

IV What are the assets and opportunities peculiar to Mathews County or our situation which, if recognized and used well, will overcome problems or meet the needs to make your project acceptable and beneficial? A thorough exploration of this area of your planning will determine whether or not the project is worth while, is worth your time and effort and worth the consideration and cooperation of the people in the county. Until you can completely satisfy yourself in this area you can go no further with your project. When you are completely satisfied, you are loaded for whatever may come.

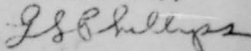
V If you have done a thorough job up to this point, you are ready to determine what objectives you hope to accomplish. You are ready to say with confidence that industries should be established in Mathews County. Your objective may be to have more homes or home sites established by desirable people. Or it may be your objective to furnish the people with complete factual information in such a way that they will comprehend County Development and will desire to cooperate in its many phases.

VI Now you should see your way clear to set your goals. You are convinced you are right. You have facts and figures to substantiate your beliefs. You believe so thoroughly in our project that you feel you can convince all others who must cooperate. You believe you can go so far in a certain length of time. This may be a short time goal and a long time goal.

VII You have decided that something needs to be done. You know something of the problems and needs. You recognize some of the assets and opportunities which can overcome the problems...How are you going to proceed to get the job done? How are you going to convince the people that your project is desirable? How are you going to solicit their help?

This letter may be too long, but I hope you found time to read it carefully. I believe if we proceed along these lines at our next committee meeting, we should come up with suggestions and plans which will be understood and accepted by the larger groups in the future.

Yours truly,



E. L. Phillips
County Agent

fgw

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Agricultural Extension Service

of the

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Mathews, Virginia

August 19, 1961

To: COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEEMEN

Dear Co-worker:

Apparently our reports at the August 17 meeting were not complete or conclusive enough to guide the rest of the group to definite conclusions or actions. We have been given another opportunity.

I will be at our State County Agent's Annual Conference, August 21 - 26. Soon after that I hope you will be able to meet as committees again to prepare other reports. When we are able to provide the kind of information needed to convince this group in such a way as to assure them that our suggestions are worthy of action, we will be well on our way toward having the information which will influence the people who must be reached, the people in the county. I doubt that we can influence or convince others about something which we have not explored enough to thoroughly convince ourselves.

Here are some things I hope you will be thinking about before the committee meeting so we can discuss it at the meeting.

I For your project or area of development, what is the present situation? What industries do we have? What marinas, landings, situations which would attract vacationers or fishing parties? What is our population and who makes up our population? How much woodland do we have, what is its condition and why? What information is available to help us understand our problem? What people or agencies are available, who are they, how can they help? What of our people, what are their reactions to changes? What means of publicity do we have? What people are available to create good relations or can supply good publicity?

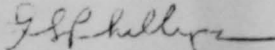
II What is the trend? Trends are caused by circumstances. Sometimes circumstances can be changed which in turn cause changes for better or worse. We must know the trends to know how to deal with them.

III What are the problems or needs which must be analyzed and thought through before progress can be made? Why have some of our own industries failed? Do we need public or private landings? Is there a need for development for vacationers? Our young people and skilled labor are leaving the county. Why? People shudder at the words "zoning" and "industry". Why? What is needed to get favorable reactions if desirable reactions are desired?

- 1) Is it a good project?
- 2) Why is it particularly suitable for our county?
- 3) What obstacles have prevented previous action?
- 4) What are the things which will overcome these obstacles?
- 5) What are your suggestions for proceeding? Whom do you suggest to assist, etc?
- 6) If possible, evaluate expected results or accomplishments.

This is a big order for a ten minute report, but a carefully prepared report will stimulate action and tend to prevent pessimism. It is hoped that a complete committee may be selected for each area of development at the meeting. If you know of anyone who you think will contribute to your committee, please see that he or she gets a special invitation to attend the meeting and see that he or she gets on the committee.

Yours truly,



E. L. Phillips
County Agent

fgw

An Educational Service of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in
Cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and
County Governments

Agricultural Extension Service
of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Mathews, Virginia
August 14, 1961

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

INDUSTRIES

Kenneth Ford
Gen. G. H. Vogel
Edgar T. Reeves

POPULATION AND NEW
RESIDENCE

Frank Preston
C. Aubrey White
D. D. Forrest
Hudgins Miles
James Potts
Charles Gill

MARINAS, BOATELS, PUBLIC LANDINGS, VACATIONERS, ETC.

