

October	Obtain exhibits for Tidewater Fair Work with 4-H Swine and Sweet Potato Shows Check yields of peanut and corn demonstrators Score Community Improvement work Tape-record semi-monthly radio program ANNUAL AGENTS CONFERENCE
November	Take pictures and obtain records of best demonstrator of field crops Compile Annual Reports Compile 4-H records Attend 4-H meetings Tape-record semi-monthly radio program
December	Make Plan of Work Plan forestry demonstration Check farm and home development families' goals Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper-"Extension Highspots" (Summary copy) Tape-record semi-monthly radio program

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March	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper - "Extension Highspots" Pasture Field Meeting - Lummis Community Assist farmers in peanut demonstrations Plan National 4-H Club Week observance Check projects for 4-H Club Day Obtain Father-Son agreement for 4-H Swine & Potato projects Tape-record semi-monthly radio program
April	County 4-H Club Day - Oakland School, Driver Follow-up 4-H Swine and Sweet Potato projects Community Improvement Club Meeting Assist 4-H members with poultry and garden projects Tape-record semi-monthly radio program
May	Observe 4-H Rural Life Sunday - Gethsemane Church, Lummis Select delegates to State 4-H Short Course Follow-up field crop demonstrations Stress improved poultry management Attend State Awards Program with delegates - Sussex Co. Plan 4-H Club summer project work
June	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper - "Extension Highspots" Send delegates to State Short Course Visit 4-H members' home projects Conduct young people Farm and Home Development Tour Farm visits of peanut and corn demonstrations Plan County Tour Tape-record semi-monthly radio program
(Summer School-Texas Tentative)	
July	County Tour Obtain delegates for Wildlife Conference Planning meeting for Junior Hog Show and Sale Tape-record semi-monthly radio program ANNUAL LEAVE
August	Holland Experiment meeting Send delegates to Wildlife Conference Check Community Improvement progress Visit 4-H home projects Tape-record semi-monthly radio program
September	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper- "Extension Highspots" Attend State Advisory Board Meeting - Franklin County Follow-up 4-H swine and sweet potato projects Check 4-H Club work for project awards Planning for Fair and Swine Show and Sale Stress the seeding of lawns and planting shrubs Collect pictures of demonstrations for slides Tape-record semi-monthly radio program

COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board Meeting - - - - -	January & Quarterly
Community Improvement Meeting - - - - -	January & Quarterly
Farmers Conference - Laurel Hill Church - Holland	February 25
Pasture Field Meeting - - - - -	March
National 4-H Club Week - - - - -	March
County 4-H Club Day - - - - -	April
4-H Rural Life Sunday - Gethsemane Church - Lummis	May 29
County Tour - Myrtle Community - - - - -	July 28
Tidewater Fair and Sweet Potato Show - - - - -	October
Junior Livestock Show & Sale - - - - -	October

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Mr. W. J. Nuckolls, Jr.	Farmers' Conference	February 25
Mr. M. T. Carter	County Tour	July 28
Miss Heidi E. Ford	4-H Club Day	April
Mr. S. E. Marshall	Livestock Show	October
	Sweet Potato Show	October

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MONTH

January

- County Advisory Board Meeting
- Community Improvement Club planning meeting
- Farm and Home Development planning meeting
- Soil samples for pasture demonstrations
- Farm visits to assist with crop rotations plan
- Attend 4-H Meetings
- Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts
- Obtain 4-H litter bags

February

- Farmers Conference - Laurel Hill Christian Church
- Agronomy Committee Meeting
- Agronomy circulars to farmers
- Farm visits - pasture demonstrations for top dressing
- Complete 4-H enrollment sheets
- Complete 4-H Mailing List for Head-Heart-Hands-Health Paper
- Pine seedling tree planting demonstration - L.M.Folk
- Tape-record semi-monthly radio program

For each club project, as many things to be done out of the club as possible is presented and the interest appears to be at a new high. A 4-H Club Day will be held in April and the work will be displayed and reports given.

Funds for 4-H activities are being raised by the sale of 100 4-H Club litter bags ordered from the State 4-H Club Department, that are sold for 75 cents each and gives a profit of \$35.00 per hundred.

