

PLAN OF WORK FOR

1955

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

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1955 PLAN OF WORK

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Prince Edward
County

I. County Situation

Prince Edward County in the tobacco raising section of central Virginia is probably not unique in the fact that each year sees more women employed outside the home than the previous one. The droughts of recent years have reduced garden production and general farm income although raising tobacco as a money crop continues in importance. The population is almost half negro but negroes are not employed in the fields and in the homes as much as formerly. In the rural sections the farmer, his wife, and all of his children work in the fields and tobacco barns during the busy seasons of the year; then many of the women seek employment in factories, stores and other businesses for several months at a time. Sometimes they solicit help from relatives in caring for their children and homes, oftener they attempt both the outside job and home-making. They are handling more money than before, often spending more for home improvements.

Families in Prince Edward are becoming increasingly aware of social conditions as they do or will affect the young people in their homes, and of many instances of emotional instability among adults. Their interest is shown in the large attendance at meetings when the subject is discussed, and by requests for such topics in their P.T.A., church, and Home Demonstration Club programs.

Many new, small homes are being built in rural areas and around town. Along with an interest in home equipment and home management there are requests for assistance in landscaping, planting and general beautification.

II. Adult Program

A. Subject Matter Fields

1. Home Management

In 1955 emphasis will be placed on home management. A program, "Money Management", is scheduled so as to help families and individuals in planning for the use of money. Miss Alverson, Home Management Specialist, is to train

leaders from the clubs in how to adapt recommended budget patterns to various situations and give some criteria for the selection of the larger items in which families invest. The agent plans to tie in consumer information with each topic studied and use such information in the radio programs throughout the year.

"Shortcuts In Housekeeping" will be studied with the working homemaker in mind particularly. Miss Alverson will also train club leaders for this demonstration and advise in the consumer's selection of cleaning preparations, etc.

A third program entitled "Saving Time and Motion In Housekeeping" is scheduled so as to help the homemaker in planning for convenience in the arrangement of furnishings, not only in the kitchen but throughout the house. It has been requested that Miss Alverson train leaders for this program also. The agent and leaders will collect pictures and suggestions from current publications that may be helpful in various situations.

One club as "club choice" has asked for the program, "Simple Household Repairs". The agent will request special training from the specialist and ask for mimeographed suggestions so as to give the club program to the group interested in repairs that are practical for homemakers to attempt themselves.

"Household Pest Control" was selected as a program in the clubs and it might well be thought of as in the home management area. Dr. J. O. Rowell, Entomologist, will train leaders for club programs. The agent has many requests for bulletins on pests throughout the year. Consumer education will be a part of the subject treated, hoping to lead to a wise selection of insecticides and equipment from the many on the market.

"Garden Pest Control" will be treated in the same manner, giving assistance to the homemaker whose grounds and garden are of primary importance to herself and her family. Recognition of the types of trouble caused by garden pests, and wise selections in the many advertised dusts and sprays, will be taught leaders who will in turn give the program in their own clubs.

2. Foods Three foods programs are planned in the year's work. "Identifying and Preparing Cuts of Meat" was requested so as to help the homemaker buy economically and cook to advantage, and also learn new ways of serving meats. Miss Janet Cameron, Foods Specialist, will train leaders in giving demonstrations on this program. The agent will supply meat charts and information as to food values and cooking principles for all members, so as to emphasize the importance of these learnings along with the recipes given.

"What's New In Nutrition"- With Emphasis on Breakfasts" will be a study carried through in the same manner,

hoping to help families adopt better eating habits and give homemakers valid information on which to plan for their families' food needs. Individual help with prescribed diets will be given by the agent. An understanding of the effect upon the body of certain foods, and the desirability of good food patterns will be stressed throughout the year in radio and other publicity given food preparation.

"Getting the Most From Your Home Freezer" is set up as a program to give information in freezing pastries, desserts, etc., in advance of entertaining. The agent will give the program or train leaders, and will supply copies of recipes and directions for using the home freezer to club members.

3. Clothing

Interest in how to make over clothes for various members of the family, as well as giving ladies' dresses a "new look", prompted a request for a program on "Ideas and Trends for Remodeling Clothes". Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist, has been asked to give a demonstration to club leaders and train them in conducting meetings on the subject back in their clubs. The agent plans a follow-up in terms of money saved or money mis-spent in re-making clothes.

4. Rural Arts

"Leathercraft or choice of another craft" was planned for a month's study. Key cases and other small inexpensive leather pieces will probably be made and decorated with tooling at a leader training meeting conducted by Miss Catherine Peery so as to teach principles of working with leather. In the clubs the same demonstration will be given and the agent will make available directions for larger pieces of leather work and supply addresses for ordering supplies.