Carl Blanchard
Don Bowman
Clarke T. Richardson

FORESTRY

James Garner
Spencer R. Hodges
E. L. Phillips

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. W. K. Lennon

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC
RELATIONS

W. E. Walters
John Warren Cooke
H. J. Mead
Jeannie Everding

Dear Co-worker:

The meeting of the County Development group in the Court Room, Thursday, August 17, may very well be the beginning or end of a program of planned progress for Mathews County.

The report of your committee will be directly instrumental in guiding the thoughts and future actions of the people present and of other interested people.

Our first meeting brought out chiefly a hodge-podge of opinions and beliefs. Most of these were not based on actual facts gotten through careful research.

The purpose of your report is to clarify the phase of development which you report so definite steps may be taken to reject or proceed in an effective manner. This does not mean that you are expected to have made a complete survey of your project, but rather that you have explored it sufficiently to ascertain its merits and be prepared to suggest or recommend a procedure for further exploration and action.

Agricultural Extension Service
of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Mathews, Virginia
August 12, 1961

Dear Co-worker:

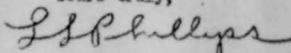
Re: MATHEWS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Mathews County Development Executive Committee will make their report as directed at our first meeting, on Thursday, August 17, in the Court Room at 7:45 p. m. Please make every effort to be present. The members of this committee have put considerable effort into this report and they will need all possible thinking and cooperation to proceed with any future plans.

A notice of this meeting in the local paper will give other people interested in our county progress an opportunity to attend. If you know others whom you think will contribute in any way, please urge them to be present.

The brief report will attempt to give you the present situation or where we are now; some problems and needs which may be met and overcome; our distinctive assets and opportunities and some suggestions or recommendations for future action in each phase of our development.

Yours truly,



E. L. Phillips
County Agent

fgw

MATHEWS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

**** PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING ****

Purpose of General Meeting: Reports and outline of what should be done in each area or phase of development.

Appoint a working committee for each phase of development.

Each committee to go into separate room. Choose a chairman and secretary. THEN

1. Determine something of present situation and trend
 2. What the chief problems and needs are
 3. What the chief assets or opportunities are
 4. Estimate the value or advantages resulting from actions if taken
 5. Suggest goals if feasible
 6. Suggest methods of procedure which can be used by working committee or group (Demonstration, cooperative action, publicity, local advertising brochure)
 7. Be prepared to make brief report at General Meeting
- Suggest meeting date

*** Reunite for brief discussion, summary and instructions ***

The order of business will be to discuss briefly the present situation in each area to be considered. Then the various committees will split into separate rooms to discuss plans for getting information and formulating reports for the next general meeting.

Please do some thinking about your area of development before the meeting so as to be specific, brief and complete as possible at this committee meeting. (If you can not possibly attend this meeting, call 5-5821)

Yours truly,

E. L. Phillips

E. L. Phillips
County Agent

fgw

An Educational Service of the Virginia Polytechnic
Institute in Cooperation with the U.S. Department of
Agriculture and County Governments

Agricultural Extension Service
of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Mathews, Virginia
July 24, 1961

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

INDUSTRIES

Kenneth Ford
H. J. Mead
Gen. G. H. Vogel

POPULATION AND NEW
RESIDENCE

Frank Preston
C. Aubrey White

MARINER, BOATELS, PUBLIC LANDINGS, VACATIONERS, ETC.

Carl Blanchard
Don Bowman
Clarke T. Richardson

FORESTRY

E. L. Phillips
James Garner

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. W. K. Lennon

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC
RELATIONS

W. E. Walters
John W. Cooke
H. J. Mead

Dear Co-worker:

At the July 13, Mathews County Development meeting, Mr. Minter suggested we select a small number of people who attended the meeting to consider all the suggestions made and formulate our outline of what should be done, then report to this or a larger group in the near future.

"Mr. Bowman moved that Mr. E. L. Phillips be appointed Chairman of an Executive Committee to be selected by him from this group or wherever he wishes to select them from. They will explore all suggestions and report back to this group or larger group in a month, more or less; at which time committees can be formed."

I have selected you to help on this Executive Committee. I have good reasons for your selection. If it will be impossible for you to serve, I am asking you to select one other person with equal or better qualifications than yours, to attend the first Executive Committee meeting.

The first Executive Committee meeting will be held in the Board Room in the new office building, Thursday, July 27 at 8:00 p.m.

of the county? To be successful, a county development program should be understood and appreciated by the large majority of the people if it is to be accepted instead of rejected or abused.

