

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

PLAN OF WORK

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

1960

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COUNTY SITUATION

Nottoway County area was first settled in 1690 but was later formed from Amelia County in 1788. It was named after an Indian tribe and is located in Southside Virginia. The counties bordering it are Amelia, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Lunenburg and Prince Edward.

There are 1089 farms in the county of 108 square miles, and 197,120 acres. In 1955 the average farm had 107.5 acres, comparing with 1595 farms in 1940, with 91.6 acres per farm. Of the present 1089 farms, 504 have less than 50 total acres and 765 of them have less than 30 acres of cropland. About 65% of the total land is woodland, exclusive of "public reserve and other commercial forest land". Most of this is heavily mixed with low grade hardwoods. There are 42,169 acres of cropland, 19,498 of pasture, and 2,648 of idleland.

Agriculture is the most important industry, with manufacturing increasing in recent years. The 1955 census showed that livestock and livestock products sold for \$1,416,995.00, whereas crops sold for a value of \$1,352,522.00. Prior to 1955 crops brought in more farm income than livestock.

The average rainfall is 45 inches, with a growing season of about 200 days. The topography is gently rolling, with the soils mostly sandy clay and sandy loam. Most of the farmers are switching from family size tobacco farms to dairy and general farming operations and family size with two or more sources of income. The principle types of farms are dairying, flue-cured tobacco, fire-cured tobacco, beef cattle and poultry. The farm labor problem is most serious and what is available is inefficient and too high for most farmers. Many farmers have invested rather heavily in farm machinery to overcome the labor problem.

There is a local livestock auction market and a fire-cured tobacco market located in Blackstone. The closest flue-cured tobacco market is located at Kenbridge and all other farm markets are thirty or more miles from the county.

The population of the county is 15,479, based on the 1950 census, with 35% farm, 42% non-farm, and 23% urban. There are 8,689 white and 6,739 non-white people. There are three towns located in the county; Blackstone 3,536, Crewe 2,250, and Burkeville 700.

The 1089 farms are owned by 59% white and 41% non-white, with about 88% of the taxes of the county being paid by white people. There is no colored farm agent but there is a colored home agent.

Additional detail information on the county situation can be found in the 1958 Nottoway County Long-Time Extension Program of Work.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Nottoway County Agricultural Planning Group in 1960 is based on five agricultural commodity committees and a publicity committee and 4-H committee. The five commodity committees are Agronomy, Soil Conservation, Poultry, Forestry and Dairy. This is the second year that the Soil Conservation Committee was set up, and this was done because the Agronomy Committee felt that their field was too broad for detailed planning. The Soil Conservation Committee work closely with the Soil Conservation Service personnel.

I. AGRONOMY

A. Present Situation and Trends

There are only 1222.6 acres of Flue-cured and 350.6 acres of Fire-cured tobacco in Nottoway County. Tobacco producers have increased the amount of fertilizer per acre, spaced tobacco closer and topped it higher to increase the per acre yields. This has helped in causing allotment cuts, and to lower the quality of tobacco. Serious losses to the tobacco crops are increasing each year as more blackshank, Granville wilt and nematodes occur.

More and more farmers are taking soil samples and getting fertilizer and lime recommendations for growing tobacco and other farm crops and pastures.

The average yield per acre of alfalfa in 1955 was 2.1 Tons; corn 25.2 bushels; flue-tobacco 1283 pounds, and silage 7.8 Tons.

Hay is needed during the year due to drought and other feed shortages. Many farmers are using supplemental pastures.

B. 1960 Objectives and Methods to be Used to Accomplish Them.

1. To get at least three tobacco farmers set up a tobacco-
oats-rescue rotation to control nematodes by:
 - a. Contacts of Extension Agents
 - b. Assistance of Committee members and Soil
Conservation Personnel.

2. To get 600 soil samples taken by Nottoway Farmers to
determine lime and fertilizer needs to assist farmers
toward efficient plantfood applications by:
 - a. Personal contact by Extension Agents and Soil
Conservation personnel.
 - b. Radio, newspaper and meetings.
 - c. A.S.C. office personnel.

