

We will furnish them with bulletins, talks and assistance as much as possible throughout the year.

XI Farm and Home Development

A farm without a satisfactory home situation is never desirable. Without profitable farming the home phase of rural living can not be satisfactory. In our Farm and Home Development Program, our first concern is for profits from the farm.

Our second interest is the wise use of some of the farm profits toward adequate home equipment, wholesome recreation and health educational programs, suitable home and surroundings and faith in the farm as a vital part of our way of life.

There being no home agent in the county, it is necessary for us to concentrate on good farm management, then help with the others as we can.

the best all-round 4-H Club members ever.

XI Working With Other Agencies

1. Situation:

With all U.S.D.A. and state agencies working together and doing the best they could, year after year, there would still be more to do than we could accomplish in Mathews County. The working relations between the agencies here are excellent because we realize it is only by cooperative efforts that we can get best results. Not only can we accomplish more by cooperative efforts, but we gain the confidence of the people where there is no friction and jealousy.

Several times a year, as is necessary, representatives of the various agencies meet to make plans for the various phases of work to be done. Each representative feels perfectly free to direct farmers and others to representatives whose training and facilities may serve better.

Numerous news articles, radio talks and circular letters will be used to give information regarding the functions of the other agencies and how to contact them and use their services. All personal contacts will be handled in the same manner.

X Working With Other Organizations

1. Situation:

There are all manner of service and civic organizations, women's and garden clubs, lodges and churches and P.T.A. organizations in the county.

These are organizations by people who have particular interests and have a feeling for specific needs. For this reason the members are interested and receptive to information and ideas.

Our plans call for free contact with these organizations to help them help their communities and the county in general. Very often the programs for better rural living can be carried on through these organizations better than through organizations by the Extension Service.

the members, parents, and leaders. To teach members to conduct meetings according to acceptable procedures. To help members to develop good personalities and talents by demonstrations and self expression.

3. Procedure:

November: members, leaders and agent meetings to discuss plans for the year and ways to improve 4-H work.

December: discuss various projects to help members select projects which best suit their needs and desires. Also letters to parents to explain project, for better choices.

January: give members project record books, manuals and relating materials. Help members to understand all phases of project to get them off to a good start.

February: illustration talk on soil to give a greater appreciation of soil and its use and importance of good management.

March: better use of electricity, safe use of electricity and demonstration and practice groups; Virginia Electric and Power Company assisting.

April: instruction in projects, assisting with records, plans for 4-H Sunday.

May: instructions in project 4-H records. 4-H Sunday.

June: discuss 4-H Camp, good use of vacation time and assist with projects.

Summer: 4-H Camp, visit members and help with projects.

September: help in the completion of projects. Reports of summer activities including 4-H Camp.

October: achievement program and review of 4-H program for the year.

Have during the year, composition and poster contest in forestry.

4. Goals:

10 % increase in membership, 75% completions, develop

and buyers.

Have meetings between farmers and buyers to get full understanding of over-all program and work out details.

Work with county agents in nearby counties to coordinate program for the whole area.

Use timely news articles, radio talks and circular letters to publicize and give information to all farmers and interested people.

4. Goals:

Grading, Packing and Shipping Station in the county.
100 acres of large cucumbers in the area.
24 acres of strawberries in the area.
100 acres of cabbage in the area.

VIII

4-H Clubs

Committee: Martin Diggs, Miss Virginia Miles, Mrs. Myrian Bennett, Mrs. Virginia Armistead, Mrs. Curtis Fitchett, Mrs. Leslie Hudgins, Mrs. Virginia Howard, Mrs. Hubert Hudgins, and Club Officers.

1. Situation:

There are seven 4-H Clubs which meet in three elementary schools in Mathews County. The membership ranges from 120 to 140 children.

The cooperation of the superintendent of schools, principals and teachers is very good.

Very few members own or expect to own livestock, dairy animals or poultry. The projects usually consist of, "Home Grounds Beautification", "Home Improvement", "Room Improvement", and "Safety". This year about thirty-six members will carry the "Forestry Appreciation" project.

2. Objectives:

To help build better citizens. To help 4-H members to turn cumbersome jobs into more pleasant duties by group action as the results of jobs well-done. To promote wholesome pride in ownership. To get 4-H members to appreciate the value of using good methods to accomplish jobs. To promote good working relations between

including 4-H Clubs, and other organizations.

Furnish information regarding the many bulletins and leaflets available to help with these problems.