The Publicity or Public Relations Committee has an extremely important job which must be done with wisdom.

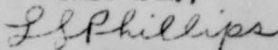
If we are to proceed by the committee method, you can see we need about six capable Working committees. Please look over these six phases of development and send me, by July 24, which of these committee or committees you would prefer to work with.

I must be out of the county July 17 - 22 and the first week of August. This will necessitate my being very busy the week of July 24 - 29. However, if I receive your acceptance of committee responsibility this week, I will try to select one person from each committee to meet with me during the week of July 24 - 29, so we can proceed reasonably rapidly toward a future general meeting and some kind of working group.

If you know of persons whom you believe can contribute to our County Development in any phase, please have them contact me or accept a committee position.

The discussion at the meeting indicated clearly that research, exploring and work must be done by each committee to separate facts from fancies and to express and evaluate them for our best use or rejection. I am sure you will accept the phase of development you are most interested in and in which you can make the greatest contribution.

Yours truly,



E.L. Phillips
County Agent

fgw

An Educational Service of the Virginia Polytechnic
Institute in Cooperation with the U. S. Department
Of Agriculture and County Governments

Agricultural Extension Service
of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Mathews, Virginia
July 15, 1961

Dear Co-worker:

Re: Mathews County Development Program

Since I was selected as Chairman to choose an Executive Committee to facilitate future procedures, I would like to give you a brief statement of the discussion and make some observations and suggestions for our future actions.

- 1) The population of the county is slowly decreasing. What is actually happening? Why? What kind of people are leaving and what kind of people are moving into the county? A committee should explore this situation for our consideration and action.
- 2) Many retired or partially retired people have moved into the county in recent years. Is this desirable? Should the County Development plans be designed to encourage or discourage these? This committee may be the same as No. 1.
- 3) There was considerable disagreement concerning the importance of our timber land in the county. A thorough study by a Forestry Committee could throw much light on this area of our development. Other agricultural problems may also be handled by this committee.
- 4) Boatels, public and private landings with surrounding interprises, developments for vacationers needs to be explored thoroughly by another committee.
- 5) Industries for our county received more discussion than any other phase of development. There was probably wider disagreement of opinions on this topic than any other. However, it was generally felt that proper industries would meet more needs quickly than any other phase of development. This calls for a competent, searching, forceful committee.
- 6) Who should take the responsibility of promoting public relations, publicity in the county and out

Ramblings

by E. L. Phillips

of a County Agent

Mathews County Development
Many people are interested in the recent programs and meetings regarding our county development. Some people are concerned and perhaps a little disturbed about some of the information which has come out of these discussions.

I hope what I write in this article will give you a better understanding of what is being attempted. Your understanding will help you to discuss this movement with your neighbors and friends. I hope it will help you to contribute your ideas and sentiments to the advancement of your own community and to the over-all county development.

Change is inevitable. Change may be for better or worse, but change of some sort will come. Mathews County has changed considerably in recent years. She will change even more in the next few years. Mathews County people are in the drivers seat of our future changes. It is up to us to help determine whether these changes will be for our betterment or for our detriment.

Here are some of the recent changes which are undesirable. Too many of our young people have had to leave Mathews County to seek opportunities worthy of their capabilities. Most of these young people prefer to remain in their home surroundings. Our young people can only be happy when the results of their efforts will provide adequate incomes for their families and when they can contribute appreciably to the social and general welfare of the communities in which they live. A proper county development program should make it possible for more of our young people to remain in our county.

In the past few years large numbers of our workers men and women, have been obliged to leave the county or be commuters in order to provide for their families. Most of these people have training, talents and skills which may be used to their own advantage and to the advantage of the county under proper conditions. A proper county development program would make it possible for more of these people to work in our county.

Lands and beds of seafood leave the county each season to be pro-

cessed. People in other areas are making money from these products. It would seem reasonable that ways and means could be devised to use our labor and to reap the extra profits from our seafood. A proper county development program should include a thorough investigation and promote enterprises which would help us reap the greatest benefits from our seafood.

Our greatest natural agricultural resource is our woodland. Over the past years there has been a great waste and loss of profits from our woodland because of poor management, unwise marketing and inadequate reproduction methods. A county development program would certainly include our woodland for greater profits and a more beautiful county.

