



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

# KENTUCKY

[www.usda.gov/strikeforce](http://www.usda.gov/strikeforce)

### Kentucky Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	26.3%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	18.1%
StrikeForce State Since:	2014
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	73
Total Outreach Events:	104
Number of Community Partners:	100
Total USDA Projects:	6,289
Total USDA Investments:	\$597 million

### Contacts

Contact us to be a partner, or to learn more about StrikeForce opportunities:

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### Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation

Kentucky Division of Conservation/Local Conservation Districts

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Farm Credit of Mid-America

DY Department of Education

Kentucky Department of Local Governments

Kentucky State University

Strengthening Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)

Grow Appalachia

Currently, 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. More than one third of rural Americans, and one in four rural children live in poverty. Kids growing up in families earning twice the poverty threshold are nearly three times as likely as other children to have poor health, are more likely to finish two fewer years of school, and are more likely to earn half as much money in their adult lives.

Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack established USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty. Since then, StrikeForce teams have collaborated with more than 1,500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$23.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across more than twenty states. In 2016, StrikeForce expanded to include Florida, Missouri, Montana, and Ohio. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 970 counties in 25 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.

### StrikeForce At Work

#### Expanding Local Foods in Kentucky's Rural Promise Zone and StrikeForce Communities

Seven Federal agencies in the Summer of 2015 teamed up with community leaders from two Southeast Kentucky Promise Zone and USDA StrikeForce communities in Perry and Knox Counties, to launch "Local Foods, Local Places" efforts. These efforts are designed to capitalize on the growing demand for local foods and boost economic opportunities for local farmers, businesses and communities and expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables for local residents.

In 2014, Hazard and Barbourville, KY, communities were approved to participate in StrikeForce. Community leaders received technical assistance to host a two-day workshop in each city — bringing together federal and state agencies with local stakeholders, to identify strategies and develop an action plan for enhancing livability through local foods. Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Food and Nutrition Service provided assistance with developing Community Action Plans focusing on 5 major goals. This collaboration was financed by the Environmental Protection Agency, Appalachian Regional Commission. Contributions made by each Agency totaled nearly \$31,000 in investments.

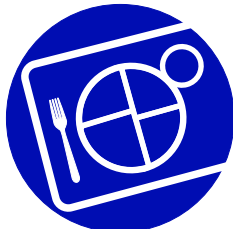
# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Kentucky

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

6,289 Projects in 2015 = \$597 Million Invested



1378  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



1,952,933  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



1,230  
Farmers  
Assisted



8,754  
Home  
Investments

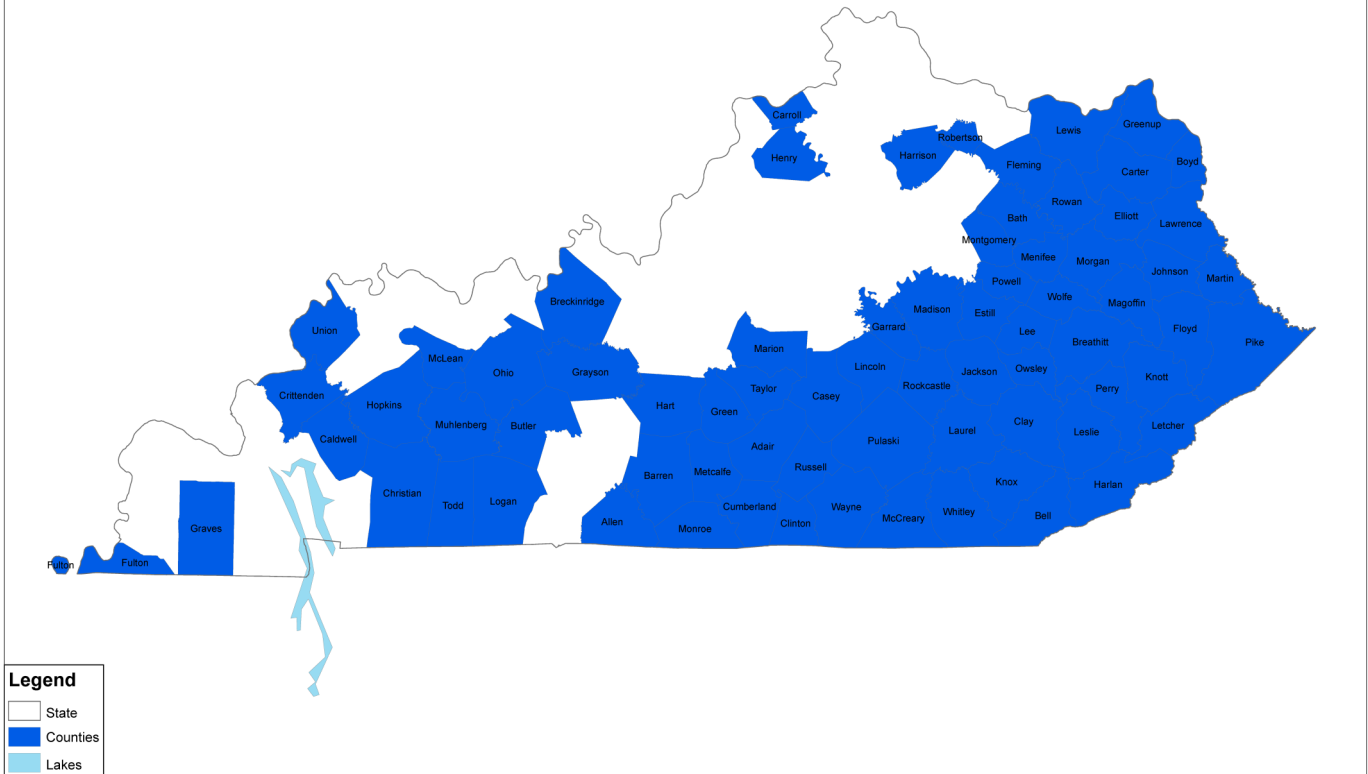


554  
Conservation  
Efforts



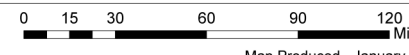
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: Kentucky Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties

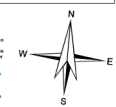


**Legend**

- State
- Counties
- Lakes



Map Produced - January 14, 2014



Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:  
ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers  
2000 CENSUS TRACES Data - CENSUS Tiger g00  
2010 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS Tiger g10  
USGS National Stream Database Data  
NCEES 1996 PFD (0) School Lunch Participation CORE Data  
From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education  
Statistics: [nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools.asp)  
USDA/RDC/OWD Data Sets Poverty RD Program Specific Data  
USDA/NDUS/ISS/HLR/CMS/CO Data Sources  
USDA/OCE/OWD Departmental Data Resources  
Housing and Urban Development Data  
Environmental Protection Agency Data  
Year 2000

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