

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

COUNTY Nansemond

YEAR 1958

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Date Mailed Dec. 18, 1957

### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Nansemond County is situated in the extreme Southeastern part of Tidewater, Virginia. There are 507 Negro farm operators engaged in field crops and livestock farming. Of this number, 195 are full owners, 87 part owners, 225 tenants and 81 sharecroppers. Peanuts, corn and swine are the major enterprises.

There were 1472 farms in the county in 1950, averaging 101.9 acres each with land and building valued at an average of \$9,729. The farm population was 7,281, making up 28.8 percent of the total for the county.

Sales from crops make up 70.7 percent of the total value of farm products sold while livestock products accounted for 27.8 percent.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION

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

The Advisory Board, Agronomy Committee, Forestry Committee, and 4-H Junior Council consist of local men, women, boys and girls which are responsible primarily for setting up, planning and conducting the Extension work in the county.

The County Advisory Board sponsors a County-wide Farmers Conference, represents at the State Farm and Home Week, set up the Community Improvement work, select Farm and Home Development families and assist with the Annual Tidewater Fair.

The Agronomy Committee is composed of ten members representing the five magisterial districts in the county. These committee members conduct demonstrations in field crops and suggests other possible demonstrators in their areas.

The Forestry Committee was selected to carry forestry practices. Field methods and result demonstrations are planned and carried out.

The 4-H Junior Council is composed of the officers from the 12 4-H Clubs in the county. This Council holds training meetings and assist in sponsoring 4-H Club activities.

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

#### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

1. The need for short and long-time farm and home plans for small operators who have one or more family members employed off the farm.
2. The need for better deversified farm enterprises to subsidize income lost from cash crops effected by the acreage allotment control program.
3. The need for better distribution of farm income between the farm and home units and the elimination of "money leakage."
4. The need for better care of farm machinery and improved housing for animals and equipment.
5. Special emphasis need on the value of quality as well as quantity of produce. An increase in premium for good farm products at the annual Tidewater Fair would encourage this improvement.

6. Improved and increased livestock needed with emphasis of top grade animals.
7. Increase pasture acreage needed for livestock on hand and in some cases, more livestock and pasture needed.
8. Better records should be kept to determine the successes and failures of the farm business.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

##### PEANUTS

The county ranks third in the state in peanut production and 21st in the nation. (U. S. Census 1950) The 1957 crop is slightly smaller over-all than last year's with a 19% decrease in the Virginia-Carolina area being offset by increase production in the Southwest. (Virginia Farm Economics - November 1957) Little change in Government programs of allotments and supports is seen in the near future.

The goal is to establish ten peanut demonstrations in production methods and one demonstration in weeds chemically controlled.

Two demonstrators will be selected in each of the five Magisterial districts in the county. Farm visits will be made given information on soil testing, spacing, fertilizing and cultivation. Peanut agronomy problems will be discussed in the Agronomy Committee meetings. Slides on peanut production will be obtained and shown at two different localities. Assist Mr. L. K. Boykins of Holland Community in obtaining and applying chemical for weed control.

##### CORN

The county ranks second within the state in raising hogs and acres of corn to be harvested. (U. S. Census - 1950) Corn is sold commercially

in the county.

The goal is to further the interest in increasing corn yields in the county and to conduct six 100 bushel corn demonstrations.

Demonstrators will be selected through the Agronomy Committee and through farm visits. Assistance will be given in seed selection, fertilizers, rate of planting, cultivation, top-dressing and measuring for yields. The best demonstration will be visited on a tour. Liquid nitrogen demonstration conducted by Mr. Robert Langston for the second year will be continued.

#### PASTURE

Pasture acreage is being increased and Lime applied when the ph is below 6.0. The number of soil tests made for pastures have doubled in the past year.

Soil samples will be taken for all new pastures with the hope of getting farmers conscious of the value of ~~all~~ these tests for good pasture growth. One additional pasture will be established in each of the five magisterial districts in the county. The Agronomy Committee will assist with the location of these pastures, farm visits, field meetings, distribution of literature, will be used to assist in conducting the demonstration.

The Plant Food Pasture demonstration will be continued on the Farm of Mr. Issac Demiel in Lummis Community for the third year. Soil samples will be taken and a split application of fertilizer applied this year. Care will be taken to prevent over-growth as occurred last year.

### COTTON

The cotton acreage has declined from 7,700 acres in 1931 to 1,407 in 1954. This decline has been gradual over the entire period and the yield per acre has greatly increased during this same period.

Three cotton demonstrations will be continued this year. Increased stable length and insect control will be stressed.

Farm visits will be made to stress proper spacing, fertilization, and the 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. The 1957 production increase, while still large, is the smallest increase since 1953 and may indicate a leveling-off. (Virginia Farm Economics - November 1957). The National Support Level is \$2.09 per bushel.

Two soybean demonstrations will be conducted in the eastern section of the county for commercial purposes. The practice of seeding soybeans and corn for hogging-down purposes will be stressed with large swine producers.

