

1960 PLAN OF WORK

STAFFORD COUNTY

Richard C. Beck

County Agent

I. The County Situation

Stafford County is situated at the head of the Northern Neck, bounded on the south by the Rappahannock, on the east by the Potomac Run, on the north by Prince William County and on the west by Fauquier County. The total area of the county is 271 square miles or 173,440 acres. The 1954 census shows 712 farms with 74,805 acres of farmland. There are about 31,465 acres in cropland and pasture and 41,000 in woodland. The average size of farms is 105.1 acres in 1954. The 1950 census showed a population of 11,902 with 87.1% white. A decrease in the number of farmers, large-size farms, and an increase in population is expected in the current census report.

Nearly three-fourths of Stafford's 1949 farm income came from Live-stock, Poultry and Dairy Products. The chief livestock items are cattle, calves and hogs. Field crops consist of corn, small grains, soybeans and hay. The type of agriculture consists mainly of a rotation of grain, hay and pasture. Considerable acreage of cash grain crops is produced along the Rappahannock River. The trend seems to be toward more livestock production.

Facilities available include dial telephone service, two major bus lines, local bus service, over 100 farm ponds and recreational resources including fishing, hunting, camping and two picnic areas.

II. Personnel

The Stafford County Extension Staff consists of the Home Demonstration Agent, Kathleen Goodloe; the County Agent, Richard Beck; and Extension Secretary, Elinor Dickinson.

III. Introduction

The Agricultural Extension Service is the educational arm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, therefore, educational methods and public relations are basic in planning the program of work. Activities for the year will fall in the categories of agriculture commodity committees, community improvement leagues and youth (4-H clubs and the 4-H county council).

Detailed statistical information and the county situation on various commodities were omitted from this report. This information is available from the 5-year long-time plan of work.

IV. Commodity Committees

Livestock

A. Sheep

The sheep committee consisting of George Garrett, Adolph Bartness and Herbert Williams met and outlined the following general problems. They will be considered objectives for the year.

- (1) Need for more experienced sheep shearers
- (2) Practice culling flock, docking and castration of lambs.
- (3) Improve control of parasites
- (4) Strive for early lambs and proper care at lambing time
- (5) Produce quality lambs
- (6) Develop good wool market
- (7) Use better quality replacement ewes and only good purebred rams

The agent with the help of the committee will:

- (1) Hold Sheep School in February with the sheep specialist discussing quality lamb production and wool marketing

- (2) Select wool marketing committee for the year to represent the county for Fredericksburg Pool
- (3) Assist producers in selecting desirable breeding ewes and rams
- (4) Put on parasite control, docking and castrating demonstration in the early spring. Emphasize these practices through the radio and press.
- (5) Interest additional farmers in sheep production by pointing out economics of sheep production.
- (6) Have 4-H boys attend Sheep Shearing School. Take other interested persons to shearing school.
- (7) Publicize Fredericksburg Wool Pool and advise all producers by circular letter.
- (8) Encourage producers to strive for choice and prime lambs. Assist in selection of lambs ready for market.

B. Swine

Much of the swine activities are centered around the 4-H Swine Chain. This phase will be reported under 4-H activities. Some other swine objectives being investigated are:

- (1) Good market for feeder pigs
- (2) Selection of desirable type breeding stock
- (3) Control of diseases and parasites
- (4) Market hogs at proper weights

Methods to be used:

- (1) Conduct swine survey to determine: a. Number of brood sows, b. Production of feeder pigs and market hogs, and c. Interest in feeder sales

- (2) Have county representatives to serve on area feeder pig marketing plans committee. Develop Feeder Pig Association if interest justifies.
- (3) Devote part of annual Fredericksburg Agriculture Program (in February) to modern swine production and Fredericksburg area swine developments.
- (4) Help producers select good breeding stock and keep them posted on area purebred swine sales.
- (5) Devote time on radio, news articles and circular letters to swine parasite and disease control.