3. To get 70% of the livestock farmers to grow more of their
yearly forage needs early in the summer before dry months.
 - a. To hold a forage tour for farmers of Nottoway
county.
 - b. Publicize the value of red clover as a substitute
for lespedeza, in a three year rotation.
 - c. Encourage small grain for winter pasture and
early hay crops.
 - d. Continue to stress alfalfa and alfalfa-grass
mixtures.
 - e. To keep farmers informed on the latest recom-
mendations for the control of insects on
alfalfa.

II. SOIL CONSERVATION

A. Situation

The soil survey made in Nottoway County in 1952-53 shows that there is much need for better land use in the county. There are many soil types found in this county and many ten acre fields will have from ten to fifteen soil types in them. Many soils are not being seeded to the crops most suited. Many of the farmers who are soil conservation cooperators have out-dated farm plans or do not have a conservation plan at all.

B. 1960 Objectives and Methods to be Used to Accomplish Them

1. To attempt to get 25 new basic farm plans set up during 1960 by:
 - a. Soil Conservation personnel
 - b. Personal contact of Committee members
 - c. Personal contact and close cooperation of all Agricultural Workers.
2. To revive 10 existing plans in 1960 by,
 - a. Soil Conservation personnel
 - b. By Committee Members and Agricultural Workers encouraging cooperators to revive old Soil Conservation plans.
3. To get more farmers to participate in the following permanent ACP practices, by:
 - a. Get more strip cropping
 - b. Get more contour farming
 - c. Encourage use of sod waterways
 - (1) By ASC Office contacts
 - (2) By agricultural workers' contact.
 - (3) By soil conservation committee members.
4. To get three tobacco farms set up a tobacco-oat-fescue rotation to control erosion by:
 - a. Contacts by Soil Conservation personnel
 - b. Contacts by County Agricultural workers through personal contacts
 - c. Assistance of Committee members.
5. To get a year round pasture program set up of grasses and legumes on two farms.
 - a. Cooperation of Soil Conservation personnel and Extension Agents.
6. To set up at least one Spring Development demonstration during 1960.

III. DAIRY

A. Situation

Dairying has grown rapidly over the last ten years, with some 55 Grade A dairies at present, making it the second largest source of income in the County. There is additional

interest in dairying but the problem of obtaining a milk base keeps most of these people out. Some dairymen are moving to a year-round forage program, but many need a sounder one and to conduct a stricter disease program. There are only 14 of these herds testing under the DHIA. Most of the herds use the services of the Nottoway Artificial Breeding Association some, but many need to breed a larger number of cows in this manner. The bulk tanks are rapidly being installed in the county. There are seven herds testing in the owner-sampling program.

B. Objectives and Methods to be Used to Accomplish them.

1. To get 90% of heifer calves 4 to 8 months of age vaccinated for Brucellosis by:
 - a. Agents contacting livestock farmers by letter every three months to secure lists of farmers with heifers to be vaccinated.
 - b. By agents setting up schedule for Veterinarian to vaccinate.
2. To promote prevention of Mastitis through better management practices:
 - a. Agents and Inseminators to see that Mastitis posters are erected in the dairy barns so men milking will see them.
 - b. Agent send out monthly bulletins on the control of Mastitis.
 - c. Committee members to stress the need for controlling Mastitis to other dairymen.
3. Investigate possibilities of herd routine checks for better herd management:
 - a. Agents and Committee members to survey dairymen interested in routine checks.
 - b. Agents call meeting of dairymen, Extension Veterinarian, and local Veterinarian to attempt to work out details.
4. To try to get 5 dairymen on an I.B.M. Program by:
 - a. Agents discussing I.B.M. Program at dairy meetings.
 - b. Personal contacts by Agents.

5. To encourage dairymen to feed a larger amount of forage the year round by,
 - a. Agents and Committee members emphasizing the value of corn silage.
 - b. Agents encouraging farmers to produce more hay and feed it heavier when needed.
 - c. Agents to point out the advantages of green forage feeding.
6. To encourage the serving of milk whenever possible, by
 - a. Publicizing June a Dairy month.
 - b. Agents and Committee members encouraging civic and farm groups to serve milk at the dinner meal.

IV. FORESTRY

A. Situation

The total land area of Nottoway County is 67% wooded, exclusive of "public reserve" and other commercial forest land. This amounts to 132,200 acres, most of which has a below average sale value due to hardwood growth crowding out desirable species.

In 1955 there were 18 sawmill operators and ten other dealers of timber in the county.

