

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 BUCKINGHAM

YEAR 1959

Name S. L. JEFFRESS
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed DECEMBER 19, 1958

(1)

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

President	Mr. J. W. Legan Dillwyn, Virginia
Vice-President	Mr. T. H. Allen Dillwyn, Virginia
Secretary	Mrs. Jee Spencer Gladstone, Virginia
Treasurer	Mr. Adelphus Mitchell Cumberland, Virginia

The County Agricultural Advisory Board members represent the different communities in Buckingham County, where Extension work is being conducted.

4-H CLUB JUNIOR COUNCIL

President	Calvin Anderson
Vice-President	Lelia Boulden
Secretary-Treasurer	Mary E. Johnson
Reporter	Evelyn Monroe

Thelma Dean	Christine Patterson
Elaine Hudgins	Mary Smith
Larry Jones	Carrie Hoeker
Jesse Jones	James Harris
Lawrence Rose	Leroy Perkins
Ella E. Bland	Mary Sheemaker
Joe L. Clark	Ernest Washington
Lillian Perkins	Mary E. Teney

The 4-H Junior Council represents the officers of the five 4-H Clubs in the County.

COUNTY SITUATION

Buckingham County was formed from Albemarle in 1761 and probably named for the Duke of Buckingham. In 1950 the total population was 12,288. The County seat, also called Buckingham, had a population of 264. A Courthouse designed by Thomas Jefferson and built in 1825 was burned in 1869, but a similar one was built on the same site.

This county (land area 576 sq. miles or 368,640 acres -- water area 6 sq. miles) is in the Piedmont Plateau. Altitudes run from 300 to 700 feet generally but there are several high points, Willis Mountain, 1,159 feet and Spear Mountain, 1,550 feet. The James River forms the northern and north-western boundary. The Appomattox River forms the extreme Southern boundary. The soil is loam with a red clay subsoil.

With more than three fourths of the total area in forest, the county's economy is closely tied to forestry. Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, including Lee Experimental Forest, lies partly in the county and demonstrates good forestry practices. In recent years Buckingham had led all Virginia counties in pulpwood production and also produces much saw timber, railroad ties, and other items.

In addition to roofing slate, flagging, and slate building blocks, Buckingham industries include canned peaches and tomatoes, lumber and millwork. Manufacturing is second to Agriculture in providing employment for the people of Buckingham, and more farms are operated on a part-time or residential basis than as a main livelihood, for their operators are employed in other fields of work either within the county or in nearby counties. Dark Tobacco, though no longer the principal source of farm income, is still the biggest cash crop. Because of an unusual increase in Broiler production, poultry now contributes the largest share of farm income and places Buckingham twelfth among Virginia counties in this line. Cattle, calves, and hogs also bring in a sizeable portion of farm receipts.

COUNTY POPULATION1954 CENSUS

All non-white operators	482
Full owners	365
Part owners	83
All tenants	129
Sharecroppers	28

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Responsible for many services performed in Buckingham County during 1958 are the various organizations cooperating with the Local Farm Agent to further the Extension program.

- 1- 4-H Junior Council
- 2- Community Improvement Club
- 3- 4-H Clubs
- 4- Agronomy Committee
- 5- County Agricultural Advisory Board

PASTURE

The pastures in Buckingham County are improving considerably, yet they do not meet the full need of farmers. Much of the land now in use is inadequate and could be used advantageously if recommended practices were carried out.

OBJECTIVES

- 10 To establish one more demonstration plot, making a total of 3.
- 2- To get 5 farmers to seed 10 acres in 1959.
- 3- To encourage use of proper amount and analysis of fertiliser.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Circular letters
- 3- Field meetings at demonstration plot.
- 4- Discussing pasture situation with Dairymen and Agronomy Committee.
- 5- News articles

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

General educational activities will include several field trips to demonstration plot, trips to experimental stations, discussions with pasture committee, slide films & movies on pasture, and talks by authority on pasture.

CORN

Most all farmers in Buckingham County produce corn as it is very necessary for livestock and poultry. The average yield is very low because many farmers are not using recommended practices.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To increase 100 bushel corn club from 3 to 6 members.
- 2- To get 10 farmers to increase yield per acre by 15 bu.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Visits to 100 bu corn club members.
- 2- Circular letters
- 3- Farm visits
- 4- Field meetings at corn demonstration plots
- 5- News articles

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Distribution of bulletins on 100 bushel corn procedure, Field meetings at demonstration plots, Distribution of information relating to proper seed and fertilizer for this area, and encouraging every farmer to have soil sample made of their fields.