Use local paper, circular letters and radio to give current information regarding home grounds beautification and vegetable gardening.

VII Commercial Vegetables

Committee: H. E. Hudgins, T. L. Kemp, J. A. Mickelborough, John Bing.

1. Situation:

Much of our soil is suitable for producing early vegetables as well as vegetables which are not dependent upon earliness for fair profits.

We have many small places which are not large enough for commercial field crops, but are large enough for growing some kind of vegetables on a commercial scale.

We need to find some crop here which can be grown profitably on a small place, and which will provide work for families which are not otherwise occupied.

2. Objectives:

Establish a grading and packing station in the county or area to handle applicable vegetables on a commercial scale.

Get farmers to realize the possibilities of producing certain vegetables on a commercial scale as a means of getting additional income from farms with few acres.

Get farmers to realize the advantages of using good commercial vegetable production practices.

3. Procedure:

Contact a reliable commercial vegetable company which will work with our farmers to establish a grading, packing and trucking station in the area.

Help work up satisfactory contracts between growers

Home Surroundings

1. Situation:

Almost everyone in Mathews County owns his own home. These are rural homes in which the owners take considerable pride.

Flowers, shrubs, shade trees, and lawns present problems to most of these people. Right many of these people have vegetable gardens with there various problems.

Plant insects and disease presents many of the problems. Many of the problems which are thought to be caused by insects and diseases are actually caused by soils, wrong environment and mismanagement.

Our mild climate and ample rain fall are favorable for producing many different kinds and varieties of plants. However, some of our heavier types of soil cause plant troubles. Many people attempt to produce plants and vegetables without the use of a spraying or dusting program to control insects and disease.

2. Objectives:

To get home owners to understand the necessity of selecting shrubs, trees, and plants which thrive in our area, placing plants in proper environment and using good management practices for satisfactory results.

Help owners to obtain and use effective materials and equipment to control insects and diseases.

To get people to realize the value and advantages of good vegetable gardens and furnish information to help produce good quality vegetables.

To help people to learn more about the various types of soil and the management of the various types of soil to get better results.

3. Procedure:

Give illustrated talk at the several clubs,

all. Some people realize the value of such a clinic, but hesitate or refuse to use the clinic because of the real or imagined stigma associated with mental disturbances.

2. Objectives:

To get people who may need the services of the clinic to go to the clinic at as early a stage as possible.

To thoroughly publicize the functions and benefits of the clinic so there can be no doubt of its advantages to people who need it and to our people as an institution.

To present a true picture of mental health as compared to physical health and the possibility of preventing the progress of mental diseases and cure when treated early.

3. Procedure:

Have at least one representative attend the Clinic Board Meeting regularly to keep informed as to its progress and functions.

Each member of the Clinic Committee to publish at least one article regarding the various phases of mental health and the part the Tidewater Guidance Clinic assumes in detecting, preventing, and treating mental health.

Circular letters to promote the educational phase of mental health.

Have at least one meeting of organizations which make contributions to the clinic, teachers, ministers and friends, to discuss functions of the clinic and learn how to make better use of the services of the clinic.

We believe there is much to be done and can be done to alleviate the distress and to lessen the occurrences and costs of mental diseases. This not only concerns many people in the county, but concerns the county as a whole.

in groups to tell our forestry story.

Have a tour to show the various practices and give costs and possible returns.

Have county divided into 16 communities with one owner in each community who will promote good practices and invite neighbors to places where practices are being carried out.

The county agent and foresters to work with these groups to help establish practices and give information as needed.

Individual action: We will work with individuals who have forestry questions and problems of all natures. Assist these individuals to make the best use of the A.S.C. Program and services of foresters.

To help farmers to make best use of machinery and materials in their practices.

Mass media: Use circular letters, local newspaper and local radio to give forestry information and urge owners to use their woodland to best advantage.

Goals: 250,000 seedlings to be planted in idle fields and spot planted. 250 acres to be disked and bulldozed. 250 acres killed weed trees. 200 acres thinned.

V

Mental Health

1. Situation:

Mathews County is one of eleven counties and Williamsburg served by the Tidewater Guidance Clinic. The clinic is well staffed and doing an excellent job, but Mathews County people are not using the services of the clinic as well as they should.

Many who are taken to the clinic, or who go themselves, could have been helped better and quicker if they had used the clinic sooner. Many people who could be benefited by the clinic do not know the functions of the clinic so are not using it at

idle land too wet and poor for crop land which will grow good loblolly pine timber.