Forest products are an important source of income in the county's economy. Recent reforestation and improved management practices are being directed toward a greater timber growth.

In 1957, with the help of the county owned tree planter and two dozen planting bars, there were \$21,000 tree seedlings planted.

B. Objectives and Methods to be Used to Accomplish Them.

1. To promote and publicize towards setting up an adult and Junior County Forestry Club for the 1960-1961 year by:
 - a. Contacting F.F.A. Chapters
 - b. Working through 4-H Clubs.
 - c. Personal contact of farmers by Agents.
 - d. Erecting signs on Forestry Demonstration
 - e. Stressing A.C.P. Cost-Sharing practices.

2. To get 900,000 seedling planted in 1960 by:
 - a. Radio and newspaper
 - b. Promoting use of County planter operated by local man on a contract basis.
 - c. Use of the 2 1/2 handplanters available to farmers at County Agent's office.
 - d. By personal contact by Agent and Committee members.
 - e. Secure 2 1/2 planting bars for use in county.
3. To recommend a candidate for Tree Farmer Award, by:
 - a. Having committee to select a farmer
 - b. To send in recommendations by April 1.
4. To encourage Woodland Owners to use the services available through the Virginia Division of Forestry by:
 - a. Use of News Articles
 - b. Personal contact of Agents and Committee members.
 - c. Farm Organizations

V. POULTRY

A. Situation

Nottoway County in 1954 ranked 43rd among counties in broilers, however a number of broiler houses in the county now are empty. In egg production the county ranks 51st and some feed dealers are encouraging the use of cage layers. The present low price of eggs is holding farmers from going into layers too fast.

The county is close enough to Richmond and Norfolk that egg producers could economically market their eggs, but there is now no going local market for eggs. Three local feed dealers are carrying eggs to grading stations in Richmond.

B. 1960 Objectives and Methods to be used to accomplish them.

1. To keep the Poultrymen informed with the latest management and Research information by:
 - a. Holding meetings on same during the year.
 - b. Personal contact by Agents
 - c. Encouraging better and more complete records.

2. To set up a 4-H Club Sears Pullet Chain with 10 club members, by:
 - a. Personal contact of Agents to secure interested club members with facilities.
 - b. Routine visits of Agents to maintain management and proper records.
 - c. Using money provided by sponsors to promote contest.
3. To publish an egg month, by:
 - a. News releases on the value of eggs
 - b. News releases on the uses of eggs in recipes.
 - c. Attempt to get local support of poultrymen and feed companies to advertise eggs.

VI. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The County Extension Agents will continue to work with families already in the program. With the full time assistant several new families will be added under this program. The families will be assisted with individual farm problems as well as with the entire farm planning. The agents will also encourage these families to enroll in the IBM record record programs.

Other agricultural agencies will be consulted when a problem arises in relation to their field of work.

VII. 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

There are twenty-two 4-H Clubs organized and meeting regularly during 1960 in Nottoway County. Eighteen of these clubs meet during school hours, which limits these meetings from forty-five minutes to one hour. The other clubs are community clubs that meet at night and are composed of high school students. It is becoming harder and harder to hold meetings in the older age groups due to the many high school and community activities.

County organizations in the club program include the County Council, Honor Club and All-Star Group. There is an urgent need for project and organizational leaders in the County Club Program.

B. 4-H Objectives

1. Organization Work

- a. To plan the 4-H County Activities through the County Council, which will meet four times during the year.
- b. To have each club participate in the National 4-H Club Week, Talent Show, Rural Life Sunday, County Picnic and Achievement Day.
- c. To train Honor Club members to be active junior leaders in their local clubs and to develop their own individual contest record.
- d. To solicit the County All-Stars to assist in various phases of the County Club program by serving as project leaders and with activities.
- e. To encourage each 4-H Club to have a representative to attend an out-of-county activity, such as District Camp, Short Course or Conservation Camp.

2. 4-H Project Work

- a. To develop a greater interest and appreciation for dairy cattle and dairy foods products.
 - (1) To have club members of all school clubs to enroll in the Introduction to Dairying project.
 - (2) To teach these members the difference between the major dairy breeds.
 - (3) To teach these members the value of milk and milk products.
- b. To conduct a County Tractor project for those club members interested.
 - (1) Get a local project leader to assist with this project.
- c. To conduct an automotive care and safety project.
- d. To assist members in the selection of out-of-school project.
- e. To assist club members in the following projects; crops, livestock, poultry, and garden, by having

project meetings for these projects.

f. To encourage every member to complete project records.

