

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

1963

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PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

General Situation

The overall picture of agriculture in Prince William County shows decreasing numbers of farms and livestock. From 1954 to 1959 the number of farms dropped from 783 to 479. Of the 479 farm operators, 278 had additional income from off farm employment and 238 worked off the farm 100 days or more. There were 226 commercial farms in 1959 compared to 305 in 1954. The average size of the commercial farms is 322.6 acres and of all farms is 186.5 acres. A recent survey of sheep owners shows that the number of ewes has decreased by approximately 550 since 1959. This is a decrease of almost 50 per cent.

Dairying is the major enterprise and accounted for 52 per cent of the value of all farm products sold. The number of milk cows decreased from 5421 in 1954 to 4321 in 1959 while the number of farms selling whole milk decreased by 37.

The rapid urbanization of the county has raised land values and taxes above the level normally considered feasible for farming. The most important need is to develop more efficient production through raising the quality and production of livestock and crops.

Ornamental horticulture is becoming a very important topic. The new housing developments bring young home owners with little knowledge of keeping up lawns and ornamental plants including disease and insect control.

The L-H Club program includes projects in the agricultural field including forestry, wildlife, and electricity. The latter three projects have proven to be very interesting to the urban and non-farm L-H Club members.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PHASE: Production of Higher Quality Corn Silage, Year - 1963

The Situation:

Corn silage is one of the principal forages used by dairymen and it is also used to a lesser extent by beef cattle farmers. Emphasis is being placed in other phases of the extension program on the increased use of corn silage because it is the most economical source of TDN. If increased use of corn silage is to be recommended, emphasis needs to be placed on the quality of corn silage as well as the quantity.

The Specific Problem:

Quality of corn silage being raised is lower than possible because of emphasis on yield and some silage being cut at improper stage of maturity.

The Program Objective:

To raise the feeding value of corn silage grown in the county.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER	METHODS	WHEN	BY WHOM
Help farmers gain an appreciation of the factors influencing the production of corn silage with a high feeding value and to have them put these into practice on their farms.	V.P.I. Circular 871, Corn for Silage.	1. Use data from 1962 20 Ton Silage Club to show practices followed and yields obtained. Publicize through radio and newspapers.	March	Agent
	V.P.I. Leaflet 99, Placement of Fertilizer on Corn at Planting.			
	V.P.I. Circular 887, Field Crop Varieties for the Northern Piedmont and West of the Blue Ridge.	2. Locate a demonstrator to carry out a corn production demonstration in connection with Agronomy Department.	March	Agent
	V.P.I. Leaflet 153, Here's When to Harvest Corn for Silage.			

TRAINING OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER	METHOD	WHEN	BY WHOM
		1. Distribute information giving recommended corn varieties for silage, fertilizer, and management practices.	April	Agent
		4. Enroll farmers in 20 Ton Corn Silage Club.	May	Agent and Agronomy Committee
		5. Emphasize importance of proper cutting stage of silage through newspaper, radio, and meetings.	July	Agent
		6. Hold meeting at demonstration plot.	August	Agent and Agronomy Specialist
		7. Measure corn silage on farms of 20 Ton Corn Silage Club members.	August & September	Agent and Silage Club Members
		8. Submit samples of all silage measured for forage analysis.	October	Agent and Silage Club Members

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER

METHODS

WHEN

BY WHOM

		7. Use yields and forage analysis to figure pounds of TDN per acre. Make county awards on basis of TDN produced per acre.	November	Agent and Agronomy Committee
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EVALUATION: Compare results of pounds of TDN produced in 1963 with results of a check made on a portion of the yields measured in 1962.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PHASE: Mastitis Control, Year - 1963

The Situation:

Estimates made by Extension Dairy Specialists show that mastitis is costing county dairymen \$115,000.00 each year. This is an average of almost \$2300.00 for each herd.

The Specific Problem:

High incidence of mastitis in county dairy herds.

The Program Objective:

To reduce the incidence of mastitis and thereby increase the dairymen's net income.