SPECIAL 4-H PROJECTS

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE

Last year five boys exhibited 15 hogs and received \$457.74 from their sale and \$11.00 in premiums. The quality of the animals was not as good as it should have been.

Forms for all hogs to be exhibited will be obtained by March 15th bearing the 4-H boy's name and the signature of his father. A follow-up of these projects will be done each month and assistance given with feeding and handling.

Full cooperation will be given the Livestock Show Professional Group in working out a smooth system in tabulating and reporting the Show's results.

SWEET POTATO SHOW AND SALE

Four 4-H boys exhibited one-bushel displays at the Tidewater Fair and one boy exhibited three bushels at the Newport News Show.

Signed forms bearing the 4-H boy and father signatures as to their intentions to exhibit potatoes will be obtained by March 15. Attempts will be made to visit these projects as often as possible and give special assistance in grading and basketing.

houses on his property and works part time as a carpenter. He raised 30 hogs and 10 acres of truck crops.

Fletcher Walden of Holland Community - age 38 - a wife and one child. Walden purchased a 100 acre farm with a dwelling and out buildings in 1959. He is a carpenter and has ^{made}~~done~~ many repairs on his home. Walden has had farming experience on his father's farm and is interested in establishing a farm and home development program.

Work will be continued with the nine families and a tour by young farm families will be made to observe the progress of this program, with the hope that this will inspire them to make some change. Reports of outstanding progress will be made public.

4-H CLUB WORK

There are 450 boys and 422 girls enrolled in 13 4-H Clubs which meet for one hour per month in each school. Members are encouraged to carry club projects and additional special interest projects, as the interest and available resources will provide at their homes. In most of the clubs the boys adjourn to a project room after the formal meeting is over. Attempt is being made to focus the project work to practical activities to be carried out at home - for example:

Garden Project - Draw a map of the garden with number of 3-foot steps on all sides to determine the portion of an acre. Make a picture scrapbook of all vegetables grown and all tools used. Take a soil sample from garden and place in cans to bring to school. A group of three must plant at least three different vegetables in a cheese box or flat.

Attempts will be made to use this family as a demonstrating example for low income families on producing more of the food required by their families. Attempts will be made to have a group of these families visit the Halls' farm during the year to observe the accomplishments.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

Work will be continued with the 90 families in the demonstration community during 1960. Plans have been made to conduct a home garden contest during the year after the distribution of seed purchased with the \$10.00 won in the State Community Improvement Contest. The outstanding garden will be judged for proper fencing, number of vegetables, quality of produce, amount of fall vegetables, and general care. Token prizes will be awarded for the best garden and recognition given by placing a photo in the office.

Each family will be encouraged to participate in home surrounding improvements during lax seasons. Participants and their improvements made will be recorded on an official list in the office, after the members reporting are spot checked by the agents.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

The addition of two families in the farm and home development program was made in November of 1959. The father in one of the original nine families was deceased, and one family moved out of the state.

The new families are:

J. F. Boone of Lummis Community - age 32 - a wife and one child. They operate a filling station over which they live. Boone owns eight acres of land and rents 15 other acres. He has constructed three rental

FORESTRY

Farmers are becoming more and more aware of the value of tree-farming as a source of income. Through proper management and fore-sight, this^{is} an item of value to leave the coming generation.

Woodland management practices and marketing procedure information will be made available to the demonstrators. An attempt will be made to have at least two 4-H members with forestry projects to conduct 4-H pine seedling projects.

FARM AND HOME UNIT DEMONSTRATION

The Boykins family of Lussais Community was selected in 1945 as an Extension unit demonstrator. All members of this family have done outstanding work in all phases of the Extension Program. Mr. Boykins has been in the hospital for the past four months with a heart condition. Mrs. Boykins and sons have been carrying on the farm work with commendable efficiency.

The Earnest Hall family of Chuckatuck Community is being selected to conduct a live-at-home demonstration to be observed in 1960. The Halls began their Extension Program participation by attending Farm and Home Week at Virginia State College in July of 1959. They have since become regular attending members of the County Advisory Board. During 1959, they boast of not having purchased any thing in the grocery store except items not grown in the county. They raised 40 hogs of which they butchered and packaged all cuts of pork for deep freezing, raised their own poultry, butchered their beef, produced sufficient vegetables and canned their own fruits. Their returns from cash crops were above the average for the county.

chickens, garden and food preservation.

