

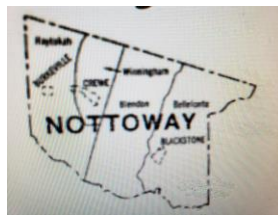


**Virginia Cooperative Extension**

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# Situation Analysis Report



## Nottoway

# 2018

### 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

### UNIT Extension Leadership Council

Jamie Hawley

Lynne Roberts

Joe Mayton

John Procise

Yvonne Wilson

Rhonda Johnson

Mary Tisedale

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**Nottoway County**  
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**Introduction**

Nottoway County's ELC has been evaluating the priorities of 2015 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 2015. 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 2018, 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, Community events; nights out and Nottoway Celebrates family, Farm and family day, and LCCDC 's Celebration, and a dance at Life Changing Community Development Center. The committee held two forums getting the communities perspectives and from those developed a survey which was distributed county wide. These were tabulated by office staff and the Ad hoc committee and prioritized by the ELC. This report reflects the responses of both ELC input on issues and surveys of Nottoway county citizens. Once priorities were identified, the ELC ranked them and voted how they be listed in the situation analysis.

**Unit Profile**

**General-Population**

- Nottoway's population in 2018 was 15,659
- Nottoway's population in 2011 was 15,848
- Nottoway's population in 2008 was 15,575.

- Racial breakdown (2017): Caucasian – 57.73%; African American – 39.7%; Hispanic – 4.3%; Asian – 0.6%; American Indian – 1.6%.
- In 2016 21.5% percent of Nottoway’s population lived below the poverty level.
- In 2013 children living in single parent households was 42%.

## Agriculture

- The number of farms in 2016 was 356. Which has decreased from 394 since 2007
- The number of Nottoway farm acres in 2007 was 35,819; in 2013 was 24,877
- Acreage of farming land continues to decrease from 2002.
- Tobacco production continues to decline with few 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 (2012).

## Health

- Percent of population that could not see a doctor due to cost in 2005 was 14%, 2013 20%, 2017 14%
- Percent of population overweight or obese in 2015 was 34%, 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 18 and older without a high school diploma or equivalent in 2015 was 23% Percent of population 18 and older with an associate degree or higher in the county 2015 was 19 % in 2016 15.2%
- In the Class of 2018, there were 129 graduates. Of the 129: 62 Attended College, 36 other /school, 10 other, 17 employment, 2 military, 2 no plans

## Economics

- The county's 2018 unemployment rate of 2.8 % was higher than that of the state at 2.6%.
- Median county household income in 2005 was \$33,473 as opposed to the state's \$51,988.
- The average county household income in 2017 was \$38,410.
- Percent of persons below poverty level in 2013- 2017 was 21.5% for county.

## 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 two forums held in August. Then 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, Raritan club meeting, 3 town hall meetings, and a dance at LCCDC in Blackstone

## 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. This is compounded by the expanding food accesses. We have lost two grocery stores on the western end of the county.

Lack of affordable housing and lack of safe housing for rental properties. This inhibits growth in population and advancement of the towns.

There continues to be a need of local industry for citizens to be employed. A large majority of the citizens travel out of the county for employment. Creation of niche business have come and been successful but more are needed to effect the population.

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

1. Lack of jobs in Nottoway was one of the identified issues. Also the lack of skilled employees were another issue surrounding employment in Nottoway County. These two situations will need to be address in very different ways. Workforce skill training can be implemented by VCE to help employers get the labor they need, and VCE can help fledging business with entrepreneurial resources to enhance their productivity. The attracting business is not in the realm of extension.
2. Alternative educational resources was identified next as a pressing issue in Nottoway. Extension could help with this issue by helping to create food science programs to increase employability in the County. Also county resources could support more Vo-technical training at its shared Vo-tech center.
3. Qualified childcare and senior care resources need to be developed in Nottoway due to the lack of this resources. This is also a limitation to young families locating in this county. Extension does have resources that could be made available to perspective business to create a training opportunities.
4. Public safety was identified as an issue due to the increase in drug use within the county, as well as an increasing number of 'gang wannabes' among youth. House invasion and vandalism is on the increase also. There are numerous programs addressing anti-drug behavior the creation of youth supervision through educational and recreation sources is a possible solution. Parent resources also could help with this growing issue. VCE has said resources to help families deal with unwanted behavior.
5. Lack of an organized recreation for young and older citizen identified as an issue. The time that youth are unsupervised is part of the problem. Engaging families and youth could help with the youth in positive activities rather than gang pursuits. A busy kid is a safe kid. Resources for this endeavor are not available at this time, but county organization pooling resources may develop a plan to accomplish this issue.
6. Food access for the western part of the county and rural Nottoway County is a very concerning issue. Compounded by the lack of transportation to the market and fresh food vendors on a consistent basis.