analysis Report. All information is voluntary. Thank you for your time.

Issues:	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	No Opinion
Cloverbud Programs, ages 5-8 yrs.						
Junior Programs, ages 9-13 yrs.						
Senior Programs, ages 14-18 yrs.						
STEM Education Programs						
Community involvement						
State level involvement						
Shooting Sports education						
4-H Camp						
Youth leadership and development						
Horse clubs/shows Livestock clubs/shows						
Agriculture program						
Environmental program						
In school programs						
Character building program						
Camp counselor training						

Question:

Please list and prioritize the three most important issues that you feel effect youth in Dinwiddie County. Also, indicate your suggestion on how it could be done.

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

How Familiar are you with Virginia Cooperative Extension?

____ Not Familiar ____ Somewhat Familiar ____ Familiar ____ Very Familiar

Have you ever participated in educational programs offered by VCE? If so, please list:

Additional
Comments:

All information is voluntary:

Gender: ____ Female ____ Male

Age: ____ Under
 21 ____ 21-24 ____ 25-44 ____ 45-64 ____ 65 and over

Education: Please indicate your level of education
 ____ Did not graduate from high school ____ High School Graduate
 ____ Some College ____ College Graduate (Associate Degree)
 ____ College Graduate (Bachelor Degree) ____ Some course work for graduate or professional degree
 ____ Graduate degree or professional degree

Ethnicity/Race: ____ Asian ____ Black ____ Hispanic
 ____ Native American ____ White

How long have you lived in Dinwiddie? ____ 0-3 ____ 4-6 ____ 7-10 ____ 11-15
 yrs. yrs. yrs. yrs. ____ 15 or more

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR DINWIDDIE CO.

Please note: Information provided will go towards developing the Dinwiddie Extension Office's Situational Analysis Report. All information is voluntary. Thank you for your time.

Issues:	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	No Opinion
The aging population, adult care						
Food Based Business						
Farm Good Agricultural Practices						
Food Safety Certifications						
Effective parenting skills						
Cooking Skills						
Nutrition						
Personal financial management						
Food Safety Preservation						
Food Safety at Farmers' Markets						
Healthy lifestyles						
Consumer issues						
Household water quality						

Question:

Please list and prioritize the three most important issues that you feel effect youth in Dinwiddie County. Also, indicate your suggestion on how it could be done.

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

How Familiar are you with Virginia Cooperative Extension?

____ Not Familiar ____ Somewhat Familiar ____ Familiar ____ Very Familiar

Have you ever participated in educational programs offered by VCE? If so, please list:

Additional
Comments:

All information is voluntary:

Gender: ____ Female ____ Male

Age: ____ Under
 21 ____ 21-24 ____ 25-44 ____ 45-64 ____ 65 and over

Education: Please indicate your level of education

____ Did not graduate from high school	____ High School Graduate
____ Some College	____ College Graduate (Associate Degree)
____ College Graduate (Bachelor Degree)	____ Some course work for graduate or professional degree
____ Graduate degree or professional degree	

Ethnicity/Race: ____ Asian ____ Black ____ Hispanic

 ____ Native American ____ White

How long have you lived in Dinwiddie? ____ 0-3 ____ 4-6 ____ 7-10 ____ 11-15 ____ 15 or more

 yrs. yrs. yrs. yrs.