

Extension Organization

The Extension Organization in a county composes the County Board of Agriculture, Adult Community Clubs, Neighborhood Leaders, and the 4-H Club Organizations. These include all community chairmen, county presidents of all farm organizations, chairman of the Home Demonstration Committee, and any other person or persons deemed advisable according to their position, influence, and situation in the county and the respective communities. The county-wide program is set up by this Board. It fosters, promotes, and puts into effect this and certain other programs delegated by the United States Department of Agriculture. Activities of Farm and Home Agents are to be guided largely by the program of the County Board of Agriculture. This program is set up based on the needs of the county and its communities.

Community Clubs

The Community Club is the official organization for the community. Its function is to carry out plans made by the Board of Agriculture and bring to the attention of the Board the needs, interest, and problems of the community. The community chairmen are responsible for keeping committees informed and active. They are also advisors to the agents in their respective communities.

Farmers' Clubs are organized to fill a particular need in a neighborhood or a community. Being of local nature, a club program committee in cooperation with the Extension Agent, works out plans and programs for the meetings. The frequency of the meetings depends upon community needs and interest as seen by the group.

4-H club work for rural boys and girls is a part of the National Agriculture Extension system, which reaches every state in the United States and its possessions. All possible resources should be utilized to develop a wide range of active interest and experiences that will result in all-round growth of the individual. Boys and girls between the ages of

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10 and 20, inclusive, who conduct a 4-H project automatically become members of the club in that community. Plans of work and programs for monthly meetings are made by the club in conference with the club leader and extension agents. The officers are comparable to those of other general organizations with the addition of an adult leader. They are elected annually, in November, and installed in December. Meetings are to be held monthly at stated times with club leader and agents. Place of meetings are to be determined, also, by the club in conference with the agents. The club year begins December 1st, and ends November 30th. Conducting a project according to instruction and submitting a record of it, constitute the completing a year of club work. In addition to this members are to attend club meetings and take a part in club programs and activities. Project instruction are to be given according to the need of the individuals of the groups. Joint supervision is given by the Home and Farm Agents.

4-H Clubs and Councils

The 4-H Council is made up from all officers of the 4-H clubs in the county. Leaders are ex-officio members. The purpose of the Council is to unify all club work in the county, make and carry out the county plan of work, and to receive training necessary to conduct the year's program. A meeting at the beginning of the year, and one at the end of the year. At the beginning of the year to plan activities, and at the end of the year to note achievements. Other meetings to be held when necessary. The fall meeting should be held as soon as all clubs in the county have elected officers. The date and place should be announced at a meeting of each club, and arrangements made to get all officers and committee chairmen to attend. The second meeting is necessary to check the year's plan and make final plans for achievement day and other activities and for completing the year's work.

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Minimum requirement for 4-H clubs should be thoroughly understood and records emphasized. Members should choose one or more projects that they intend to work on during the year to follow. Members should be guided in their selection.

Program

In each county as stated under Extension Organization, there is to be set up a program by the County Board of Agriculture. A plan of work is made each year with definite procedures to meet long-time as well as immediate needs, keeping in mind both the general and local situation, hence, it is built around the outstanding needs seen by the Board. Each agency of the county, Agriculture and Home Economics, through their representative on the Board of Agriculture, participate in carrying out this county-wide program. Each agency will keep in mind the objectives set up for the county and work on the phase that fits into its particular field.

Planning Teaching Methods

Extension is teaching. There are various methods of teaching used in the Extension program. Many of them are being used very effectively on the farms participating in the contest. The score card used for the contest farms is a teaching method. The contest farms are farms that are in the Soil Conservation Program. Associated with these is the Soil Conservation Service which included methods of improving standards of living. Better crops with less expense and labor, lower cost of production through increased yields with minimum effort. Visits to the contest farms were made to discuss plans of the contest, explain the score sheet, to offer suggestions and to give additional information and instruction. Included in these visits was a representative of the Soil Conservation Service who took an active and interesting part in all activities. Winter and permanent pasture demonstrations were set up with plans to meet the requirement of these enterprises. In many cases additional livestock is planned, and much enthusiasm and interest created for more and better pastures. Demonstrations in small grain

