

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

EXTENSION SERVICE
County H. D. Work

PLAN OF WORK

COUNTY

Halifax

YEAR

1959

Name

N. E. Jennings
(Local Home Agent.)

Date Mailed

Jan. 13, 1959

N. E. Jennings
AGENT
Halifax
COUNTY

I. THE COUNTY SITUATIONS

Halifax County lies in the South Central part of Virginia. It is one of the state's largest counties in size, with a land area of 814 square miles. Approximately one half of its area is in forest, which accounts for the many saw mills and lumber plants.

Agriculture gives employment to something like two thirds of the 45,000 people. Bright tobacco brings in the major income, although general farming is carried on practically all over the county. Stock raising and dairying are on the increase among large land owners.

Within the last ten or twelve years, manufacturing plants have moved in and have greatly supplemented the incomes of farm people. Centered in the South Boston area (the second largest bright tobacco market) are Worsted, Rayon and Cotton Mills, Tobacco Stemming and Re-drying factories, Dairying and Lumber processing plants. Similar industrial plants are now also located in Halifax, the County Seat.

Hard surfaced roads lead through all sections of the county thus makes all year round travel possible. In like manner, electricity is to all the county areas. The rural people are taking advantage of telephone installation rapidly.

The county maintains two high schools for more than 2,000 eligible students and some 30 or more elementary schools, with an enrollment of 8,000 and some children. All schools are served by county owned buses.

The county is well churched so far as church buildings which range from the ancient stone Cathedral to the meager one room weather boarded structure. An estimate of close to 100 churches comprising 6 different faiths adorn the hills, plains and valleys throughout the county. Unfortunately the pastors and ministers for these, especially the rural churches are non-resident people. Recreational resources here are of a variety of types. (Not for our people unfortunately). Public fishing, boating, swimming facilities, school athletic fields and equipment for games and sports of nearly all kinds. The recent building of the Buggs Island project has added much to the recreational side of the life in the county.

II. COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM

A. COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Our county advisory board is made up of two representatives from

every community and home demonstration clubs, business and professional men and women of the county. Offices in the board are held by the above named people who work closely with Extension Agents. Five meetings are planned. In our late summer or early fall meeting, the board reviews our county program in action to note progress and failures in the light of what was undertaken and from this point begin plans for building the next year's activities. This sometimes call for continuing some previous program emphasis along with selecting other phases, resulting from the changing situation which create new and pressing problems. Plans for accomplishments in the undertaken lines of work are also assumed by this board, whose members head committees for working with localities in carrying out such activities as method and result demonstrations, tours, field meetings and exhibits to determine achievements made. Funds for local and state Advisory Board requirements are gathered and distributed by the board. This year, plans for improving 4-H Club Work is being added to the work of this board.

4. COUNTY HOME ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (Foods & Nutrition)

There are at least nine members on this committee. They were selected because of their interest and participation in community and county wide events namely: PTA, TB Ass. and Churches. The eight magisterial districts are also represented in the group. Its main objective is to help widen the scope of the extension program. This is being done by reaching unorganized areas with information on the food and nutrition situations and trends as means of helping the families recognize their food problems and needs, then cooperate with the H. D. Club program in getting and giving the needed help to these localities.

We shall use this committee's activities and accomplishments as basic for organization of a similar committee in other home economic phases of work, most needing emphasis in our years program.

B. HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB PROGRAM

The County Home Demonstration Club committee of club presidents, program development leaders and outstanding home demonstration club members meet twice a year to plan and then later to evaluate the year's program activities.

It is this committee that has charge of planning and carrying out events for National Home Demonstration Week Observance, District Leaders meeting, demonstrations and exhibits, Community tours and Special meetings.

1. FOODS & NUTRITION

OBJECTIVES:

To teach three hundred and eighty club members variety ways of

using home grown products as a means of getting more calcium and vitamins (A, B, and C.) in their diets and through our Home Economic Committee reach a hundred other families with the use of milk and milk dishes as an added source of calcium intake.

PLAN:

Train fourteen local leaders to give method demonstrations in club meetings and in school. Give information on variety menus and milk dishes in our weekly news column in local paper. Set up one exhibit at County Fair or County Achievement.

2. CLOTHING SELECTION

OBJECTIVES:

To continue to help club women adopt good buying techniques for family clothing and clothing articles (shoes) considering the amount of money available, health and comfort or purchases and the purpose and duration of the life of such garments.

PLAN:

Discussion in club and other meetings of things to look for in good garment, method demonstrations showing some points of value. Visit of leaders and demonstrators to a clothing store where expert information may be had and investigation made on garments (poor and good). Hold one public review of selected garments and articles by club women.

3. HOUSE FURNISHINGS

OBJECTIVES:

To arouse interest in home makers of the need for good home lighting both for better health and economy measures and to get at least one family to serve as a result demonstrator.