A more beautiful county would definitely be a part of a county development program. Roadside garages and dump piles are not only repulsive to us who live here, but I am sure they prevent the more desirable people from coming here to establish permanent homes. This is not a problem impossible to solve as some seem to think. It is only that there has not been a concerted effort by enough people to find a workable solution. There are many, many things which can be done which would make Mathews County more beautiful and attractive.

Industries in Mathews County?
Of course no one wants large industries which are objectionable in any way. A county development program is a program developed by the people and for the benefit of all the county people. A proper county development program would prevent undesirable industries, but it would also explore the possibilities and desirabilities of select, small industries which would meet some of our needs.

Whenever county development programs are considered, the problem of zoning almost always comes up. Zoning is a fighting word with lots of people. It should not be, especially in a place like Mathews County.

Mathews is a county of beautiful homes and people who like to be good neighbors. We are a people who are proud of our county and have a right to be. Proper zoning protects you from being over-run or crowded out by undesirable places of business, auto grave yards, dump piles, honkey tonk joints, etc.

Zoning is not forced on people by the state or federal government. It is a well thought out plan developed by the people in each community and county to protect the property and rights which you prize and are entitled to keep. Only when selfish and grasping people are permitted to make zoning rules for their own interests, do the rest of the people suffer losses and indignities.

As it is now in Mathews County, anyone could establish a smelly glue factory or a noisy beer parlor next door to you and you could do nothing about it. Proper zoning would protect you from such as these. Don't condemn zoning until you are sure of at all means. If zoning

should be considered in Mathews County, be alert to what is being considered so you may be sure the conditions will be for the best interests of our people.

Please remember this: Mathews County is going to change. Some of these changes can be detrimental to Mathews County. Only intelligent, alert and persistent thinking and working on your part and in cooperation with your neighbors and chosen representatives can this change be most desirable for the most of our people.

We in Mathews County want our homes to be beautiful and we want our neighbors to be able to have beautiful homes. We want to have good neighbors and we want to be good neighbors, even to the people who come from other areas. We want ample shops and business places for our convenience. We want to keep our churches beautiful and have the best schools we can afford. All of these require our justifiable pride and an adequate income. A proper county development program should be directed toward our continuing to have these by our own efforts and not by handout schemes or stuporid happenstances.

Remblings

by E. L. Phillips
of a County Agent

A Planned County

A few weeks ago a young married man asked me why we couldn't have a big industry established in Mathews County to furnish work for the many people who need work.

This young man was, and I suppose is, driving many miles every day to work out of the county. Many of our men and women are traveling long distances every day to work. Most of our young people are leaving the county to go to advanced schools and to find jobs and homes in other areas.

Our income from farming and seafood products is declining rapidly. It is becoming more difficult to make a living in the county and to collect taxes to pay for the increasing county expenses.

What can be done? Can anything be done to help this situation? Many areas in the United States are becoming low income areas. Some of these areas are almost helpless because there seems to be no opportunities to help themselves.

In Mathews County helplessness? Do we have opportunities which we can explore and develop to help ourselves? If we have, I am sure we do not want to just sit back and accept hand-out money to keep us eating.

I think we do have opportunities which can better our conditions greatly. These opportunities do need to be recognized and examined and developed. To do so requires men and women with imagination, vision and the will to act. It also requires people with community spirit and unity.

For many reasons Mathews County is not suitable for a large industry; nor is a large industry desirable for a county like ours. However, it is suitable and desirable for various kinds of small industries. Three or four small industries capable of using from 10 to 30 local people each would bring \$300,000 to \$400,000 additional income to our people.

As you travel anywhere out of the county you see boats on trailers or on top of cans headed for a place where the boats can be placed in the water. We could develop dozens of boat landing places in Mathews County where the water is smooth enough or rough enough to suit any taste or desire.

At such landing and other places, all manner of equipment and services could be furnished at a profit. Skiing could be taught and enjoyed. Fishing could be done. Swimming and recreational areas could be developed profitably. Mathews County is almost perfect for such things because we have the very best water and people already trained to serve less experienced visitors.

A tourist or a person on vacation expects to spend at least \$10 per day. We could easily attract 100 tourists per day for over 100 days in the year. This could mean \$100,000 to \$200,000 to be spent for whatever we may have to offer them.

There are dozens and dozens of good home sites which could be developed for people who are looking for a place like Mathews County

to live. If we can attract desirable new home owners it would mean about 2,500,000 for additional taxes for the county plus about \$300,000 more in the county for food, equipment, services, etc.