C. Beef Cattle

The county beef program is centered around organized marketing. The marketing committee proposed most of the objectives for the year. The objectives are as follows:

- (1) Work toward best possible market for feeder calves, yearling cattle and fat cattle.
- (2) Encourage producers to work toward quality and health requirements for organized Fredericksburg sales.
- (3) Control external and internal parasites.
- (4) Provide year-round feed supply utilizing improved pastures and home ground feeds to maximum extent.
- (5) Utilize labor-saving devices and good facilities.

The County Agent with the committee will:

- (1) Encourage feeder calf producers to consign to the Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale. The committee will conduct field inspection and tour in August. The goal is 100 head.

- (3) Encourage yearling cattle producers to consign to yearling sale held in September. Goal 85 head.
- (4) Furnish plans and assist farmers in planning buildings, feed racks, fences, etc.
- (5) Make farm inspections of fat cattle to advise on marketing and market grades.
- (6) Hold parasite control demonstration in the fall.
- (7) Utilize radio, press and circular letters to give information on: a. area purebred sales, b. low cost feed production, c. preserving adequate supply of quality feeds, and d. local marketing.

D. Dairying

There are eight grade A Dairy Farms in the county with approximately 500 cows. Some few farmers produce grade B or barnyard milk. High veal prices have resulted in considerable interest in veal production. Dairy activities are limited due to the small number of farmers engaged in dairying. The problems outlined are:

- (1) Mastitis control and prevention.
- (2) Need for reliable information on use of drugs and feed additives.
- (3) Cull low-producing cows.
- (4) Produce quality milk which in turn makes satisfied consumers. (Milk with odors, offensive taste or smell make dissatisfied customers.)
- (5) Need for high quality forage and grain including maximum acreage of alfalfa, temporary pastures such as small grain, sudan grass and other not needed for hay. Keep on alert for insect and

disease affecting forage production

- (6) Need for educational program on milk value as a food.
The Extension Service with the help of the dairy group will:
- (1) Endorse the state mastitis program and hold local program in February to which all dairy producers will be invited.
 - (2) Send out monthly mastitis circulars. Twenty-two dairymen are on this mailing list.
 - (3) Use DHIA and other records as basis for culling low producers. Hold DHIA analysis clinic in cooperation with Spotsylvania County.
 - (4) Send out latest recommendations and new developments directly to dairymen by circular letter.
 - (5) Use radio and press to keep general public informed on the dairy situation and milk products.
 - (6) Hold agriculture school, including disease control and prevention, and use of feed additives.
 - (7) Encourage producers to sell only quality milk. Assist with management problems by personal contact. The dairymen will be encouraged to be active in marketing associations in order to obtain best possible market.
 - (8) Work with the Fredericksburg Dairy Council on the milk promotion program. Utilize press and radio.
 - (9) Hold field tour in summer emphasizing forage production.
 - (10) Cooperate with the Fredericksburg Artificial Breeding Program in promoting and using good sires.

E. Poultry

Poultry production in Stafford falls into two categories, namely, (1) Farm or home flock (2) Larger commercial production. Broiler production is very limited with no large producers. There are several laying hen operations with over 1,000 birds. Eggs are sold directly to consumers, hucksters and other retail outlets.

Problems and objectives:

1. Economical poultry units
2. Control of diseases and parasites
3. Using improved laying strains
4. Maintaining quality egg production
5. Adequate marketing
6. Cull unproductive birds
7. Proper arrangements and facilities

Method

1. Use specialist help, feed service men and laboratory facilities in working with parasite and disease control.
2. Send out monthly newsletters to major poultrymen and all 4-H poultry project members.
3. Furnish building and arrangement plans and follow up with visits.
4. Work with hatchery and producers on recommended strains.
5. Use radio and press for information on:
 - a. Poultry economics
 - b. Culling and management
 - c. Facilities, automatic equipment and management
 - d. Sanitation

6. Inform producers by visits and press on the egg marketing program
7. Invite all county poultry producers to attend area Poultry Development and Education programs.