SHEEP

"With the wool incentive program in effect, returns from wool can be expected to be about the same in 1960 as in 1959. Profits from the sheep enterprise will, therefore, be either about the same in 1959 or be lower depending upon whether early or late lambs are produced." - Virginia Farm Economics - Nov. 1959.

Livestock farmers in the county are getting into the sheep business more and more each year. The income from wool as well as meat seems to be the cause and herds are established where pastures are available.

Work will be continued with the demonstrations being conducted by L. K. Boykins and L. M. Folk. Mr. Boykins and sons do their own shearing and a large per cent of the shearing in the county.

POULTRY

The poultry outlook for 1960 as stated in the Virginia Farm Economics, indicated that poultry will experience severe competition with red meats and pork. The general economic condition indicates: High disposable consumer income, higher total production of most farm products, and higher cost of farm supplies. Consumers who have more additional income available for food purchases tend to upgrade their diet. Thus, they will buy more expensive meats and the fruits and vegetables regarded as being more healthful. Under this assumption, consumer purchases of poultry (which is regarded and priced as an economy meat) will apt to decline.

Six poultry demonstrations will be conducted this year and special efforts made to encourage the raising of flocks for home consumption by farmers with a source of home grown feed. This will be done through farm visits, radio broadcasts, meetings and circulars.

stantial sales during April and May to escape the customary low prices in the fall.

Six demonstrations will be carried in proper feeding and management practices. The above outlook information will be kept in mind in assisting with herd planning. Emphasis will be placed upon improving of herds during farm visits, meetings, showing of posters and attendance at the local breeding stock sales.

BEEF CATTLE

There were 4,400 cattle in the county in 1954 of which 2,300 were beef animals. The number of cattle indicated an upward trend since 1948.

One beef cattle demonstration will be continued with 15 animals. Stress will be placed upon pasture management and marketing outlook.

DAIRY

"Currently, the dairy industry is enjoying a closer balance between production and consumption at market prices than at any time since 1952. This situation is reflected not so much in an improvement in prices, but rather in the reduced dairy support activity of the U.S. Government. For the second year in a row production has declined while consumption has increased with population growth. In Virginia, however, production for 1959 reversed the drop in 1958 and increased nearly 2%. Virginia Farm Economics - Nov. 1959.

The number of families with milk cows in the county has declined in recent years, but the number of cows on milk producing farms has increased. Many families do not have sufficient milk for their youngsters as indicated by a survey made in the 4-H Clubs.

With the increase in off-farm employment, attempts will be made to include the milk cow in the farm plan of part-time farmers along with

continued with emphasis upon the improvement of the stand.

LIVESTOCK

SWINE

Swine production in the county is a major source of farm income. The Virginia Economics - Nov. 1959 states: "Hog prices have been under severe pressure since the beginning of 1959 and continued to edge lower throughout the year. Prices will probably average about \$5 to \$6 below the \$20 average of 1958 and be the lowest on record since 1956. Some improvement over the November low may occur during December or January, but prices during the first quarter of 1960 will probably average \$2 to \$3 below the \$16.45 Virginia hog price for the same period a year ago. Increased hog production has been due largely to two factors - higher hog prices and lower feed prices. The "hog-corn price ratio" reached record highs during 1958 and continued above the long-time average during much of 1958. Producers reacted in the normal manner to these favorable prices and expanded their swine enterprises. The results have been increased supplies and lower prices. Hog prices will remain low throughout 1960, but the most critical period in the current cycle will likely be in the late fall of 1960, for at least two reasons. First, beef supplies will be more plentiful and at a lower price in 1960 than in 1959. Second, the farrowing pattern, as indicated by September estimates, may not be as smooth as in 1958 or 1959, because of increased number of May and March pigs. A substantial improvement in prices will be likely by mid-1961."