"Other crafts" have not been selected except in one instance where there is a request from a new club for basketry. Plans have been made to have Mrs. Hazel Southall (a leader who has worked with basketry when it was a part of the county program several years ago) give a demonstration to that club and help them start baskets of their own.

B. Federation Goal

"Home and Community Beautification" is to be continued a second year as the county's federation goal. Interest in improving home grounds, or planning for planting on new home sites and in improving farm entrances and mail boxes is continued from the past year. It is an objective of each club to make some contribution to the beautification of its particular community. The county federation goal chairman will meet with the chairmen from each club to list topics for discussion at each of the club meetings, and to suggest references

for use each month. Landscaping improvements started as a result of Mr. Beecher's visits to several home sites are to be continued during 1955. Information on garden pest control will be used by those interested in beautification as well as vegetable gardeners. Tours during garden week have been suggested but no definite plans made for them as yet.

C. Other Activities

1. County Objectives

a. CANCER CRUSADE

The Home Demonstration Clubs of the County have worked with a committee of the Woman's Club in Farmville each year in handling the educational and soliciting phases of the Cancer Crusade, and plan to do so again in 1955. They also expect to continue making dressings for use of cancer patients. County chairmen and club chairmen are appointed to assist members in carrying out the objectives.

b. National Home Demonstration Week

A committee appointed by the county chairman plans to publicize National Home Demonstration Week. Definite plans for its observance have not been made as yet, but it is listed in the year book as a county objective and will receive cooperation from the clubs when plans are made known.

c. District Meeting of 1956

Because Prince Edward expects to be hostess to the District meeting in 1956 they have listed as an objective "make definite plans for entertaining the District Meeting in 1956". A large and observing attendance at the 1955 District Meeting is expected; probably some money-making activities will be started to raise funds for this; the county chairman will make careful selection of persons to serve on committees for work in 1956.

d. 4-H Assistance

Each club has a 4-H chairman who is often a 4-H Club leader. In addition to assisting as project leaders, these members will keep Home Demonstration Clubs informed about 4-H activities, assist in selection of project winners, assist with 4-H fair exhibits. It is hoped the Home Demonstration Clubs will provide awards for 4-H achievements and help with entertainment for 4-H groups.

2. FIVE-COUNTY FAIR

Throughout the year, members of the Home Demonstration Clubs keep in mind ways to improve the Five-County Fair, planning their work as superintendents and planning exhibits to show accomplishment in club work. At each club meeting in July, "Fair Exhibits and Judging" will be presented as a demonstration; leaders will be trained and will present principles of exhibiting and of judging. It is hoped that the fair catalogue will be ready by that time.

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3. Special Interest Programs

An interest in personality adjustments, prevention of delinquency, and developing a wholesome mental outlook has prompted the request for a program on such topics as a county-wide special interest meeting. Qualified speakers are to be brought to the county and a public program sponsored by P.T.A. organizations and Home Demonstration Clubs of the county. It is to be held early in the year. The panel discussion at this meeting will probably be the first of a series of programs on these topics carried on throughout the year by P.T.A. organizations. Cooperation of clubs will be sought and given in a recreational program for teen-agers which is being started.

4. Achievement Day Program

Plans for the 1955 Achievement Day Program will be made by an especially appointed committee later in the year. It is hoped that a 4-H Achievement Program can be incorporated at the same time.

5. Year Book

The year book committee has revised the type of information given in its publication this year, hoping to make it useful to each member at each meeting, and including many suggestions to strengthen clubs from within.

III. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. PROJECT WORK

1. Safety

4-H Clubs are organized in the class rooms of schools in most instances this year. All are working on Safety as an in-school project, with awards offered the best three individuals by the local radio station and an award (free movie) offered the club doing the best over-all work. 4-H Club members are being trained in planning and putting on their own club programs -- members give an average of four short demonstrations at each club meeting on some phase of safety. Records are being stressed and time is taken to record achievements at certain club meetings. It is hoped that many in the county will be made more safety-conscious and that club members, school officials, and parents will feel the value of the year's work as it progresses.

2. Other Projects

Individual home projects have not been selected yet;

however, there is interest among the girls in gardening, food preservation, breads, sewing, and room improvement - also in calf and rabbit projects. When the selections are made (Feb. 1st) the agent will try to secure project leaders to work with them in neighborhood groups some Saturdays and during the summer months.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. 4-H Club Camp

4-H Club Camp at Holiday Lake is looked forward to by all 4-H Club members in the county. The opportunity to come in contact with members from other counties, to participate in 4-H activities, increases the members' understanding and appreciation for the total 4-H program. Requirements set up by the 4-H Club Council give members a goal to work toward throughout the year. It is hoped that more Home Demonstration Clubs will provide camp scholarships in 1955, (two members attended on scholarships, last year) and that some 4-H leaders will be able to attend with the boys and girls.