<u>TEACHING OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER</u>	<u>METHODS</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>BY WHOM</u>
Help dairymen acquire a better understanding of the recommended managed milking practices and to apply these practices on their own farms.	Agent training meeting.	1. Organize Task Force of professional agricultural workers to plan milking demonstration.	March	Agent and Dairy Committee
	Material from Extension Dairy Specialist.	2. Select county demonstrator.	April	Agent, Task Force, and Dairy Committee
	V.P.I. Circular 846-M	3. Train demonstrator.	April - September	Agent and Task Force

TEACHING OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER	METHODS	WHEN	BY WHOM
		4. Select audience for first demonstration.	August	Agent, Task Force and Dairy Committee
		5. Hold demonstration.	October	Agent and Task Force
		6. Plan other demonstrations in county.	October	Agent, Task Force and Dairy Committee

EVALUATION: Visits to farms of those who attended first demonstration to determine if any changes have been made in milking procedure as a result of the demonstration.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Other Extension Activities

1. Distribute alfalfa weevil control recommendations to all farmers.
2. Distribute list of recommended varieties of field crops to all farmers.
3. Publicize recommended practices for making higher corn yields by the distribution of the VPI Circular, "Why Settle for Less than 100 Bushels", and the use of a news article and radio broadcast.
4. Publicize recommendations for topdressing pasture.
5. Use soil survey information in making crop recommendations.
6. Make soil sample boxes and field record sheets available with instructions for taking samples.
7. Hold a series of three meetings to discuss landscaping problems of home owners.
8. Have three of present DHEA members change to EDPM record system.
9. Emphasize the importance of foot rot control in sheep.
10. Continue to emphasize the control of hog cholera by vaccination.
11. Encourage the sale of more beef calves through feeder calf sales by notifying beef cattle producers of all feeder calf and yearling sales and assist inspection committee.
12. Add one member to Beef Cattle Improvement Association Program.
13. Inform wool producers of proper methods for handling wool and of the loading date for the wool pool.
14. Encourage the use of higher quality bulls, rams, and boars by keeping farmers informed of sources of quality purebred stock.

15. Hold a vegetable and small fruit school in February and assist with vegetable, fruit, and ornamental plant disease and insect problems throughout the year.
16. Assist poultry producers with general problems.
17. Continue to work with farmers enrolled in Electronic Farm Record Program.
18. Keep farm building plans on file and supply them on request.
19. Distribute VPI Florist Newsletter to county florists.
20. Encourage golf course, memorial garden, and park superintendants to attend organized meetings on turfgrass.

PROJECT AREA: MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

General Situation

Most of the county's major farm product, milk, is marketed through the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Association. The association carries on an extensive program of farmer education through field representatives and also works in the field of public relations and advertising directed at consumers.

Three feed and fertilizer dealers and six seed dealers are located in the county. A large portion of the dairy concentrate is sold by companies outside the county.

Food versus dollars is ever important and a subject which needs continuous study. Both rural and urban, farm and non-farm families seek information on wise buying and utilization of agricultural products in their various forms.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

PROJECT AREA: MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

PHASE: Informational Services to Feed, Seed, and Fertilizer Dealers, Year - 1963

The Situation:

All farmers in the county are contacted during the year by one of the feed, seed, and fertilizer dealers and are influenced by the dealers' recommendations. Since the extension service is not able to maintain a direct contact with all farmers, every effort should be made to keep dealers abreast of new developments and recommended practices in agriculture.

The Specific Problem:

Feed, seed, and fertilizer dealers not always kept up to date on latest VPI recommendations.

The Program Objective:

To keep feed, seed, and fertilizer dealers informed of latest research developments, VPI recommendations, and material and services available from the extension service.

<u>TEACHING OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER</u>	<u>METHODS</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>BY WHOM</u>
To increase the use by feed, seed, and fertilizer dealers of VPI recommendations in their contacts with farmers.	Material on hand and to be distributed by VPI Departments giving the most recent research data and recommended practices.	1. Inform dealers of all public meetings held by extension service in county and area.	Through-out year	Agent
		2. Distribute all research data and new bulletins published during the year.	Through-out year	Agent

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER

METHODS

WHEN

BY WHOM

1. Secure answers to questions from dealers regarding recommended agricultural practices.

Through-out year

Agent

EVALUATION: Observation by agents of the use made of information and material furnished by the extension service in dealers' contacts with farmers.