### ALFALFA

Alfalfa for hay comprised 81 acres in comparison to 1591 acres devoted to all-hay production in the county. One demonstration will be continued. Emphasis will be placed upon improvement of stand.

### LIVESTOCK

#### SWINE

Swine production in the county is a major source of farm income. The Virginia Farm Economics - November 1957 states: "Hog prices at the end

of 1957 and the beginning of 1958 will not be as high as a year earlier. The greatest weakness in hog prices will occur as the spring crop of pigs come to the market. The real danger in the outlook is that hog producers may over-expand the market production under the impetus of the favorable 1957 hog-corn ratio. Under any circumstance prices in 1958 are not likely to maintain the relatively high level of 1957."

Seven demonstrations will be carried on proper feeding and management practices. Stress will be placed upon early farrowing and marketing which indicates a relative advantage over late pigs.

Emphasis will be placed upon improvement of herds during farm visits, meetings, showing of posters, and attendance at local breeding stock sales.

#### BEEF CATTLE

There were 4,400 cattle in the county in 1954 of which 2300 were beef animals. The number of cattle indicates an upward trend since 1948 and is the highest point on record. The 1958 prices are expected to remain close to the 1957 prices.

Two beef cattle demonstrations will be continued with herds of 15 animals each. Stress will be placed on pasture management, and marketing outlook.

#### DAIRY CATTLE

Milk cows have been on the decline in recent years but the milk production per animal has increased. Many families do not produce sufficient milk to supply the family needs.

One farmer in each community will<sup>be</sup> encouraged to carry two or more milk cows in his farming program. 4-H members will be encouraged to carry dairy projects. Quality animals will be exhibited at the Fair.

### SHEEP

"The wool outlook for 1958 looks very similar to that of 1957. The wool incentive price plan, in effect since 1954, will continue through 1958." (Virginia Farm Economics - November 1957)

Mr. L. K. Boykins has established a herd of sheep and is pleased with the result. Work will be continued in management practices. Effort will be made to establish one additional sheep demonstration. Consideration will be given to available pasture area and other farm enterprises.

### POULTRY

The production of poultry for home consumption and market purposes has shown an increase in the past three years. More families should produce more home flocks for family needs.

Seven poultry demonstrations will be continued this year. These flocks were begun with assistance from Mr. A. L. Deane of the Extension Service in 1951. Production records are kept and progress shown through a scoring system.

Three additional demonstrations will be implemented on farms where a need for additional poultry is indicated. These demonstrations will be carried out through farm visits, meetings, circulars, and a result tour.

### FORESTRY

Farmers are becoming more and more aware of the value of their woodland as a part of the farming enterprise. Several land owners who purchased their farms 20 or more years ago have stated that their sales in some cases <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ doubled the purchase price of their farms.

Three forestry demonstrations will be continued. The forestry committee will assist with conducting field meetings, and giving information to people.

Two 4-H Clubs have chosen forestry as their projects and each member is supposed to draw a map of their home and yard. From this map the location of an additional tree will be suggested and each member plans to plant at least one tree at home. It is planned to get assistance later from Dr. Weston at Virginia State to assist with the landscaping of the schools in which these clubs are located.

#### FARM AND HOME UNIT DEMONSTRATION

A farm and home unit demonstration is a selected family in the county that participate in the Extension/<sup>Program</sup> from several angles. This participation embodies the man, woman and children. The Boykins' family of Holland Community has been carrying this demonstration since 1945. During these twelve years, many Extension activities have been conducted. The family farm was purchased, deversified farm program established, increased yeilds obtained, livestock of dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, and sheep enterprises established, farm building and home improvements, and participation of a 4-H member at the Regional Conference, in Kentucky and State Short courses and served as a model family in Extension participation in the county.

During 1957, a farm pond was constructed for livestock water. It served very effectively during the drought this summer.

Plans are being made to assist the two Boykins' boys with sweet potatoe=projects this year and have them exhibit three bushels each at the Fair in the fall.

#### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

Corinth Chapel Community will continue to serve as the demonstration community in the Community Improvement Program. This will be the seventh year this community has served with this phase of the Extension Program.

The eighty-five families will be scored in January and goal set up for the year. Special emphasis will be placed upon improved farm production methods, family food supply, outside and inside home improvements, family clothing, and family participation in community organizations.

Special plans will be implemented to assist the part-time farm families with a combined on and off farm plan to get the maximum returns from available resources. Home gardens, commercial poultry flocks, and special one or two acre truck crops as time and resources will dictate.

#### FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Six families were enrolled in the Farm and Home Development program at the beginning of 1957. Three families were added at mid-year. The men of these families were World War II veterans and had been enrolled in the Veteran On The Farm Training Program until the termination of their entitlement.

There are no plans to add additional families this year. Special efforts will be made to assist with carrying out the short-time goal which will be on a year's base. Some of the methods to be used will be to take soil samples, plan crop rotations, secure baby chicks, and assist with general farm and home improvement.

The Wiggins family planned in 1957 to construct a home. Extension plans were given them and a dwelling plan selected. Work will be continued

to encourage them to get started. Mr. Wiggins works part time as a carpenter.