2. Short Course

An attempt will be made to raise money to finance sending representatives to 4-H Club Short Course in 1955. The difficulty other than financial has been that the majority of members are not old enough or are needed at home at that time. It is hoped that members can be selected who will bring back a better understanding of the 4-H program.

3. Rural Life Sunday

Last year, 4-H Club members observed National 4-H Sunday by wearing four-leaf clovers contributed by Home Demonstration Club members, and having special services in each of their communities. The project was nicely carried through and plans will be made to practice the same type of observance in 1955.

4. Club Contests

Since the clubs are competing for safety awards in the county and are learning to give demonstrations, a county contest program is being discussed and may be held in late spring. District contests will be discussed as something to work toward, later on.

5. Achievement Day

A 4-H Achievement Day Program is being considered. Awards for projects will be made and a program of recreation planned for the fall of 1955.

IV. YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

The activities of this group are included in the adult program. Special requests by young homemakers are carried out through home and office visits and telephone calls. Conferences with young women are held often to give them information or to encourage their participation in home demonstration work. Young men often seek information of the agent concerning canning, spot removal and other items. Home visits would be helpful in interesting both in the extension program. A program on child care would be especially useful and interesting to the younger married couples in the county, but so far no steps have been taken to initiate such a program.

V. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Until this phase of the extension program is further understood, no steps will be taken in farm and home development. Two families who frequent both offices and use extension assistance intelligently would probably be selected when the program is started in the county.

VI. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Organization

	No. in <u>1951</u>	No. in <u>1952</u>	No. in <u>1953</u>	No. in <u>1954</u>	Goal for <u>1955</u>
No. of Home Dem. Clubs	11	10	12	12	12
Membership	216	218	257	226	226
No. of 4-H Clubs	6	7	7	7	14
Membership	100	98	118	116	221
No. young men & women's clubs - Membership	-	-	-	-	-
No. Community Improvement Clubs Membership	-	-	-	-	-
No. Other Organizations	3	3	3	3	3

VII. ORGANIZATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE EXTENSION PROGRAM IN 1955

A. Home Demonstration Committee

This committee serves as a great strengthening force because it serves as a medium between the agent and the homemakers' organization. It is used in answering and solving problems that arise in the county and that must be settled in a short time. These women that make up the committee have been chosen as representatives of their fellow club members and so act in accordance. They serve as a consultant for the agent at various times, because she feels they may better understand their fellow club members' point of view. The committee usually has one or two call meetings during the year to discuss arising matters, besides the regular business and program planning meetings in which they play an active part. Sub-committees are appointed from this committee to take charge of matters such as achievement day and other special events. Some of the officers will accompany the agent in making home visits to encourage people to join in home demonstration work, and the county ~~people~~ chairman plans to visit each club at least once during the year so she will have a better understanding of the county situation. These committee women serve as the guiding force of the adult Extension Program and will be used for such responsibilities and business which may develop during the year. They have been given this authority by their fellow county club members.

B. 4-H County Council

This is the guiding force of the 4-H clubs to take care of the county matters of the different clubs. It is composed of representatives from each of the 4-H clubs and is guided by the adult leaders of the county and the agent. Plans are to be made by this council for the special events of the 4-H clubs during the year. It will be decided by the members what goals the 4-H boys and girls will choose, how the goals are to be accomplished, and what reward will be given. The Council will also decide the requirements necessary for attending special events during the summer. Various committees will be appointed to take charge of such county affairs as Rural Life Sunday and National 4-H Club Week. The Council members will also be responsible for informing their fellow club members of the duties of their offices and what they mean to them. They are to take on the responsibility, with the help of their leaders, of governing all the 4-H clubs so the county 4-H program will run smoothly and efficiently.

C. County All Stars

There are few All Stars living in the county. Three have agreed to assist small project groups in the summer as leaders.

D. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

This committee is mainly concerned with the in-school project which the 4-H clubs will carry for the next year. After the various projects have been discussed with the club members in a regular meeting before the close of school, the committee will discuss the projects which have been suggested and will decide on one in-school project for next year. As adult leaders, several club members, and the agent comprise the committee, each one will have a good idea of what each club desires and will do their best to choose one to suit the majority of club members, taking into consideration the facilities available for teaching the project work and discussing how worthwhile and necessary the project would be to club members. The planning committee in their meeting will discuss all pros and cons and then choose the project which has the greatest number of favorable answers.