PROJECT AREA: MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Other Extension Activities

1. The February demonstration for Home Demonstration Clubs was "Foods versus Dollars" - Buying Nutritional Foods for Family Health.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION ECONOMICS

General Situation

The challenge is greater every year to devise ways to reach more people with Home Economics research information.

The majority of new families coming to this county are the young families with small children. In order to maintain a standard of living to their liking, many mothers are employed outside the home.

The Home Demonstration Committee decided on the following program for 1963:

December	Christmas Meeting - Colorful and Nutritious Salads for Winter Months.
January	Federation Program of Work - Health. How to improve our eating habits. How to maintain proper weight and health.
February	Foods vs. dollars - Buy nutritional foods for family health.
March	The need for and buying of small household equipment.
April	Program of Work, 2nd choice - Home and Community Beautification. Identification of shrubs, their growing habits and where to plant.
May	Cleaning and Care of new clothing fabrics.
June	Club Choice.
July	Healthful party refreshments, desserts and snacks.
August	Club Choice.

September	Buying of furniture and equipment.
October	New trends in decoration. Uses of pictures and wall hangings.
November	Get the maximum use of your sewing machine.

Recreation, work opportunities, education, whether it be formal or technical are among the problems facing our youth in this county. Four-H clubs, Scouts and other organized groups are active but still there is a large potential to be reached.

These programs as yet do not hold the interest of the teenage youth. This group in turn become the problem group.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

PHASE: Foods & Nutrition - Year 1963

The Situation:

Foods are important to the homemaker from various standpoints, health of family, cost of foods, nutritional value of foods, preparation of foods, foods for different ages within the family. How the food dollar is spent in relation to the above factors is most important.

The Specific Problem:

Some people know, some think they know, some do not care about health and nutrition. Some follow patterns of habit. Changes in food habits are made very slowly and people need constant reminders.

The Program Objectives:

- To manage the spending of the food dollar when buying groceries.
- To know nutritional values of foods in order that family will get the proper foods.
- To know how to prepare foods so that food values are not wasted.
- To serve foods in interesting and appetizing manner in pleasant surroundings.
- To improve family's health and well being through knowledge offered above.

<u>TEACHING OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER</u>	<u>METHOD</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>BY WHOM</u>
Foods vs. Dollars	Extension Bulletins	Demonstration	Feb.	Agents & Leaders
Buy nutritional foods for family health.	Circular 811 Illustrative charts Professional Magazines			
Healthful party refreshments, desserts and snacks.	Extension Bulletins Circular 911 Leaflets MF 378 and MF 260 Professional Magazines	Demonstration	July	Agents & Leaders

TEACHING OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF SUBJECT MATTER	METHOD	WHEN	BY WHOM
Weight Control	Extension Bulletins USDA 47 Virginia Bulletin 219 and many others. Movies	Class every two weeks for four months. Dem- onstration and dis- cussions. Radio, news- paper, use of movies.	Nov. March	Agents
Withoutout salads for winter months.	Virginia Leaflets. Help from specialists.	Demonstrations. Use of movies. Radio	Dec. Feb. July	Agents & Leaders
Improve health through study of foods, prep- aration, calories, etc.	Latest Research Infor- mation from USDA and Virginia Bulletin. Help from specialists.		Dec. April July Sept.	Agents & Leaders
Improve eating habits of all members of family.	USDA and Virginia Bulletins. Professional magazines.	Discussion at club meetings.		

EVALUATION: Meeting with all weight control people to check on eating habits vs. weight. Check to see if club members have changed any food buying habits. Check to see if club members have improved their eating habits. Have clubs improved on their party refreshments. Have club members provided proper snacks for family.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Other Extension Activities

Organizational Programs

1. County Home Demonstration Committee.
2. Landscaping Committee.
3. Prince William County Fair Homemakers Section.
4. Prince William County Fair Kitchen.
5. Work in new urban areas.
6. County Nutrition and Health Committee.