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were started. These are in the demonstration community. A demonstration community in a county is a community that does intensified work under the live-at-home program, sponsored by the State Advisory Board. Necessary instructions and recommendations are given to carry out the demonstrations. Visits to alfalfa demonstrations indicated or showed that correct cultural practices have been followed to this date. The community live-at-home committee met to make plans for scoring the homes in the demonstration community. A part of these homes were scored. The scoring indicated that definite efforts, on the part of many, had been made to reach their set goals. The homes scored were in New Grove community. Many of them were reached, and the others will be scored within the near future. Specialist, dealing with limited subject matter, will assist in planning, training, teaching and field studies, has been provided by the Agricultural Extension Service. Arrangement of picnics and achievement day was studied, which are teaching methods of the Extension program. While in the county I attended an achievement day program in Appomattox county. Interest and enthusiasm were exceedingly high. The entire county must have been in support of this event. The Training school relinquished its entire program, for the day, on its behalf.

Office Work

• There should be definite office hours set in order that farmers may come in for information, assistance, or what ever help that they need. Office space should be adequate, the office business like, and efficient in operation that visitors may be favorably impressed. Sufficient time should be allowed aside from the announce^d/hours, when the agent should work there tabulating, analyzing, and summarizing data, preparing reports, and attending to correspondence and other matter necessary for a well rounded program. The Franking privilege granted to Extension agents for carrying out

government business, as covered by the appointment of each agent, has its limitations which should be understood and followed.

Cooperation with other Agencies

Relationship with other agencies should be friendly, informed, understanding, and mutual. The Extension program can not make its full contribution without cooperating with these agencies. Visitation to the offices on behalf of the county-wide as well as specific programs, should be made. To learn, to know their program and interpret it to farm people is one way that the Extension agent can cooperate and render service. Extension agents should give their full support to strengthening these organizations, as it is through the general farm organizations that farm families participate in state and national affairs and work to improve their social and economic conditions. Extension agents should serve only in an advisory capacity. The county department of education, welfare, health and other agencies operating in the county for the uplift of the people, should be supported by the Extension agent. He should not hold offices in these organizations. The Extension program in Lunenburg County seem to be well tied up with these organizations.

Reference Materials

Handbook for Virginia Agricultural Extension Workers

Extension Programs, policies and goals

We Study our Job-work shop reports

County Extension Organization

Scope of Extension Educational Responsibility

Suggestions to New County Agents

What Extension Is

The use of the Penalty Priviledges by Extension Workers

Organization of 4-H club work

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Parents and 4-H club work

Extension work in Virginia

Annual Meeting of Farm and Home Agents

The last week or five days of this month were spent at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia attending the Annual Meeting of Farm and Home Agents.

The program of the meeting was so arranged as to cover all phases of the Extension program which relates to the Farm and Home Agents in their respective county and communities. Each topic or subject was discussed by an individual directly connected with or related to the field or subject to which he or she was assigned. For the most part each seem to have had his well timed, during which much information and instruction was given. In addition, questions were allowed for clarification on any specific point or phase of the program, by each specific speaker.

The situation of the program in Virginia was given and plans for the future were explained. Emphasis was put on Leaders in coordinating 4-H club work. Human relations was very effectively discussed. This was a very timely topic and of the utmost importance for a successful and going program in any county.

Soil Conservation and fertility; breeding, sanitation and feeding of hogs, and their ability to produce, couple with proper management, these and other enterprises on the farm as well, seem to be the answer for a better community, better people, and a better living.

The time spent for this conference was definitely justified from the many benefits derived and I feel that many beneficial results will accrue from having planned and conducted it.

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OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH

1- Extension Organization:

- a. Adult Advisory Board
- b. Community Clubs
- c. 4-H Club Councils

2. Program:

- a. Long-time Objectives
- b. Plan of Work

3. Planning Teaching Methods:

- a. Result and Method ~~Method~~ Demonstrations
- b. Farmers' Conference
- c. Field Meetings
- d. Farm Visits
- e. Advisory Board Meetings
- f. Tours
- g. Securing Specialist Help
- h. Picnics, Achievement Days, etc.