- (1) Require up-to-date record to go to camp.
- (2) Soliciting help of local leaders.
- (3) County Achievement Awards.

g. Explain how and encourage members to keep permanent records.

VIII. PUBLICITY

The three weekly newspapers of the County publish weekly columns of the Agents. The Richmond Times Dispatch daily is subscribed to by a large number of Nottoway people. Four rural farm organizations meet regularly each month, which the agent has a close contact with. The present County Publicity Committee is composed of Ed Silverman of the Blackstone Courier, Record, Mr. James Eans, Editor of the Crewe-Burkeville Journal, and Jody Rainwater of Radio Station WSVS and Harris Umstead of Radio Station WCLV. All of these committee members give excellent cooperation with the Agent in publicizing the total extension program through their publicity medium.

The agent will maintain good cooperation with the above groups in attempting to reach all the people of the county. The agent also will keep new and timely bulletins on the Extension bulletin racks he has in farm and country stores.

IX. CALENDAR OF WORK

A. January

1. Meet 4-H Clubs.
2. Work on Agricultural Program Planning.
3. Publicize soil samples.
4. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.
5. Hold County Council Meeting
6. Hold County Honor Club Meeting.
7. Held Community Tobacco Meetings.
8. Stress the Planting of seedlings.

B. February

1. Meet with 4-H Clubs.
2. Complete Agricultural Program plans.
3. Set up office filing system.
7. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.

C. March

1. Meet with 4-H clubs.
2. Work with 4-H Judging teams and demonstration teams.
3. Assist clubs with National 4-H Club Week Activities.
4. Assist club members with State Contest Records.
5. Stress alfalfa and alfalfa grass mixtures.
6. Set up Brucellosis Calfhood Vaccination Schedule.
7. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.

D. April

1. Meet 4-H Clubs
2. Work with 4-H Judging and Demonstration teams.
3. Assist with District Contests.
4. Assist with County Talent Show
5. Assist with plans for Wool Pool
6. Do some work on Farm and Home Management
7. Select Tree Farmer.

E. May

1. Meet h-H Clubs
2. Hold plans to develop Forestry Clubs
3. Hold Rural Life Sunday
4. Stress value of summer pastures (sudan grass and millet) and give seeding recommendations.
5. Hold Wool Pool.
6. Collect h-H Dairy Project Books
7. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.

F. June

1. Meet Senior h-H Clubs.
2. Assist h-H club members going to Short Course
3. Make final arrangements for h-H District Camp.
4. Arrange calfhood vaccination schedule.
5. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.
6. Plan County h-H club picnic.

G. July

1. Attend District h-H Club Camp
2. Meet Senior h-H Clubs.
3. Encourage attendance at Institute of Rural Affairs.
4. Contact Farmers to participate in County Farmers Days
5. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.
6. Publicize Forestry club.

H. August

1. Meet Senior 4-H Clubs.
2. Hold Honor Club Camp
3. Attend Extension Conference
4. Contact farmers to participate in County Farmers Days.
5. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.
6. Publicize Forestry Club.

I. September

1. Reorganize 4-H Clubs.
2. Collect record books.
3. Work on Farmers Days.
4. Assist Farmers consigning feeder calves with health requirements for the feeder calf sale.
5. Stress fall and winter pastures.
6. Arrange calfhood vaccination schedule.
7. Do some Farm and Home Management work.

J. October

1. Meet 4-H Clubs.
2. Collect Record Books.
3. Assist Club Members in selection of out of school projects and assist with starting records.
4. Hold County Council Meeting.
5. Assist with Farmers Days.
6. Assist with Petersburg Feeder Calf Sale.
7. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.

K. November

1. Meet h-H Clubs.
2. Hold County Achievement Day
3. Assemble h-H Club reports.
4. Prepare Annual Extension Report.
5. Urge the planting of Pine Seedlings.
6. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.

L. December

1. Meet h-H clubs
2. Urge the planting of Seedlings.
3. Arrange calfhood vaccination schedule.
4. Do some work on Farm and Home Management.