Other Subjects Covered

1. Home Management - "The Need for a buying of small Household Equipment".
2. Clothing
Tailoring Classes.
Cleaning and care of new clothing fabrics.
Lecture - "The Well Dressed Woman" to civic clubs.
Get maximum use of your sewing machine.
3. House Furnishings - The Buying of furniture and equipment.
New trends in decorating.
4. Arts and Crafts.
5. Flower arranging.

PROJECT AREA: 4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

General Situation

As has been previously stated, farm population is decreasing and non farm population is in period of explosion.

The 4-H Program and scouting programs are the two strongest youth organizations in the county excluding Church youth groups. Little League is a very active recreational program for boys.

Over 300 boys and girls are enrolled in 30 4-H clubs with 25 volunteer local leaders assisting. These club members are enrolled in projects such as Electricity, Safety, Foods and Nutrition, and Light Horse and Pony. These technical subjects are included in the other four sections.

Four-H Club members in this county have an opportunity to participate in many club activities. These extra activities, such as camps, fairs, contests, Honor Club, Short Course, etc., offer interests and challenges beyond those engaged in by the community club. They are stepping stones from the small community club to broader fields in youth development, that is, county and state events, and leadership development.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - ORGANIZATIONAL

PROJECT AREA: 4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

PHASE: 4-H Leadership - Year 1963

The Situation:

Prince William County has 30 clubs for the 1962-63 4-H year. More clubs will probably be organized to comply with the rapidly increasing population. Of the 30 present clubs only 13 now have organizational leaders who are responsible for their clubs and monthly meetings. Other leaders are available to help with over-all 4-H work, but there is a serious shortage of adult leadership for the individual club. The present leaders as a whole are very eager to help, but additional training would also be helpful to them.

The Specific Problem:

The opportunities for active 4-H participation are not uniform to all 4-H'ers of Prince William County because of the unbalanced availability of leadership to individual clubs.

The Program Objective:

Securing and developing more 4-H leaders in Prince William County.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. Secure names of potential 4-H Club leaders.

SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE

Parents of 4-H Club members. Former 4-H Club members. Home Demonstration Members. Schools and Churches.

METHODS

Questionnaire to parents at time of enrollment. Letter to former club members and All Stars. Personal visit to schools and ministers. Discussion at 4-H and Home Demonstration Club meetings.

WHEN

Sept.

BY WHOM

County Staff

TEACHING OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE	METHODS	WHEN	BY WHOM
2. Select leaders for: new clubs areas, already organized clubs without leaders.	"The Community h-H Club" Circular 877 Prince William h-H Yearbook.	Visit potential leaders individually and in small groups. Explain h-H Club program. Tell needs of children in community.	Oct. Mar. April	Agents
3. Train leaders.	Leaders Handbook Bulletin 370 Prince William h-H Yearbook. District Agents. State h-H Staff. Present h-H Leaders.	Preplanning with District Agents and State h-H Staff. Hold sub- ject matter and organizational leaders' training meetings quarterly. Invite new leaders to become members of county leaders' organization.	Monthly	Agents
4. Give monthly super- vision to leaders. Provide current in- formation to leaders preceding every meeting.	Yearbook. Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. National h-H News. Correspondence from State h-H Staff.	Letters to President of clubs. Letters to leaders. Leader training meetings when necessary.	Monthly	Agents

EVALUATION: Give questionnaire to present leaders, to learn strong and weak points of existing leaders' organization. Check on number of new leaders obtained at beginning of year. Check on number of new leaders continuing at end of year. Through questionnaire at end of year, determine value of training received. Through questionnaire at end of year, determine needs for more training in what areas.