F. Agronomy

The Agronomy Committee met to discuss current problems in the field.

The group suggested the following objectives and programs:

1. Use of recommended varieties
2. Use fertilizer and lime in amounts and analyses needed.
3. Insect and disease control of field crops, emphasis on new developments on control of alfalfa weevil
4. Increase acreage of permanent covers including improved pasture and alfalfa
5. Proper pasture management including clipping, fertilization, liming and sometime fencing.
6. Greater use of soil testing service
7. Recognize value of timely and proper harvesting of grain and forage to improve quality

Method

The Extension office with the Agronomy Committee will:

1. Hold recommended variety seed-fertilizer meeting of fertilizer dealers, professional agriculture workers and key farmers in January.
2. Recommend use of high-analysis fertilizers to farmers when practical and encourage dealers to stock more of the high analysis fertilizers.

3. Hold pasture seeding demonstration. Use radio and newspaper to publicize.
4. Use circular letter, radio and newspaper to keep farmers informed on latest insect control recommendations.
5. Stress importance to all farmers in using chemicals with caution and according to directions. Avoid residue problems.
6. Hold program on chemical weed control and alfalfa weevil control.
7. Distribute recommended variety lists to seed dealers and key farmers.
8. Use press, radio, circulars, ASC and personal contacts to emphasize soil sampling.
9. Utilize news feature story to emphasize labor-saving and new methods of preserving quality forage.
10. Emphasize twelve-month forage program in all livestock meetings and programs.
11. Work very closely with ASC and SCS in promoting good conservation practices.

G. Landscaping, Home Gardening and Home Fruit Production

Considerable information is sought by people in the county and in Fredericksburg on gardening, home fruit production and landscape gardening. Many of these people do not have much experience in the field.

Problems

1. Plant propagation and cold frame usage
2. Insect and disease control
3. Seeding and care of lawns

4. Pruning and training

5. Landscape planning

Method

1. Hold program for interested persons on seed bed propagation, plant propagation and cold frames using VPI Extension Specialist.
2. Hold program on diseases and pests of ornamentals and fruit trees in cooperation with Community Improvement Leagues.
3. Send out monthly garden suggestions to fifty home gardeners.
4. Give individual assistance on specific disease and insect control problems
5. Send out monthly landscape notes to twenty persons.
6. Use the radio and press to give timely hints on gardening.
7. Give recommendations on lawn seedings using soil samples as a guide for fertility requirements.

V. 4-H Club Work

A. 4-H County Council

The Stafford 4-H County Council makes plans to conform to the school year as clubs are organized in the fall with the opening of school.

Objectives and plans are outlined by the council and are included in the Stafford 4-H Yearbook which is distributed to all club members. A copy of the 1959-60 yearbook will be found on the following page.

4-H YEARBOOK

STAFFORD COUNTY,

1959-60



Member's Name _____

Name of Club _____

1959-60

County Council Officers

President Chuck Garrison
Vice President Gloria Skinner
Secretary Mary Pierce
Treasurer Ronnie Silver

* * * * *

4-H Pledge

I pledge

My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living for
My Club, my Community and my Country.

* * * * *

4-H Motto

"To Make the Best Better."

* * * * *

Colors: Green and White

* * * * *

Emblem: A four leaf clover with an H
in the center of each leaf.

4-H Achievement Score Card

	Possible Points	Your Score
I. Records Completed by June 1st		
Girls' project records	14	_____
Boys' project records	14	_____
Secretary's book completed	3	_____
II. Attendance Record		
100% members at each meeting	3	_____
Adding 2 new members during year	2	_____
Four club officers at each County Council Meeting	8	_____
Five members attend 4-H Camp, 2 points per member with 10 point limit	10	_____
50% members attend county 4-H Talent and Achievement Program	5	_____
III. Activities		
Club have 3 talent acts in county program	6	_____
Celebrate National 4-H Club Week	6	_____
Having 50% of members attend Rural Life Sunday Service	6	_____
Program at 4-H Club Meetings	8	_____
Having 5 project demonstrations during the year	5	_____
Having orderly business-like meeting	5	_____
Assist with one or more local drives (March of Dimes, Mental Health, T.B., Cancer, etc.)	5	_____