The Copeland Family had 20 acres of land cleared with a bull-dozer in 1957. Assistance will be given in incorporation of this additional land into the farming program. He has begun an enterprise in hog raising and seeding of pastures.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

There are 329 boys enrolled in 12 4-H Clubs in the county. These Clubs will meet for one hour once a month during school hours. Last year in most of the small clubs, instruction was confined to one project in each club. These projects were selected by the members according to the interest of the majority of the members. Other projects were selected by some members which could be conducted at home.

Club projects for this year will be Electricity, Garden and Forestry. Special emphasis project will be Tractor Maintenance and Market hogs, which will be a continuation of last years' project work. Attempt will be made to enroll 15 boys in sweet potatoes as a project as preparation for a Sweet Potato Show at the Tidewater Fair in October. Each member will be expected to exhibit three bushels of well selected potatoes at the fair.

The Market Hog Show is planned for 1958. Ten boys will be assisted with their projects and will be expected to exhibit 30 hogs at the Show in October.

Five boys will continue work in tractor maintenance and are expected to participate in a Tractor Driving contest.

Four-H members will participate at the 4-H Short Course, Wildlife Conference, Annual Tidewater Fair, and Tractor Clinic. The 4-H Junior Council will plan for observance of National 4-H Club Week, Rural Life Sunday and one recreational activity.

COOPERATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

In order to further the Extension Program, farmers will be informed as to work of other Federal Agencies in connection with the farming program.

This work will include meetings, demonstrations, personal conferences and activities pertaining to the Extension Program.

COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board Meeting . . . . . January  
Farmers' Conference. . . . . February  
Pasture Field Meeting. . . . . March  
National 4-H Club Week. . . . . March  
Advisory Board Meeting . . . . . April  
State Advisory Board Awards Program . . . . . May  
4-H Rural Life Sunday. . . . . May  
County Advisory Board Meeting. . . . . July  
County Tour. . . . . August  
Tidewater Fair and Sweetpotato Show . . . . . October  
4-H and NFA Livestock Show and Sale . . . . . October

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Mr. S. J. Higginbotham . . . . Farmers Conference. . . . . February  
Mr. T. M. Carter . . . . . County Tour. . . . . July  
Mr. S. E. Marshall . . . . . Livestock Show . . . . .  
Sweetpotato Show . . . . . October  
State College Judges . . . . . Fair Exhibits . . . . . October

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Month

January      Plan for five minute monthly Tape Recorded Broadcast  
Advisory Board Plans for Farmers Conference  
Attend 4-H Meetings  
Soil Samples for Pasture Demonstration  
Farm Planning for Farm and Home Development Work  
Farm Visits to assist with Crop Rotation  
Improvement Community Meeting

February    Agronomy Committee Meeting  
Send Agronomy Circulars to Farmers  
Farmers' Conference - Corinth Chapel Christian Church  
Corinth Chapel Community  
Farm Visits - pasture demonstrators for top-dressing  
Complete 4-H enrollment sheets  
Farm Visits - Corn demonstrators (soil samples)  
Five Minutes Tape Recorded Broadcast

March	Pasture Field Meeting Assist farmers in conducting cotton and peanut demonstrations Assist 4-H members with poultry projects Follow-up 4-H Swine Projects Hold regular 4-H Club Meetings Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast
April	Hold pasture field meeting Assist farmers in conducting cotton and peanut demonstrations Assist 4-H Members with poultry projects Follow-up 4-H Swine Projects. Publicize Extension Activities of the Month Hold regular 4-H Club Meetings Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast
May	Observe 4-H Rural Life Sunday State Advisory Board Awards Program Start Cotton Demonstrations Select delegates to State Short Course Follow-up management demonstrations Assist farmers with improving water systems Stressing improved poultry management Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast
June	Send delegates to 4-H State Short Course Visit 4-H Club Members' Projects Farm visits to assist with top-dressing corn Planning County tour Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast
July	Follow-up 4-H Swine Projects Check corn demonstrators Obtain delegates for Wildlife Conference Hold Soil Conservation Result Demonstration Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast
August	County Tour Hold Meeting at Holland Experiment Station Visit 4-H Club Projects Send delegates to 4-H Wild Life Conference Visit Community Improvement Projects Give publicity of work done Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast ANNUAL LEAVE
September	State Advisory Board Meeting Follow-up 4-H Swine Projects Check Community Improvement Work Check 4-H Work for State Awards Stress seeding of grass and shrubbery Plans for Fair and 4-H Show and Sale Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast

October      Obtaining exhibits for Tidewater Fair  
Work with 4-H Swine and Sweet Potato Show and Sale  
Agents' Conference  
Scoring Community Improvement Work  
Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcast

November     Compile Annual Report  
Compile 4-H Records  
Publicize the work accomplished during the year  
Five Minute Tape Recorded Broadcasts

December     Advisory Board Meeting to plan 1958 Program  
Plan Forestry Demonstration  
Make Plan of Work