PROJECT AREA: 4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

PHASE: Other Extension Objectives (not given major emphasis)

1. Increase the accuracy and percentage of record books completed by stressing their importance throughout the year, and by giving specific project record instructions to each club.
2. Increase enrollment in agricultural and home economics projects for those interested.
3. Train a livestock and dairy judging team.
4. Have participation in every demonstration contest on county and district levels, when there are county 4-H'ers enrolled in the project involved.
5. Continue club eliminations and selection of participants from each club to enter the county 4-H Share-the-Fun Contest. Also invite all parents, leaders, and the public to the county program in April.
6. Continue to make available the 4-H camp for both junior and senior members in the county. Also to continue getting camp scholarships from civic clubs and other service organizations for needy 4-H'ers.
7. Have at least two boys and two girls enter achievement records by April 1st.
8. Have training sessions for fitting and showing of the various classes of livestock, before the fair, Also give rural clubs information on the exhibiting of farm produce and other activities.
9. Continue to strengthen the Prince William 4-H Leaders' Association, and to encourage them to set up regular meetings, at least four times a year.
10. Set up a special radio program during National 4-H Club Week, and to increase the other radio and newspaper publicity for the week. Also to hold the county contests that week.
11. To have a countywide 4-H vesper program on Rural Life Sunday.
12. To continue and increase participation in Short Course, Leadership Camp, Conservation Camp, Electric Congress, Adult Leaders' Conference, County Council Program, Honor Club Program, Christmas Parade, and many other activities 4-H'ers can enter.

PROJECT AREA: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

General Situation

The Extension Staff is always ready to work with existing organizations in matters pertaining to Extension and related fields.

Publicity continues to be somewhat of a problem, due to our proximity to the greater metropolitan areas of Washington. We do not get TV coverage. We do have three radio stations in the county, one of which we use for regular weekly broadcasts.

The two small weekly newspapers are very cooperative in giving coverage to outstanding events, etc. Yet the Washington papers do not carry news of this area and they have the larger circulation.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

PROJECT AREA: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHASE: Federation Program of Work - Health - Year 1963

The Situation:

Around 500 women in 18 Home Demonstration Clubs are reached specifically through the Home Demonstration Program. These clubs have chosen this topic as their Program of Work for this year. Their objective is to help improve the health of their own families and at the same time reach out to the general public with their educational program.

The Specific Problem:

More than half of the club women do not have regular annual check-ups. If this is true of club women, we can assume that this may be true of the general public. We are hearing about a number of people who are having operations for cancer, no statistics, but a lot in this area.

The Program Objective:

- To encourage members to have a complete physical examination periodically, using the state check-up sheets.
- To cooperate with existing health groups or clinics such as heart, cancer, TB, polio, and mental health in every way possible.
- To participate actively in the program of the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care.
- To stress blood donors program and urge members to have blood typed.
- To emphasize health side of each regular home economics program - clothing, nutrition, etc.
- To encourage families to keep on hand emergency food as suggested by Civil Defense.

<u>TEACHING OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE</u>	<u>METHODS</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>BY WHOM</u>
The above listed goals are the basis for program emphasis. The County Health Chairman will meet with Home Demonstration Club Health Chairman early in January to decide on detailed action for the year including a program to get women to have a physical check-up. Two cancer films will be shown at all Home Demonstration clubs and other civic clubs in January. Exhibits on Health will be shown at the fair. Newspaper and radio publicity will be given throughout the year.			January	Agent & Health Chairman

EVALUATION: Check to determine who had a physical examination. Check to determine who had a physical examination who was not in the habit of having an examination. How many have improved health through the weight control program? How many have emergency food supply on hand?

PROJECT AREA: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Other Extension Activities

1. Arrange for judges and cooperate with holding of the Prince William County Fair.
2. Help farmers to locate farm workers and help farm workers to find farm employment.
3. Cooperate with Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farm Credit Agencies, and Vocational Agriculture Instructors.
4. Cooperate with and assist Technical Action Panel.
5. Stress the importance of rural civil defense to farmers and homemakers.
6. Continue to work with U.S.D.A. Defense Board.
7. Distribute to key county leaders the leaflets prepared by the Federal Extension Service designed to create a better understanding of agriculture.
8. Create awareness of the need for attractive landscaping.
9. Plan education programs on good out-of-doors manners designed to eliminate litter on highways, in roadside parks, in forests, and on beaches.
10. Plan community tours to determine what is needed to make the community more attractive, and develop plan to make the improvements.