FORESTRY

Farmers here find it expedient to learn more about forestry products. Buckingham County has been a high producer of these products but at present more trees are being cut than produced. This has caused a great decrease in employment (off farm) as well as in the amount of forestry products harvested. Because of this, more emphasis now is being placed on "Plant More Trees". Many of the farmers are selling their idle land to large cooperations, creating a great problem in the county.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To get 5 farmers to plant 1,000 trees each.
- 2- To encourage farmers to carry out forestry management practices.
- 3- To encourage farmers to use recommended thinning practices

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Forest seeding demonstration
- 3- Circular letters
- 4- News articles
- 5- Slide films

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

These activities will include talks by District Forester, field trips to demonstration plot, planting demonstrations, films on forestry, and distribution of material relating to forestry management.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Very few farmers in Buckingham County have a Soil and Water Conservation plan on their farm. Many farmers are not familiar with the purpose and value of soil and water conservation.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage 2 farmers to start soil and water plans on their farms.
- 2- To encourage farmers to follow plans more closely.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Solicit help of Soil Conservation Service
- 2- News articles
- 3- Circular letters
- 4- Farm visits
- 5- Field trips

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Distribution of bulletins, field meetings at farm with soil and water conservation plan already in practice, group meetings with representative from A. S. C. office to discuss plans with farmers, and slides on conservation practices.

TOBACCO

Tobacco still the most important cash crop in Buckingham County, yet most farmers are below the county average in production. During the past year, many farmers produce good crops, however, the quality of tobacco and yield per acre is not up to average. A large number of farmers are using their own seed and this resulting in poor quality tobacco for marketing purposes.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage more farmers to use recommended seed.
- 2- To encourage farmers to take soil samples and use recommended amount and analysis of fertilizer.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Circular letters
- 3- ~~Plants~~ to demonstration plot
- 4- News articles

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Distribution of bulletins on tobacco, send information on recommended varieties for this area, take soil samples on as many farms as possible, stress the use of recommended amounts and analysis of fertilizer, and field trips to tobacco demonstration plots.

POULTRY

The rapid increases in broiler production have been encouraged to a great extent by broiler financing contracts. It is estimated that 95% to 97% of all broilers produced are financed through the growing operation by feed companies and / or others by some incentive arrangement wherein the producer no longer needs operating capital to produce broilers.

The contract type of poultry raising is becoming increasingly popular in Buckingham. More farmers are finding that this is a good way to supplement their income as well as increase the use of poultry products for home use. Many farmers are not using recommended strains and management practices and as a result are losing money or not making it a very profitable business.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage poultry raisers to use recommended strains of birds.
- 2- To encourage better record keeping
- 3- To encourage increase in number of broilers

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Field meetings at demonstration flocks
- 3- Circular letters and bulletins
- 4- News articles

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Group meetings with poultry raisers, field meetings at demonstration flocks, distribution of bulletins on care and management of poultry, and talks and demonstrations by poultry specialist.

LIVESTOCK

The use of livestock on the farm program is becoming an important factor now that most farmers have to spend a part of their time away from home. Most farmers do not realize the value of having good livestock and are using inferior breeds and poor management practices.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To place two registers breeding animals in the county
- 2- To encourage farmers to keep records
- 3- To encourage farmers to maintain year round feeding program

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Circular letters and bulletins
- 3- Field visits to farms with pure bred stock
- 4- Visits to local market

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Distribution of bulletins, talks with farmers that have pure bred livestock on their farms, field meetings at farms with good stock on them, and field trip to market show and sale.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

In most communities of this county, there are no active groups working to better the conditions in and around their community. Much work along this line is needed since there has been an increase in the number of persons building new homes in most areas.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage all residents of the St. Joy area to assist in painting the Church outside.
- 2- To encourage all residents of the St. Joy area to complete the project of putting name plate on all mail boxes.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Meeting at regular intervals with members
- 2- Community tours
- 3- Circular letters and bulletins
- 4- Farm visits