1959-60 CLUB OFFICERS

Gari Melchers 4th and 5th grade girls

President - Shirley Reeve
Vice President - Judy Garland
Secretary - Carol DeLano
Treasurer - Sandra Jones
Recreation - Brenda Eastridge, Bonnie Wyatt

Gari Melchers 4th and 5th-grade boys

President - John Snellings
Vice President - Larry Hitt
Secretary - Mickey Odhan
Treasurer - Knobby Whittaker
Recreation - Robert Hicks, Wayne Hines

Gari Melchers 6th grade girls

President - Sandra Jones
Vice President - Betsy MacClarence
Secretary - Linda Huffman
Treasurer - Phyllis Cropp
Recreation Leaders - Esther Luton and Peggy Howard

Gari Melchers 6th grade boys

President - Mickey Courtney
Vice President - Malone Schooler
Secretary - Rubin Noel
Treasurer - Alvin Fines
Recreation Leaders - Floyd Curtis and Cecil Way

Gari Melchers 7th grade girls

President - Donna Stone
Vice President - Bonnie Burton
Secretary - Anne Courtney
Treasurer - Linda Courtney
Recreation Leaders - Vickie Blankenship,
Cynthia Burton

Gari Melchers 7th grade boys

President - Ronnie Silver
Vice President - Tommy Cropp
Secretary - Dennis Cooper
Treasurer - Emory Shover
Recreation Leaders - Glon Jenkins and Douglas Rose

Ferry Farms 4th and 5th grades

President - Chip Whorley
Vice President - Catherine Sebastian
Secretary - Alice Snellings
Treasurer - Retha Harris
Recreation Leaders - Cindy Covert and Brenda Heflin

Ferry Farms 6th and 7th grades

President - Donnie Lambert
Vice President - Bobby Kash
Secretary - Toni Pitts
Treasurer - Martha Hall
Recreation Leaders - Joyce Grigsby and Pat Harris

New Hope

President - Delores Thomason
Vice President - Mildred Ballence
Secretary - Ellen Beville
Treasurer - Debbie Whittaker
Recreation Leaders - Glenn Newton and
Patricia Southworth

White Oak

President - Peggy Boutchyard
Vice President - Carol Bullock
Secretary - Peggy Cox
Treasurer - Harris Spindle
Recreation Leaders - Sheila Fines and Alice Synan

Stafford Elem. 4th and 5th grade

President - Bobby Blackburn
Vice President - Kim Doxey
Secretary - Catherine Lawrence
Treasurer - Robert Green
Recreation Leaders -

Stafford Elem. 6th grade

President - Carolyn Perry
Vice President - Gloria Tyson
Secretary - Mary Pierce
Treasurer - Donna Gremer
Recreation Leaders - Richard Decatur and
Susan Dent

Stafford Elem. 7th grade

President - Linda Green
Vice President - Jarma Raines
Secretary - Pat West
Treasurer - Ross Decatur
Recreation Leaders - Bonnie Sears and
Cheryl Monroe

Stafford High School

President - Gloria Skinner
Vice President - Cheryl Knight
Secretary - Jane Brooks
Treasurer - Josephine Duffey
Recreation Leaders - Mary Anne Harris and
Charlotte Boswell

Stafford 4-H'ers attending the 1959 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg were:

Lou Young
Glorie Skinner
Billy Hicks
Hunter Greenlaw, Jr.
James Williams
Bobby Greenlaw
Raymond Tolson

County Extension Staff

County Agent - - - - - Richard C. Beck
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Phone ESsex 3-4166