Nansemond farmers were affected by an outbreak of cholera in 1959 and some herds suffered heavy losses. Many farmers made their most sub-

COTTON

The county's cotton acreage has declined from 7,700 acres in 1931 to 1,407 acres in 1954. This decline has been gradual over the entire period and the yield per acre has greatly increased during this same period. There is a cotton acreage allotment on the farms where cotton is grown.

Work will be continued with cotton producers to obtain increased staple length and insect control. Farm visits will be made to stress spacing, fertilizing, and side dressing with nitrogen and potash.

SOYBEANS

The production of soybeans in the county has doubled since 1940. The yield per acre has remained relatively stable.

Virginia Farm Economics - Nov. 1959 states, "Although Virginia farmers harvested a record 277,000 acres of soybeans in 1959, production was somewhat below the 6 million bushels produced 1958 as a result of a drop in yield from 22.5 to 21 bushels per acre. Average prices received by Virginia farmers for soybeans have held close to \$2.00 per bushel which is, as usual, slightly above the national average."

Nansemond County was in the quarantined area with farms infested with the Soybean Cyst Nematode and on December 30, 1959 the number of farms affected was 35.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of farmers raising soybeans for combining. The practice of seeding soybeans and corn for hogging down purposes is followed by large swine producers.

ALFALFA

Alfalfa for hay comprises 81 acres in comparison to 1,951 acres devoted to all hay production in the county. One demonstration will be

will be judged by the quality of his peanuts and the yield.

CORN

Nansemond ranks second in the state in raising hogs and acres of corn to be harvested. (U.S. Census - 1950). Corn is sold commercially in the county, but there is no acreage allotment control.

The goal is to further the interest in increasing corn yields in the county by selecting six demonstrators for corn production. Attempts will be made to have each demonstrator to exhibit a bushel at the Annual Fair.

A copy of the Handbook of Agronomy will be given each demonstrator and assistance given with testing his soil. Assistance will be given in carrying out the practices through farm visits and each demonstrator's corn measured and the results recorded. The best demonstrator will be judged by the quality and yield of his corn.

PASTURE

Pasture acreage is being increased and lime applied when the Ph is below 6.0. The number of soil tests made for pasture improvement has increased during the past five years.

Soil tests will be made of all new pastures with the hope of getting farmers conscious of the value of proper fertilizing for good pasture growth.

Six pasture demonstrations will be conducted and a field meeting held at the most promising one. The best pasture will be judged according to stand, fencing, and grazing management.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In selecting the farmers to conduct the demonstrations upon which they have agreed, every effort will be made to get them to follow the accepted recommendation for top production. Attempt will be made to sell them the idea that they must not only get two stalks of corn to grow where one formerly grew, but they must improve the costs of production, and top quality products will pay a dividend at the market.

PEANUTS

Nansemond ranks third in the state in peanut production and 21st in the nation. (U.S. Census 1950). Virginia Farm Economics, November, 1959 states: "Peanut production in 1959, both in Virginia and in the United States, was smaller than the large crop of 1958. Prospective supplies of all peanuts are well above domestic needs for food and farm uses, as a result, the Commodity Credit Corporation will acquire a substantial portion of the crop. Farm prices for the 1959 crop average close to the support loan value, which is nearly 10% lower than the 1958 loan level. The average price received by Virginia peanut producers for the 1958 crop was about 11 cents per pound."

Larger yields and Better Quality Peanuts - Circular 413 - states that the average yield of peanuts in Virginia can be increased 25 per cent in the next few years through better production practices.

The goal is to establish six demonstrations, following recommendations in Circular 413 mentioned above.

The method of approach will be to give a copy of this circular to each demonstrator and assist him with taking a soil sample, with follow-up visits to assist in carrying out the practices. The best demonstrator

and have a tour to these farms and homes by other young farm family groups to observe and give encouragements.

3. The production of more of the family's food supply to save expenditures made to food stores by low income families.

The goal is to get as many families in Corinth Chapel (Community Improvement participant) to raise home gardens with such gardens being judged and token prizes given by the community club. A bulk supply of seeds will be purchased with the prize money from the state contest and a small amount given to each family to get the contest started.

4. The need for an increased desire to utilize time during lax seasons to make repairs around the house, on out-buildings, farm machines and general clean-up.