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

These activities will include moving pictures of community improvement activities, talks by specialists on the subject, news articles and tours.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Most farmers in Buckingham County are placing more stress on Home development and are not bringing up the farm portion of the farm and home development program. It is felt that they do not realize the need for developing both together in order to have a well rounded farming program.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage families to set up home record keeping center
- 2- To encourage to participate in the A.S.C. and A. C.P. plans.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits
- 2- Circular letters
- 3- Talks by representatives of the A.S.C. & A.C.P.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Talks by representatives of the A. S. C. and A. C. P. offices, slide film on progress made on other farms, tours, bulletins, and group discussions.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

- 1- Advisory Board meeting
- 2- Reorganize 5 4-H clubs
- 3- Visit farm and Home unit members
- 4- Attend community club meeting
- 5- Select forestry demonstrators (Adult & 4-H)
- 6- Select tobacco fertilizer demonstrator
- 7- Circular letters explaining value of soil & water plan

FEBRUARY

- 1- Select corn demonstrators
- 2- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 3- Select soil and water demonstrators
- 4- Meeting with Advisory Board
- 5- Check on tobacco demonstration

MARCH

- 1- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 2- Hold leaders training meeting
- 3- Visit corn demonstrators
- 4- Visit poultry demonstrators
- 5- Observe National 4-H Club Week
- 6- Meeting at winter pasture demonstration.
- 7- Attend County Farmers Conference

APRIL

- 1- Start 100 bushel corn club
- 2- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 3- visit soil and water demonstrators
- 4- Attend 4-H Junior Council meeting
- 5- Attend Community club meeting
- 6- Check pasture demonstrations
- 7- Check Forestry demonstration

MAY

- 1- Observe Rural Life Sunday
- 2- Attend community club meeting
- 3- Visit corn demonstrations
- 4- Visit 4-H Projects
- 5- Check all tobacco demonstrations
- 6- Check soil and water demonstrations
- 7- Attend 4-H club meetings

JUNE

- 1- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 2- Visit all pasture demonstrations

JUNE (CONT'D)

- 3- Attend community club meetings
- 4- Visit 4-H projects
- 5- Check all tobacco demonstrations
- 6- Check all corn demonstrations
- 7- Take delegates to annual 4-H short course

JULY

- 1- Field meeting at pasture demonstration
- 2- Soil and water field meeting
- 3- Check tobacco demonstrations
- 4- Circular letter on corn and tobacco field meetings
- 5- Annual 4-H club Picnic
- 6- Attend 4-H club meetings

AUGUST

- 1- Select small grain demonstrators
- 2- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 3- Attend community club meeting
- 4- Visit 4-H Projects
- 5- County tour and Livestock Show and Sale
- 6- Field meeting at Tobacco demonstration
- 7- Field meeting at corn demonstration
- 8- Send delegates to Wildlife conference

SEPTEMBER

- 1- Attend Annual State Advisory Board Meeting.
- 2- Attend Five County Fair
- 3- Achievement Day
- 4- Attend 4-H Club meeting
- 5- Attend community club meeting
- 6- 4-H Junior Council meeting
- 7- Check 100 bushel corn club members
- 8- Visit forestry demonstrations

OCTOBER

- 1- Attend Annual meeting of Farm and Home Agents
- 2- Visit small grain demonstrations
- 3- Visit Forestry demonstrations
- 4- Visit farm and home unit members
- 5- Attend 4-H club meetings
- 6- Attend community club meeting

NOVEMBER

- 1- Prepare annual narrative, statistical and h-H reports
- 2- Attend community club meeting
- 3- Attend h-H club meetings
- 4- Visit small grain demonstrations
- 5- Advisory Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 1- Prepare plan of work for 1960
- 2- Take score on State Community Improvement group
- 3- Attend community club meeting
- 4- Attend h-H club meetings
- 5- Visit winter pasture demonstrations
- 6- Check results of tobacco demonstrations

Other meetings and tours will be planned as advisable.

SPECIALIST NEEDED

February - Agronomy committee meeting	Mr. G. R. Matthew
March - Farmers Conference	Mr. I. C. Peoples Mr. M. T. Carter
April - Forestry	Mr. A. B. Lyon
- Field Crops	Mr. M. T. Carter
- Tobacco	Mr. G. R. Matthew
July - Field Crops	Mrs. M. T. Carter
August - Tobacco	Mr. G. R. Matthew
October - Achievement Day	-