We have overlooked our first land much too long as a means of additional income. Good management of our woodland would increase the income from wood products \$100,000 to \$200,000 per year. This would not only increase the income of the owners, but could provide work for many of our people and greatly improve the looks of the wooded land.

Do you think I am dreaming. Dreams can come true. County-wide planning could deal with such things as zoning to protect residential areas from unattractive or undesirable businesses such as junk car yards or beer joints, etc. They could help with major drainage or canal projects and with extensive public utility.

How much has Mathews County changed in the past 20 years? How much will it change in the next 20 years? Will a determined effort on our part be a definite benefit to you as an individual and to Mathews County generally?

Our commercial fishing has dwindled to only a small fraction of its past productivity. Diseases of our oysters may destroy this industry completely. Crabbing is uncertain at best. But look around. Mathews County has lots of opportunities for growth and prosperity. If you were to travel through most of the counties of Virginia you would not find the opportunities we have.

We need to get our heads together for ideas and ways of making the most and best of what is around us. This is not an elusive dream, it is a possibility which can be a reality.

Remblings

of a County Agent

by E. L. Phillips

3-16-61

Industries in Mathews County

A few days ago I stopped in to see H. W. Stiles, who lives on the road between Cardinal and North. Mr. Stiles bought a nice place and is developing it into a purebred beef and swine farm.

Across the road from his farm, Mr. Stiles has a large cut-over piece of timber land. You who have no doubt know what a lot of tops and small trees are left after a crop of pines has been cut off. Mr. Stiles not only didn't like the great waste that was left there, but he believed he saw an opportunity to save some of it and do something for his neighbors, too.

Arthur Daniels, who lives down the road a little way, needed some work to fill in with the work he is now doing. He is very handy with tools and machinery so he and Mr. Stiles got their hands together and came up with the idea of a wood preserving plant which could be used to save a lot of the waste wood in that piece of land.

This is a new industry. It is an industry which fits into the needs of the area. It not only makes work for a few neighbors, but it also makes something useful of materials which would otherwise be wasted and lost. This is the type of industry needed in Mathews County.

Several people in Mathews County have asked me why Mathews County has no industry established in the county which would give work to our people. This, of course, may be possible, but there are many good reasons for our not having such an industry.

One of the real needs of Mathews County is to work out some of our own problems. Too many people expect opportunities to come to them without much effort on their part. Our timber land offers us opportunities for our own small industries.

Let's get back to this wood preserving industry. It takes a lot of planning and talking and thinking to start an industry which is new to the people involved. There must be people to look for information and for materials to start rolling.

They found a used plant which was large enough to handle lumber and long poles. They even found an old railroad hand car and enough ties to run the cars on. You see,

when they started to look for information they found people who not only knew something about the job, but also knew where equipment could be found.

I do not know whether this project will succeed or not. I do know that our woods are full of small and treated, will make excellent long lasting posts. If these trees are not thinned out they will die and go to waste. If they are thinned out, the pines which are left will grow faster and make better lumber. It is much easier to re-establish a new crop of pines on land where the previous stand had been thinned.

I know there are lots of buildings being built with untreated wood next to the ground. This wood rots easily and the termites love it. Treating this wood saves you this loss.

Treated posts and lumber costs a lot of money. You could cut down on that cost a lot by taking your timber and posts to a treating plant and leave some of your profits to pay for the cost of treating. This would give you some profitable work

and get your materials without spending cash. Our forests could furnish profitable work for many small crews.

Thinning our woods by taking out the weaker trees not only pays for timber which is left, it improves the work to many people if we would cut our own timber. As it is now, a crew is brought in from outside to cut our timber. About all the money they make and all they spend goes outside the county.

We have thousands of acres of woodland on which weed trees need killing. It pays well to do this on your own property. It pays to hire it done, so a few men in the county could be hired to do this.

There are hundreds of acres of cut-over woods which need to be spot-planted or cleared for natural re-seeding. This would be profitable work for a few people.

If you are out of a job and want to work in the county, perhaps with some investigation and with a modest investment you could work here and make a living in this county, besides help to make the county more beautiful and productive.

The rural non-farm people will become more and more a part of the Extension Program, especially the local organizations, as they become more involved in the County Development Program.

The following pages are notices, letters, and instructions which indicates some of the procedures which were used to promote our County Development Program.