A list of all farm families making improvements and showing their interest by reporting the same to the office between November 15th and December 15th will be recorded and sent out to reporting members, after being spot checked by the agents.

5. The need for increased participation of 4-H boys in the Annual Market Hog Show and Sale and the Sweet Potato Show and Sale.

The goal is to get 10 or more boys to exhibit hogs, and five or more to exhibit sweet potatoes. The method of approach will be to get signed forms from the 4-H boy and his parent before March 15th as to their plan to participate. Special efforts will be made to visit these boys monthly during the spring and summer to supervise the care and the carrying out of their projects.

Clubs in the county. This Council holds training meetings and assists in sponsoring 4-H Club activities.

Other activities are sponsored by community groups and are carried out through local community club meetings and demonstrations.

SOME MAJOR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS
(With Goals and Methods of Approach)

1. The need for increased farm income to keep abreast with the cost of living through the production of more and better quality crops and livestock.

The goal is to establish rotating field crop demonstrations in peanuts, corn, soybeans, sweet potatoes, truck crops; ten demonstrations in swine, sheep, dairy cattle, pasture, small grain and poultry; and three demonstrations in forestry.

The method to be used in conducting these demonstrations will be to establish rotating field crop enterprises with emphasis geared to production management and marketing practices, and the livestock enterprises geared to pasture and feeding demonstrations along with quality animals, preparation for marketing and marketing outlook.

The direct approach will be included in the further content of this plan under each enterprise listed. An honor roll of the best demonstrator in each enterprise will be made and recognition given with an interviewed radio broadcast by each person and a group picture made for the office and for each individual so recognized.

2. The need for better short and long-time farm and home plans for small operators who have one or more members employed off the farm.

The goal is to work closely with Farm and Home Development families

Practically all of the secondary roads in the county are hard surfaced and telephone and electric service is available to most families.

Sales from crops make up 70.7 per cent of the total value of farm products sold and livestock sales account for 27.8 per cent of the total farm income.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The County Board of Supervisors is the legal organization that heads up the County's Agricultural Extension Program.

The County Advisory Board is composed of leaders from the five magisterial districts in the county, which assists in fostering the work of the Extension Program and serves as the over-all sponsoring body in promoting better living among the people of the area. This organization of volunteer leaders meet quarterly, sponsor county activities, and represent the county at state events with delegates and funds.

The Agronomy Committee is composed of six members which are rotated each year with the two older position members being discharged and two new members added. Solution to many major agronomy problems are attempted and members of this committee and other selected farmers serve as result field crop demonstrators.

The Forestry Committee of three members was selected to carry a forestry program in management methods and result demonstrations. Members of this committee have been retained during the past five years, and serve as leaders in forestry enterprises in different sections of the county.

The 4-H Junior Council is composed of all officers from the 13 4-H

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

In order to effectively plan and adjust an agricultural program to meet the needs of the people involved, it appears desirable that some pertinent facts of the county should be considered.

In Nansemond County there are 436 Negro farm operators engaged in field crops and livestock farming. Of these 436 operators, there are 195 full owners and 87 part-owners. The total land acreage tended by all Negro operators is 25,564 and the average size farm is 54 acres.

In 1959, the total county's population was 25,238 of which 65.3 per cent (16,490) were Negroes. The farm population was 7,281, making up 28.8 per cent of the total for the county. This indicates an estimated 12,000 Negro rural non-farm people.

The rural non-farm people live mainly in the suburbs of Suffolk and in several "village-like" settlements throughout the county. Many of these people are employed in agricultural related businesses in the area such as peanut processing companies, meat packing houses, fertilizer plants, lumber mills, basket factories, and a large vegetable canning plant. There are several small stores and filling stations operated by farm people for a supplementary source of income.

There are sixty rural churches and 16 rural schools with four teachers or less per school and two county high schools. Four-H Clubs are organized and meet monthly in 12 of the above mentioned schools, with a total enrollment of 872 members in 1959. Approximately 30 of the above churches have other rooms besides the chapel that are used for committee meetings or out-of-church organizations.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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

EXTENSION SERVICE
County Agent Work

PLAN OF WORK
1960

COUNTY Nansemond

Name H. F. Lancaster
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed February 26, 1960