PLAN:

Get specialist to train twelve adult leaders who will hold discussions and help with method demonstrations in H. D. Club meetings. Conduct meetings and encourage visits to the result demonstrators project.

4. RURAL ARTS:

OBJECTIVE:

To learn art appreciation, encourage creativeness.

PLAN:

Get agent training from specialist. Have specialist meet with small groups of leaders, give demonstrations, talks and show film "ART IS EVERYWHERE", then leaders assist with demonstrations and discussions in regular club meetings. Agent give some training in scoring articles made.

C. DISTRICT LEADERS PROGRAM OF WORK

We shall plan with our District Agent for help with this program.

D. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. NATIONAL H. D. WEEK OBSERVANCE

OBJECTIVE:

To give public some basic facts of the beginning and growth of H. D. work; some highlights of the scope and accomplishments of our County Program and some of its needs in order to increase in its scope and effectiveness.

PLAN:

Present public speaker or speakers representative of extension work. Set up exhibits and demonstrations of some of our program activities. Have reports from leaders and members of accomplishments through H. D. participation. Use this information in story and picture in reports and newspapers.

2. COUNTY TOUR

OBJECTIVES:

Show the public what is being accomplished by following planned procedures over long or short periods.

PLAN:

This event will be carried on exclusively through circular letters, radio briefs, local news articles and visits (home and Office).

III.

FARM & HOME DEVELOPMENT

1. Mr. & Mrs. James Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Smith is the only one family we are working with now. Over a three year period with this family, progress has been slow and spurdy. This has required much retracing.

IV. COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM (YOUTH)

A. ORGANIZATION

1. COUNTY 4-H CLUB COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVE:

To help improve County 4-H Club Work

PLAN:

Reorganize this group and in two meetings, train these principles of 4-H club work with special emphasis on project instruction and completion. Request help from our district and state agents in training this committee. Have the women trained to hold at least three 4-H meetings or group meetings. Meet with county 4-H council to help in the planning for county activities.

2. COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

This council of adult and junior leaders, club officers and teachers meet twice a year. Theirs is the work of planning our county 4-H club program in the light of the situation which influenced our county extension program for both short and long time goals. Some preplanning in clubs furnish good basic facts upon which all extension groups agree needs attention. County wide activities are also determined and methods of procedure are planned by the county council. Good project participation work is sort of rewarded by this group whose objectives is to encourage better club project completion.

A county 4-H club achievement day is in the 1959 plans of the council.

B. 4-H PROJECT WORK

a. CLOTHING SELECTION

1. LOOKING YOUR BEST

OBJECTIVES:

To teach club members high standards in personal cleanliness and good grooming for self satisfaction and poise and as a basic contribution to good society.

PLAN:

We shall teach through method demonstrations in club meetings. The reading of current magazine columns written by movie stars on good grooming. Clubs will subscribe or some have already subscribed

to such. Encourage club members to visit local fashion shows at theaters. Hold club good grooming shows as prevue to the county dress revue at County Fair.

2. FOOD & NUTRITION

OBJECTIVES:

To teach club girls 12 years old and older how to use home produced foods in nutritious meals and to teach younger club members how to make good bread at home.

PLAN:

Train local adult leaders to give and help with method demonstrations in bread making in clubs. Hold club and county bread contest where judging of bread will be done. Encourage members to enter bread at County Events (Achievment Day and Fair). Enter winners in county in the State Bread Contest.

3. ROOM IMPROVEMENT

OBJECTIVES:

Help younger club members recognize things that are needed in their rooms and help them plan for improving it and to teach the basic steps in room care.

PLAN:

This project will be taught through method demonstrations in group meetings of the girls in the project. Mothers of the girls as leaders will be given special training in three leader training meetings.

C. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OBJECTIVES:

To give parents and the public an opportunity to see and hear something of 4-H club work through exhibits and reports of leaders and club members and to encourage more parents and cooperators and businesses to make some contribution toward better club work by giving leadership, serving as sponsors and offering financial incentives for good club participation and completion.

2. CONTEST

Friendly contests in each project field and leadership will be encouraged and carried as motivation for completion.

3. COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAY

OBJECTIVES:

To motivate club members towards doing better work. Keeping more accurate records from which to judge achievements and to let the public see and hear the records, know the individuals who have achieved these records. This will be done for other eligible county girls and boys to continue 4-H club work and that others will be encouraged to join 4-H clubs.

PLANS:

Our County 4-H Council and 4-H Committee are the organizations designed to carry out this event. Direct details are not certain yet.

D. YOUNG WOMENS' WORK

Our work will continued with this one church organized and directed group. Our objective here is that of helping this age group find some satisfaction in rural social life through organizational interest and approach in doing simple projects and programs. This group will conduct one community field day program (suggestive to better health) and will go on one out of county educational trip.