Extension Secretary - - - - - Elinor Dickinson

NOTES

SPECIAL EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- NOVEMBER 14 - Share the Fun & Achievement Program
- MARCH - National 4-H Week
- APRIL 7 - Junior Fat Livestock Show (Hogs and Baby Beeves), Fredericksburg Stockyards.
- APRIL - 4-H Judging and District Contests
- MAY - Rural Life Sunday
- SUMMER - 4-H Short Course, VPI
4-H All Star Conference, VPI
State 4-H Conservation Camp, Camp Farrar
County 4-H Camp, Jamestown Camp
- AUGUST - 4-H Electric Congress, Richmond
- SEPTEMBER - Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair
Re-organizing 4-H Clubs
- NOVEMBER - National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Illinois

B. Organization and Project Work

There are eleven 4-H clubs organized in six schools. Each club has elected officers. All clubs are carrying a group project for the year. Group projects are as follows:

Wildlife	-	New Hope Ferry Farms, 4th & 5th grades
Forestry	-	Ferry Farms, 6th & 7th grades White Oak Gari Melchers, 4th & 5th grades Stafford Elem., 7th grade Stafford Elem. 4th & 5th grades
Entomology	-	Gari Melchers 7th grade
Soil & Water Cons.	-	Stafford High School
Home Grounds Beautification	-	Gari Melchers 6th grade Stafford Elem. 6th grade

Members may carry additional projects if they so desire. Projects are to be completed by the May 4-H meeting (end of school year) in so far as possible.

Programs are planned by each club. The agent will assist and encourage demonstrations as part of the programs. Project work and reports will be discussed at each meeting. Home visits will be made to assist and supervise projects as needed.

C. Special 4-H Projects

1. Fredericksburg Junior Fat Livestock Show and Sale

This event is open to 4-H and FFA members in the counties surrounding Fredericksburg. The 1960 show will be held April 7th at the Fredericksburg Stockyards with the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce serving as sponsor. Baby beeves and market hogs may be exhibited and sold. Prizes will be awarded for placing, showmanship and fitting. Six calves and approximately twenty hogs will be

entered from Stafford County.

2. Sears, Roebuck 4-H Pig Chain

Six boys are enrolled with Hampshire gilts. Projects will be scored in the field with a summary program at the close.

3. Sears, Roebuck Poultry Chain

This project will be tried with five 4-H boys for the first time in the county.

4. 4-H Judging Plans

Plans are to train one judging team to compete in district's contest. Many 4-H boys are not eligible to participate because they do not have facilities to carry out agriculture-type projects.

5. 4-H All Star

- a. The outstanding Stafford 4-H boy will be recommended for 1960 All Star.
- b. County All Stars will be encouraged to participate in All Star activities. Circular letters will be used to keep All Stars informed of activities.

VI. Community Improvement Leagues

The six organized community improvement groups will be assisted during the year in the following ways:

- a. Assistance with local program planning
- b. Furnish information relating to community improvement work
- c. Assist and take part on program when needed (primarily when requested by the club)
- d. Secure specialists and other professional assistance when needed.

Community improvement groups in Stafford County are the medium through which a great deal of valuable work is introduced and accomplished. Projects carried by these groups include agriculture and homemaking activities as well as those of a civic nature.

Each club sets up its own programs for the year. The Stafford Ruritan Club will sponsor the league judging program in which the outstanding leagues of the year will be selected and recognized.

VII. Farm and Home Development

Three farmers are being assisted under this program at the present time on the agricultural phase. Assistance will be continued and specialists will be asked to assist on various phases of their operations. One owner is an absentee landlord which makes it necessary to plan visits on farm management practices to coincide with presence of owner.

VIII. Public Relations and Other Organizations

Continued close working relationship will be sought with other government and agricultural agencies. Assistance and guidance will be furnished as requested.