There is considerable enthusiasm regarding this effort. However, there are many problems, many things to be learned. We have found that the people of the county are dubious about this type of program.

We have found that it is wise to keep the people well informed as to what is being attempted and the motives of each step before attempting definite actions toward goals.

We have also found that those who are enthusiastic want to rush in without complete information. Interested people who are not on working committees have a tendency to be impatient or lose their enthusiasm when progress seems to slow down.

The County Development Program which was started this year includes consideration of establishing and encouraging marinas and individual vacation areas and activities. These should not only furnish more recreation for our local youth, but should offer them business opportunities.

RURAL NON-FARM WORK

Mathews County is an all rural county. Much of our work is done with and for non-farm people. Much of this work is done through our many organizations. We help with plans or material for meetings. We work with their committees and speak at the meetings or discuss their problems with them as called upon.

Most of our people own their own homes. We are often called upon to help with problems in home grounds and gardens and the animals kept at these homes. The many new owners moving into the county call on us to help with their shrubbery and general planning problems.

We also help many of these non-farm people with their forestry problems and getting their excess land into permanent cover crops or to make other uses of the land not used for crops.

working habits, good family relations and the satisfaction and pride of a job well done.

We believe that the rather extensive information given at the meetings and the participation of the members at the information meetings did much to keep more members interested in their projects and assisted the members more completely with many phases of their projects.

The slides used at the meetings were selected, with the help of specialists, to meet L-H members needs. The teacher-leaders at these meetings often expressed their appreciation for the kind of information given.

WORKING WITH OLDER YOUTH

We have no Extension program dealing directly with older youth groups. However, we do work with organizations which have programs which involve youth interests.

We assisted the Ruritan Club with their softball program and their attaining a piece of land to establish various kinds of recreational facilities and opportunities. We also assisted with the Spring Festival Committee to help raise funds to obtain a beach to establish a recreation area. We helped with the music in several churches in which some young people were involved.

members to help make the year most worthwhile for all. This meeting gave all participants a part in planning the years progress.

One meeting was devoted to making drawings and plans for home rooms, homes, home grounds and vegetable gardens. Drawings were shown by the agent, then chosen members demonstrated theirs on the black board. Teachers helped the members to work out their drawings by scale in regular school work for the record books.

At one meeting, slides were shown to depict lawn problems, good lawns and how to make lawns more beautiful and practical.

At another meeting, slides were used to help with the many areas of pruning shrubbery and using suitable shrubbery.

At one meeting, slides were shown to help the members identify common plant insects and diseases and their control.

Slides of various aspects and activities of camping were shown at one meeting to help members to realize the full meaning of camping and to decide whether or not to attend Jamestown 4-H Camp.

Parents of members were kept informed as to the projects available and how to use projects to develop

are underway to use the blooms for perfume products in the county. Progress has also been made to sell, retail, bulbs in small personalized packages.

There is some hope that our commercial flowers can be made much more profitable with work and considerable ingenuity. Commercial flowers can provide profitable use of our small farms and supply work for many people.

4-H CLUB

We had no over-all 4-H County Council. I discussed the 4-H program of the year with the Superintendent of Schools and principals so they may know what we have to offer and to get their suggestions. All of our meetings are held in the schools on class time. The teachers remain in the room and help with the tasks to be done. We attempt to make these meetings as practical as possible and much of the instruction and information is in line with lessons and work the members receive in their school work.

At the first meeting, the motto and pledge were discussed so all would get a better understanding of the full meaning of 4-H Club work. Projects were also discussed so each member would have an opportunity to make suggestions and could more fully understand his opportunities and responsibilities. Suggestions were then made by the

Most of the work was done on an individual basis. Farmers would contact me and we would determine the problems and possibilities of a management program. The owners would then be directed to foresters or the A.S.C.S. Office for details.

14 owners planted 89 acres of open land to pine seedlings
2 owners spot-planted 20 acres
10 owners bulldozed 219 acres and planted or left to seed naturally
1 owner disked 17 acres before cutting the timber
1 owner disked 25 acres after cutting
6 owners killed weed trees to release young seedlings

COMMERCIAL FLOWERS

Commercial flowers is a project which is suitable for small farms. Even the smaller farms are large enough for family-size projects and for some extra labor at picking and planting time.

Our greatest difficulty is marketing blooms and bulbs profitably under present conditions. Our efforts were directed towards this problem this year.

Planning Committee work and meetings were done chiefly on a two county basis (Gloucester and Mathews).