4- Office Work:

- a. Schedule of Hours
- b. Records and Reports
- c. Circular Letters and News Articles
- d. Franking Privileges and Purchasing Postage
- e. Annual, Narrative, and Monthly Reports
- f. Daily Records

5- Cooperation with other Agencies:

- a. Introduction to Personnel
- b. Working Relations with such Agencies

6- Reference Materials:

- a. Handbook for Virginia Agricultural Extension Workers
- b. Extension Programs, Policies and Goals
- c. We Study Our Job-Work Shop Reports
- d. County Extension Organization
- e. Scope of Extension Educational Responsibility
- f. Suggestions to New County Agents
- g. What Extension Is
- h. The Use of the Penalty Privileges by Extension Workers
- i. Organization of 4-H Club Work
- j. Parents and 4-H Club Work
- k. Extension Work in Virginia

PROGRAM

7- Annual Meeting of Farm and Home Agents:

- a. Registration
 - b. Moments of Meditation
 - c. Roll Called and Introduction of New Agents
 - d. Plan of the Conference
 - e. Present Situation at Virginia State College-Plans for the Future
 - f. Services Available through the Virginia State College Federal Credit Union
 - g. State Farmers' Conference for 1960
 - h. Appointment of Committees and Introduction of Visitors
 - i. Meeting of Agents' Association
 - j. A Better Living From the Soil For ALL Mankind
 - k. TVA Farm Unit Demonstration in Virginia
 - l. News Writing and Publicity
 - m. Radio Publicity for Extension Workers
 - n. Reports and Report Making
 - o. Organizing One's Self for Extension Work
 - p. Separate Sessions of Farm and Home Agents
 - q. Pasture and Corn Program for 1960
 - r. P. M. A., Programs for Virginia Farmers in 1960
 - s. Dinner Meeting in Officers Lounge, Camp Lee, Virginia
 - t. Human Relations
 - u. Church and Religious Life in Rural Virginia
 - v. The Older Youth Situation in Virginia and What We Can Do to Improve same
 - w. Hog Projects - Adults and 4-H, Breeding, Feeding Management, Shows and Sales
 - x. Financing 4-H. Projects
 - y. The 4-H Club Situation in Virginia, and Plans for the Future
 - z. The Effective Use of Leaders in Coordinating 4-H Club Work
- Summary of the Conference
Administrative Work
Report of Committees
Adjournment

8- Agencies Contributing:

- a. Virginia State College
- b. Virginia Agriculture and Extension Service
- c. Tennessee Valley Authority
- d. University of Virginia
- e. Lynchburg Broadcasting Corporation - Radio Station WLVA, ABC Affiliate
- f. United States Department of Agriculture
- g. Law Firm of Valentine and Cooley

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A Synoptic of Charlotte County for the month of November

During the month of November I took a cross-section of Charlotte County that I might be able to find out some of the specific as well as the general, farms' and homes' needs, and to make contact with individuals living in the different areas. I felt that such a procedure was necessary and practical, in order that I may be able, from my findings, to draw up a plan of work that will be more efficient, practical, meaningful, and most effective.

The main source of income is derived from tobacco, although the climate, soil, and other conditions are favorable for the production of various crops and the raising of livestock. There are two types, flue-cured, and dark-fire tobaccos grown in the county. Flue-cured is grown in the southern and fire-cured in the northern and western parts. I find that the economic condition of the average farmer or farm family, his soil and the general farm program in the dark-fired section are superior to the average found in the flue-cured section. The demerits of a one crop system is reflected and is more pronounced, through a generally lower economic standard, lower yields from poorer and more eroded soils, and practically no farm products nor animals are marketed, other than tobacco, by the farmers in the southern part of the county.

Soil conservation and soil building is perhaps the greatest and most urgent or immediate need. Land use to follow will certainly make a definite contribution to the general needs. The soil type on practically every farm are from several to many. This should bring about a more diversified crop program which will include, even pastures for livestock production as the general topography of the county is hilly and rolling.

Synoptic continued:

The task of promoting these is very evident. Interest, possibilities, and the general situation is indicative that it can be done. However, the process and progress are expected to be slow, certainly for the immediate future. An educational campaign through the farm and home unit demonstrations will greatly alleviate the menace of time that will elapse from now until such accomplishment will be made. A good 4-H club program will contribute definitely to a greater and compatible program for the county. It should lead to the development of a better physical, moral, and spiritual awakening, and lead to a better and more rural leadership, citizenship, and develop a greater appreciation for scientific and improved methods of farming which will result in a better living, a more fuller life, and better individuals. "For such as these are the farmers, citizens, and leaders of tomorrow".