Among this group will be:

Agencies

ASC
SCS
Forestry
Game Warden

Credit

Farmers Home Administration
Production Credit

Organizations

County Farm Bureau
County Ruritan Club
Fredericksburg Artificial
Breeding Association
Fredericksburg D.H.I.A.
Association
Tri-County SCS District
Vocational Agriculture group

Specific assistance will be to:

1. Serve on the ASC County Committee and give assistance to individual farmers on the program. Encourage more farmers to participate.
2. Work with SCS in farm planning, particularly in livestock recommendations.
3. Cooperate in county forestry program. Also, instruct 4-H members in forestry projects.
4. Work with Game Warden and State Game Commission in establishing wildlife food plots and distributing seeds to 4-H members. Assist in supervision of the project throughout the year.
5. Secure professional assistance for and assist with programs of county organizations as requested.

IX. Summary

Many of the problems outlined in this report are long standing and will not be completed in a year's time. Programs and activities outlined are just a part of the tasks that will be undertaken by the County Agent's office. Considerable time will be required in dealing with individual problems and requests. These are often very time consuming but of utmost importance to the individuals concerned.

The methods suggested in the plan of work will serve as a guide to follow in carrying out a planned approach to the problems. Many farmers in Stafford are farming only on a part-time basis and their acreage is relatively small. They have only a limited amount of time to devote to farming and are often unable to serve on committees.

X. Calendar of Work

<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>4-H Meetings Fat Cattle Sale Sheep Committee Meeting Scoring 4-H Pig Chain Soil Sampling 4-H Demonstrations and Yearbook preparation Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>4-H Meetings, 4-H Tractor Program, Entries for Jr. Livestock Show, two Fat Cattle Sales, Agronomy Comm. Meet., Tri-County SGS Meet, Fertiliser-Seed Dealers' meeting, Feeder Pig Survey, Artificial Breeding Meet., Fred'b'g Milk Prod. Meeting, Pruning demon. Agronomy Committee meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>4-H Meetings, 4-H Tractor Program, Fred'b'g Agric. Program, Farm Bureau meet. Dairy Comm. meeting, Sheep producers meet., Feeder Calf Sale annual meeting, Fat Cattle Sales, Poultry meeting, Alfalfa weevil control program, Mas- titis Control program</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>4-H Meetings, National 4-H week observance, 4-H Electric school, 4-H jud- ging team, 4-H tree planting, Landscape Gar- dening program, Fat Cat- tle Sales, Judging Com- munity Improvement Con- test, Lamb Docking and Castrating demon., DHIA Record Analysis</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>4-H Meetings, Junior Fat Show & Sale-Apr. 7, 4-H Electric School Program on Diseases & Pests of Ornamentals, (Apr. 25), Community Improvement Awards Pro- gram, Pasture Seeding Demon., 4-H Poultry Chain, IBM Records Analysis</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>4-H Meetings, 4-H county Council meeting, 4-H Rural Life Sunday, Feeder Pig Sale, Radio and press re. sheep production, Feeder Pig Program, Chemical Weed Control demonstration, 4-H Soil Judging</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>4-H Short Course 4-H Camp (June 27-July 2) Wool Pool Scoring 4-H Pig Chain Dairy Tour Milk Promotion</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>Establishing new 4-H Pig Chain, Institute of Rural Affairs, 4-H Fair Committee (plan exhibit), Sheep selection demon. Radio talk on forage program Poultry news feature</p>
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Fred'b'g Agric. Fair (Aug. 29 - Sept. 2) Ext. Agents' Conf. Farm & Home Develop. Plans for 1961 Jr. Fat Show, Inspection of Feeder Calves by committee</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Organising 4-H clubs, Yearling Sale, Rural Atlantic Exposition, 4-H Electric Congress, Selection of feeder cattle, Egg Marketing, Experimental Station Tour, Sheep Drenching Demon.</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>4-H Club Meetings 4-H Co. Council Or- ganizational Meeting, Feeder Calf Sale 12-month forage report corn yield measurement Beef Cattle Parasite control demon. Farm Safety Week</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>4-H Club Meetings, 4-H Achievement and "Share the Fun" Program Farm-City Week Observance, Annual Reports Fat Cattle Grading demon. 4-H Fat Show Entries</p>