VIII. PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

A. Home Demonstrations

	No. in 1951	No. in 1952	No. in 1953	No. in 1954	Goal for 1955
No. project leaders (subject matter)	72	105	58	63	68
No. Federation Goal chairmen	11	10	12	12	12
No. program dev. leaders	11	10	12	12	12
No. of result demonstrators	5	3	2	-	4
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by specialists	7	8	4	7	8
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by dist. agents	1	0	0	0	0
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by agent	2	1	3	1	2
Attendance at training meetings	74	133	87	163	170
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	57	62	27	26	30
No. club meetings in which leaders assisted	46	45	19	15	30
Total no. of demonstrations given by leaders	57	51	19	68	70
Total no. of talks or discussions by leaders	111	193	150	73	200

The leader program has developed to a great extent in the past year, and plans are being made to use them even more during 1955. In project work, five leader training meetings have been planned for 1955 with four of these meetings being conducted by specialists, the other being given by the agent. The leaders are to attend the training meetings, then collect and compile the required material for giving the demonstrations to their clubs besides using the subject matter material given to them. If some of the leaders are unable to attend the meetings, the presidents will try to fill in whenever possible; or else the leader of one club will instruct the absent leader at some convenient time before the club meeting. Various leaders will also be sent to other clubs in the county besides their own to help out when needed. Some individual help or conference training will be given a few of the leaders through office calls and home visits when requested to do so. Many club members forget that the club officers are just as much a leader as a project instructor. They sometimes give project instruction if the need arises, and they also carry on the business part of the meeting. The officers are trained through planning meetings and by individual help from the agent. Printed material setting forth various duties of officers are discussed with them in home and office visits, and outgoing officers are used to help train the new ones. The Federation Goal Chairmen receive their instruction through the two county meetings held for the purpose of discussing and planning the goals they are to attain and how they are to go about the work. Printed material compiled by the agent, conferences, and circular letters are to serve as means of training all types of leaders and of helping them in their jobs.

B. 4-H Club

(see next page for chart)

With 4-H in-school work, the home room teachers serve as organizational leaders .. assisting the agents in presenting the program, checking absences, and making room arrangements. Adult leaders who are parents, friends, or Home Demonstration Club members assist in parties, in fair exhibits, and in giving project instruction to small groups in the homes during the summer. Junior leaders may assist in these ways, and in 4-H Camp also.

	No.in <u>1951</u>	No.in 1952	No.in <u>1953</u>	No.in <u>1954</u>	Goal for <u>1955</u>
No. 4-H Club Officers	24	24	28	28	56
No. adult project leaders	11	25	8	16	25
No. junior " "	3	1	1	-	1
No. result demonstrators	-	-	-	-	-
No. meetings at which ldrs. were trained by specialist	1	-	-	1	-
No. meetings at which ldrs. were trained by dist. agt.	-	-	-	-	-
No. meetings at which ldrs. were trained by agent	2	2	-	-	5
No. at which leaders were trained by personnel in 4-H Dept	-	-	-	1	-
Attendance at leader training meetings	21	19	-	22	25
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	10	19	8	12	5
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	5	10	10	7	30
No. club meetings at which leader assisted	50	34	29	30	20
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	12	47	16	11	40
No. demonstrations given by junior leaders	1	-	-	-	-
C. Young Men & Women's Clubs			-	none	

IX. PLANS FOR WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. P.T.A.

The county-wide special interest program, "What Makes Families Tick", is to be sponsored jointly by P.T.A. and Home Demonstration

organizations. If the P.T.A. chooses to continue this as a series of programs the Home Demonstration Clubs will support the subsequent programs. The Farnville High School P.T.A. is working on a spring festival to raise money for a teenage program. Home Demonstration Clubs in the area expect to cooperate with this project when it gets underway.

B. Fire Department

The Fire Department is working closely with the 4-H programs, furnishing a speaker for one meeting, furnishing a room for the Farnville clubs to meet in each month, and supplying check sheets on fire hazards for each 4-H member.

C. Public Schools and Longwood College

Aside from working with public school personnel in 4-H Clubs, the agent works closely with home economics and agricultural instructors, especially in preparation for fair exhibits, and serves as a judge for some of their contests and programs. Longwood College girls majoring in home economics obtain bulletins and reference materials from the agent, attend Home Demonstration meetings so as to learn about the adult program. A 4-H Alumni Club is being organized at the college; members expect to work with some of the 4-H Clubs in the county, especially in recreation, and give suggestions for 4-H activities during the year.