One all-day area meeting was held to discuss problems and methods. Local meetings were held to assist with problems and help work out better harvesting and marketing methods.

Considerable work was done throughout the year to find and establish better markets and marketing methods. Plans

met with five groups to explain the clinic and its services. Several letters were sent to all organizations in the county and articles were published in the local newspaper regarding the clinic.

There were 215 interviews held for people from Mathews County. This is equal to all the interviews held for people from Middlesex, King William and Sussex Counties combined. We believe this is an indication of the success of the mental health program in our county.

FORESTRY

The progress in forestry was rather slow in Mathews County this year. We have had a difficult time getting heavy machinery into the county for the small tracts here to show as demonstrations and get the cost and value figures which could be used to promote good forestry practices as practical practices. Some good demonstrations have been and are being set up and we believe considerably more progress will be made in the future.

Forestry will be a definite part of our county development program. This will give the forestry program a wider publicity and will probably make it more receptive by more classes of woods owners in the county.

LIVESTOCK - DAIRY - POULTRY

Because of the relatively few projects in Mathews County, they were dealt with on an individual basis.

Meetings and schools were held in the area, but very few producers attended.

Good progress was made during the year toward improving breeding stock, better pasture and forage crops and improved feeding. Much time was spent helping the owners of from 1 to 5 or 6 animals to prevent diseases and treating sick animals. This may not be the best way to spend our time, but it seems to be necessary when it cost from \$15 to \$20 just to get a veterinarian into the county.

MENTAL HEALTH

Our 1961 Mental Health Program was a continuation of the program we started in 1959 and intensified in 1961. The misapprehensions, the fears and even superstitions by so many people hinder the intelligent uses of mental health institutions. Our objectives were to inform the people as to the purpose of the Tidewater Health Clinic, the services it offered and how to make wise use of the clinic.

The committee met six times during the year to make plans and to promote the program. Representatives of the committee

production of crops. Several of the farmers increased the size of their operations by renting, or using free of rent, neighboring farm land.

Most of the land responds well to good management. With normal rain fall we can produce good crops, but excess water in the fall often prevents crop harvesting on some of the land which is poorly drained and wet natured.

It is very difficult to get our farmers to attend meetings and schools; though these are offered to them each year on a county or district basis. Most of these farmers were visited during the year to assist them with the various phases of production. Emphasis is placed on soil management by soil types and soil tests and general good crop management.

28 news articles were published in the local newspaper on the many phases of crop production in 1961. 10 circular letters were sent to the farmers giving current information about the various phases of field crops.

This was a good growing and harvesting year for corn, so we may have reached our goal of 55 bushels per acre yield. It isn't likely that the goals of 30 bushels of soybeans, 30 bushels of wheat, 60 bushels of oats and 50 bushels of barley were obtained.

Mathews County Planning Commission, and zoning and subdivision ordinances.

March 16, news article in our local newspaper, "Industries in Mathews County". May 11, news article, "A Planned County". September 7, news article, "Mathews County Development". These articles pointed out our needs, our opportunities and reports of meetings and our progress.

There has been no County Development Organization established to date. The instructions we received at our district meeting helped clarify procedures and responsibilities for such an organization.

Many of us in Mathews County believe that considerable good can come from a County Development Program. It will entail much planning and work by many people. It affords the county agent opportunities to work with many people he has not worked with before. Properly conducted, it should help Mathews County to grow orderly and more rapidly and with less costly mistakes. It will almost certainly strengthen the agricultural program because of its affiliation with an over-all program with its many participants.

AGRONOMY

As the census indicates, there are very few farms in Mathews County. Practically all farms are too small for economical

August 8, representatives of Virginia State Commission of Industrial Development and Research Section of Area Development visited Mathews County all day to become acquainted with our situation. At night, they met with about 45 interested people to discuss our development problems and plans.

August 14, I wrote a letter to the project committee members asking them to prepare a written report for the meeting to be held on August 17.

August 17, 33 interested people met to hear and discuss the project reports. The committee members were asked to make further studies and be prepared to make more definite reports at a later meeting.

August 19, I sent a letter to the committee members giving in considerable detail, suggested methods which could be used in making their study and reports more complete and understandable and in a form which could be acted upon by the larger group.

