

PROJECT - I - : FARM DRAINAGE DEMONSTRATIONS.

- Omit*
- OBJECT:**
- (1) To demonstrate the right methods of draining farm lands by the use of tile and open ditches.
  - (2) To impress upon farmers the value of their marsh or other lands too wet to cultivate.
  - (3) To guide land owners in the steps leading up to the organization of drainage districts for the drainage of large areas.

- IMPORTANCE:**
- (1) Practically every farm has some cultivated land that could be greatly increased in productive value and made safe by drainage. Farmers lose thousands of dollars annually by working land improperly drained. Tile drainage increases the productive value of land at least \$20.00 per acre.
  - (2) Virginia has 1,038,000 acres of land unfit for cultivation without drainage improvements, and 1,446,000 acres in need of community drainage. In addition to the above, there are thousands of acres under cultivation that should be tile drained if economical production is to be secured.

**PROCEDURE:** Promote drainage through demonstrations, meetings, bulletins, circulars, and other publicity methods.

The Agricultural Engineering Department will:

- (1) Furnish County Agents with educational publicity material for use in their county papers; supply the agent with drainage circulars, bulletins, and other material for distribution.
- (2) Send an engineer to the county to make a survey of the land to be drained. Furnish a map showing the proposed drainage system, prepare a report on the project, giving instructions, amount of tile, estimate of cost, etc.; stake out the system and demonstrate the proper methods of construction when the tile has been delivered.
- (3) In counties where there is sufficient interest in drainage, help organize a ditching machine company or secure a contractor with ditching machine to do ditching work in the county.

The County Agent Will:

- (1) Promote the project in his county by distributing the publicity material, bulletins, etc. furnished by the Department.
- (2) Select reliable farmers in different sections of his county who have land in need of drainage and who agree to follow instructions.
- (3) Arrange for holding drainage demonstrations when the engineer makes the second trip to stake out the system and start the ditching work; advertise these demonstrations.
- (4) Obtain a record of the results gotten in his county due to the work of this project.

**RESULTS:** Results will be measured by number of acres drained as a result of demonstrations; increased returns from the land after drainage, as compared with the returns before the land was drained.