D. Red Cross and Cancer Organizations

Home Demonstration work with the cancer program has been described previously in this paper. Members are also active as individuals in the Red Cross Fund Drive, and the agent is a member of the executive committee.

E. Five County Fair Association

The agent is a member of the board of directors of the Five-County Fair Association and takes a leading part in making up the premium list, planning and helping at fair time. Home Demonstration club members work as superintendents during fair week.

F. Radio - W.F.L.O.

As stated elsewhere, the radio station is offering cash awards for 4-H work in Safety. They willingly give publicity to extension programs, as does the Farnville Herald newspaper.

G. State Theater

The manager of the theater is offering a free movie to the 4-H Club with the best safety record. During the cancer crusade he will run screen publicity and allow educational material to be given out and a can for contributions to be placed in the lobby of the theater.

X. Plans for Developing Public Relations

A. Elected Representatives

Good public relations can be further developed by a more intelligent understanding on the part of the agent of the responsibilities of various officials contacted from day to day. A summary of Extension work accomplished will be given to the Board of Supervisors and a ready discussion of projects whenever it is requested.

B. General Public

A genuine interest in individuals and taking time to discuss problems with the general public will be mutually helpful to the Extension program and to the agent personally.

C. Co-Workers

Willingness to cooperate and a definite understanding of the duties and responsibilities of co-workers will make for improved relations. Often scheduling conferences for particular business will be mutually beneficial.

D. Commercial Interests

A definite understanding that the Extension Service can not advertise but is in need of the resources of commercial firms seems a sound basis for relationship. As a rule, they are more than willing to cooperate on this basis and merit appreciation which it is well to take the time to give by word or by letter.

E. Other Professional Workers

More time should be given to being of service to other professional workers, and being interested in their programs. It will be beneficial and broadening.

XI. Plans for Recording Progress and Evaluating Programs.

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Notations in the agent's notebook after meetings of facts kept on the daily record and of projects or problems of the particular group will be helpful. A record of material requested, a check on the number of leaders who receive training and give demonstrations, and a permanent record for 4-H work accomplished should be kept. Anticipating the annual report, questionnaires are helpful in obtaining records but cannot be relied upon to give the total picture. Having program development chairmen record from time to time the practices learned that have been applied throughout the year could be helpful to the chairman and Agent who want to evaluate as the year progresses. Discussion of evaluation with 4-H leaders, both methods of evaluating and the types of reports requested

at the end of the year, will be of assistance in estimating the progress of their program.

XII. Plans for Professional Improvement

A. Organized Study

1. SCHOOLS
No plans are being made for work this year.
2. SHORT COURSES
Agent's Conference
Institute of Rural Affairs

B. Reading Professional Books and other publications

Reading and clipping articles from various farm magazines and women's magazines.

Regular reading and study of:

What's New in Home Economics
Forecast
Consumers' Union
National 4-H Club News
Countrywomen's League

C. Membership in Professional Organizations

A.H.E.A.
V.H.D.A.
Virginia Conference of Social Workers
Red Cross Board
Five County Fair Association Board
D.K.G.
A.A.U.W.

PARTICIPATION in Programs planned by Other Organizations

- D. Participation in P.T.A. sponsored teen-age program has been referred to, elsewhere in this report. Cooperation will be given to programs of other organizations when sought or whenever time allows.

XIII. Cooperation With Other Agents

An attempt is made to work cooperatively with all agents, believing that the Extension program will be more meaningful to the county if the agents are informed as to what projects each is undertaking. Advice is sought concerning leaders in certain communities. There has been some discussion as to the selection of families for the farm and home development phase of the program. The assistant county agent works closely with the home agent in planning and executing the 4-H program.

XIV. Problems In Carrying Out the Extension Program

The problem of the small enrollment in senior 4-H groups (and in the Farmville elementary group) makes it difficult to show results in 4-H achievements. It is hoped with the new assistant agent and help from the Longwood College Alumni Club the enrollment will increase and there will be more genuine interest. Every effort is being made to build strong, interested clubs in the grades -- and it is hoped that as they grow in 4-H work it will eventually mean stronger senior clubs.

The problem of finding a central place for meetings may be solved if the Woman's Club of Farmville buys or builds a club house in the near future.

Use of the foods laboratory at Longwood College was offered for a leader training meeting and proved most helpful.

The problem of Home Demonstration Club drop-outs for personal reasons -- outside jobs, babies, and lack of transportation -- seems to have no answer. Often members feel a night meeting would keep those who are working, but the agent has not agreed to such changes.