September 15, 7 committee members met. It was suggested that a county-wide survey seemed necessary to help determine our situation, needs, and opportunities before definite progress could be made in any area of development. A committee was appointed to petition Mathews County Board of Supervisors to authorize a county study group to investigate the need for a

July 13, the first Mathews County Development Program Meeting was held. 22 of the group, plus three or four others attended the meeting to discuss the situation, problems and opportunities in Mathews County. At the end of the discussion, a chairman was selected who was to select a committee to study the various phases of problems which had been discussed, to make suggestions for future action and to report to the group at a future meeting of this group and others who may be interested. I was selected as the chairman.

July 15, I sent a letter to all present at the meeting, stating the various areas of development discussed at the meeting. These leaders were asked to choose which group each would like to work with and to choose others in the meeting or otherwise qualified, and to be prepared to help work out details at a later meeting.

July 24, I sent a notice of the 14 leaders who indicated that they would work on committees. This letter gave notice of the committee meeting and something of the areas of development we would study and a suggested outline of the approach to each problem that they could use to reach more definite conclusions. Eleven leaders met, were divided into 5 problem groups and worked out a report to be given to the over-all group.

Several people to whom I talked suggested that a meeting of interested people be called to discuss the situation and to get the feelings and suggestions of these people.

Procedure

March 13, sent letter to 37 leading citizens and officials asking, "What one thing would do most to improve Mathews County and her people?". This letter produced three replies with several ideas and suggestions.

March 24, sent letter to 41 of same leaders and officials telling something of response and suggestions I had received as a result of the first letter and asked for additional suggestions.

May 3, sent letter to same group giving some facts and figures and asked for opinions about a planning and zoning commission.

June 6, sent letter to same group giving a list of all the suggestions I had received and indicated that the responses warranted continued action regarding over-all county development activities.

June 26, letter to same group, stating my willingness to arrange for a discussion meeting, providing enough people believed such a meeting would be beneficial. A return post card was enclosed with the letter which was to indicate whether or not each would attend such a meeting. 24 people did indicate that they would attend such a meeting.

Mathews County Development Program

In January, I began talking to officials and leading citizens in the county about the possibility of a concerted program which may be developed to help us work out our own improvements.

A cursory examination of our situation indicated that our population has been relatively stable in numbers for many years, but that we have lost many local residents who have been replaced by new residents from other areas. These are chiefly retired people or people near retirement.

The income from farming and seafood which has been produced by local people has decreased sharply in recent years. This has been hastened in the past three years by the disease which struck our oysters.

The tax needs have been increasing, but this has been met chiefly from the new residents and the increasing number of people who commute to work in other areas.

This cursory examination also emphasized some opportunities which may improve our situation with proper exploration. Our soil types will produce excellent loblolly pine; our 18 square miles of inland water and miles of bay shore offer opportunities for desirable home sites, marinas, boatels, many forms of recreation and attraction for vacationers.

Mathews County

The 1959 Census of Agriculture for Mathews County helped to prompt the county agent and county leaders to look for better ways of improving rural living in Mathews County.

Mathews County extends into the Chesapeake Bay and is almost surrounded by water with many rivers and water extending inland. Much of the land is flat and too wet-natured for producing farm crops. Most of the farms are too small to produce crops economically. Between 55 and 61 percent of the land area is woodland.

The following information indicates what is happening to our agriculture:

	1959 Census	1954 Census	
Total land area	55,680 acres	55,680 acres	
Land in farms	12,763 acres	16,278 acres	
Cropland harvested	4,722 acres	6,114 acres	
Number of farms	247	458	
Average size of farms	51.7 acres	30.3 acres	
Reduction of farms by definition	67		
Value per farm	\$9,292.67		
Value per acre	\$ 291.06		
Commercial farms	45	75	
White operators	236	416	
Non-white operators	11	42	
Managers	1		
All tenants	9	1	
Average age of operator	58.7 years		
Corn produced	182 farms 1,393 acres	360 farms 2,145 acres	
Wheat produced	35 farms 280 acres	47 farms 245 acres	
Oats produced	26 farms 130 acres	38 farms 154 acres	
Soybeans produced	116 farms 2,268 acres	283 farms 3,115 acres	
Commercial flowers and bulbs sold	15 farms	\$49,423	
Standing timber sold	13 farms	\$25,307	

Total population of Mathews County is about 7,000 people and has been so over the past many years.

County: Mathews

Name: E. L. Phillips County Agent

Name: Frances Wreten Stenographer

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

E. L. Phillips

Name

County

Agent

Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1961

Mathews, Virginia
County