V.	SCOPE OF WORK	1958	1959
A. ORGANIZATION			
NO. of H. D. Clubs.....		14	14
Membership.....		380	400
No. 4-H Clubs.....		11	11
Membership.....		201	240
No. Young Women's Clubs.....		1	1
Membership.....		21	25
No. County Improvement Clubs.....		0	0
Membership.....		0	0
No. Home Economic Committees.....		1	2
No. General Interest Committee.....		0	0
No. Youth Committees.....		1	1
No. Other Organizations.....		1	1
No. Farm and Home Development Families.....		1	1

VI. PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

A. OVERALL ADVISORY BOARD LEADERS

B. H. D. CLUB LEADERSHIP		1958	1959
No. Organizational Leaders.....	14	28	
No. Project Leaders.....	38		
No. Federation Program of Work Chairman.....	0	0	
No. Program Development Leaders.....	14	18	
No. Result Demonstrators.....	23	20	
No. Meetings at which leaders were trained by Specialist.....	0	0	
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by Dist. Agent.....	0	2	
No. Meetings at which Leaders were trained by Agent..	2	5	
Attendance at Training Meetings.....	11	45	
No. Club Meetings in which leaders assisted.....	17	45	
No. Club Meetings held by leaders without Agent.....	22	50	
Total No. of Demonstrations given by Leaders.....			
No. talks or discussions by Leaders.....			

PLANS FOR TRAINING AND USING LEADERS IN 1959

C. OLDER YOUTH LEADERS		1	1
D. 4-H CLUB			
No. 4-H Club Officers.....	120	120	
No. Adult Project Leaders.....	9	13	
No. Junior Project Leaders.....	5	10	
No. Result Demonstrators.....	7	3	
No. Meetings at which leaders were trained by Specialist.....	0	0	
No. Meetings at which leaders trained by Dist. Agent.	0	2	
No. Meetings at which leaders were trained by Agent..	8	4	
No. Meetings at which leaders were trained by personnel of 4-H Department.....	1	1	
No. Meetings at which leaders were trained by others.	0	0	
Attendance at training meetings.....	7	13	
No. 4-H Leaders trained individually.....	0	0	
No. Club meetings held without Agent by Leaders.....	21	30	
No. Club Meetings at which leaders assisted.....	46	50	
No. demonstrations given by Adult Leaders.....	119	150	
No. demonstrations given by Junior Leaders.....	77	85	

PLANS FOR TRAINING AND USING 4-H LEADERS

VII. WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. FHA

Our 1959 program plans include one county wide extension meeting in the local supervision of the FHA Association is scheduled to talk of his agency's work with farm people. From this meeting, we the leaders will further publicize the facts, give such written materials as are

available, attend meetings of the agency designed to give some further information on possible service, and help any clients working under this agency in any educational way we can help.

2. COMMUNITY CHEST

Give, encourage giving and serve on public committees.

3. WELFARE AGENCY

Hold or attend office conference where we learn of enrolled case families whom H. D. Program service might be able to reach in some phase of homemaking. We also report any family or cases which we think might come under reach of welfare services.

We have no definite plans for work with others, we stand ready for emergency aid with all the fundamental education agencies.

VIII.

GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. With Co-workers will be developed by actually being what the word implies, work together with the people's problems, interest and potential possibilities in mind, and plan together in a way to be of the biggest help.

2. General Public will find and get through our office prompt and cordial attention to request, business call, reading materials, plans and the like for use in their homes and communities. Try to get such aids and information as might be needed which our office does not have, release news articles describing our meetings, demonstrations, tours and etc. for its knowledge and participation. Prepare exhibits and show films for the similar purpose.

3. Elected Representative. In addition to the above mentioned ways we shall send periodic reports of success and progress, possibly some failures citing some possible whys to this group of county people.

IX.

RECORDING PROGRESS

Progress and evaluation of our program worth shall be determined by individual growth; members attracted; methods and practices adopted, and attitudes changes and development in all lines of our overall extension endeavor.

PLAN:

Observance in all meetings, visits (office, field and home), demonstrations (result and method), work habits and results realized, and reports (verbal and written), and pictures shall be used as means of evaluating the progress.

X. PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Extension planned conferences, schools and special training meetings will be sources used for improvement along with the reading of educational magazines, journals, and daily papers.

XI. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Joint leaders meeting have been scheduled as a means of closer cooperative activities of men, women and youth work. The long time county wide goals in all phases of our county program will be discussed in the light of what definite contribution each extension group might make, as to get the greatest accomplishments. A county leaders association is also in the process of organization for the purpose of more unity in the program.

XII. PROGRAM HURDLES

I consider off the farm trend for women workers, mechanized farming, forcing interested youths away from the small farms and the lack of employment for our working aged families in the individual and manufacturing plants that have moved into the county to be a grave problem. We are encouraging more and more families to try and use the services of the Agricultural Credit Agencies. We are holding night meetings in sections where women are employed off the farms.