Most of this land is Fallsington type soil which is excellent for loblolly pines.

Probably less than half of the established timberland is in solid pine stands. The rest contains worthless hardwood, brush and briars which prevents the establishing of good pine stands without previous preparation.

All but a small amount of our woodland is privately owned.

A workable, sound forestry program carried out over the next ten years would probably double the actual value and tax value of woodland.

2. Objectives:

To get owners to thin out thick stands of pines to get more profit over a period of 35 to 50 years and have the land in condition for full reseeding after the last harvest.

To get owners to cruise or have their timber cruised and evaluated before selling to get near true value for timber.

To get owners to realize the value of preparing land for better reseeding before cutting.

To get owners to realize the value of preparing cut-over land for reseeding or replanting.

To get owners to realize the value of killing worthless hardwood to release pines.

To get owners to plant idle land and land now growing crops, but is too wet and poor for good yields, to pines as a way of making these fields valuable or as an investment for future uses.

3. Procedure:

Group action: Give talks and show charts and pictures

Most of our work with swine is on the individual basis, helping get good feeder pigs, using home grown grains with adequate supplemental feeds, disease and parasite control and general management problems.

Some information will be given by circular letters and the local newspaper to get farmers to use general good swine feeding and management practices as a means of more profitable production.

III Poultry

Very few broilers are produced in Mathews County. We see no advantage in encouraging this phase of the poultry business here.

There are only 8 or 9 commercial layer flocks with 2,000 birds and over in the county.

The small home laying flocks are almost all in the past.

Until there is a poultry program with emphasis on marketing, on an area basis, there is little use to encourage the production of poultry. This is especially true with people without poultry experience and established housing facilities.

We will continue to work with individual flock owners in all phases of production.

A well planned area poultry meeting has been planned to give the latest information to all who wish to attend.

We will continue to work toward a program for the area because if any money is to be made in poultry it should be done here where we are close to markets which want and pay well for extra quality products and where feeding grains are plentiful and cheap to produce or buy.

IV Forestry

Forestry Committee: Frank Preston, J. C. Miller, Edgar Reeves, F. C. Kimball.

1. Situation:

There are over \$30,000 acres of established timber land in Mathews County. There are about 12,000 acres of

We have been working closely with the two dairy farms and four beef farms during the past several years.

The number of farm animals ranging from one to 20 per farm is dwindling rapidly. Very few family beef and dairy cattle remain in the county. Practically all of our animals are of good breeding stock. Improved pastures are on all but a few farms.

2. Objectives:

Continue to get farmers to produce good pastures and good quality forage crop for greater profits.

Continue to get farmers to use home grown grains and adequate supplements for greater profits.

Get farmers to see the need of culling poor producers to make production more efficient and to help curtail the over-all supply on the market for a general increase in profits.

3. Procedure:

We work with our livestock farms almost entirely on an individual basis. Assist with over-all farm plans and programs. Assist in developing good pasture, hay and grain crops. Assist with feed mixtures and practices. Assist with storage problems. Assist with marketing problems and purchasing of breeding stock.

4. Goals:

None.

B. Sheep

We have but few sheep in the county. Our flocks are small. We help with purchasing better breeding stock, producing good pasture and forage crops, getting sheep sheared and good parasite control practices.

C. Swine

1. Situation:

There are only about 1,000 hogs raised in Mathews County. These are chiefly pen pigs for home consumption.

cluding several counties. One specialist, county agent and farmers planned this meeting. The very best specialist and research men obtainable were secured. Publicity included three news articles, extra good coverage by local dealers with pictures of speakers, letter with program to all farmers, reminder card to all farmers, telephone calls to many. Only an average of 20 miles to travel to the meeting and a 75 cent dinner for 30 cents. Results: Six farmers from Mathews County. The only group type work we can do here is to spot the leaders in each group of people who work together in other jobs, help them to do a better job and let them and their results be observed and followed by the others in the groups.

Individual action: Soil tests are our best method of getting individual action. These tests give us the opportunity to discuss all the phases of better and more economical crop production. We find that farmers follow suggestions and recommendations very well when soil tests and this type of information is given. Our people who are so closely associated by families, church, local stores and working groups have excellent inter-group communications and learn from each other freely. We use key individuals in these groups as much as possible to get desired results.

Mass media: Timely circular letters, news articles (Ramblings of a County Agent), and radio talks (W D D Y) will be used persistently throughout the year.

Goals: Corn, 55 bushels per acre, soybeans, 30 bushels per acre, wheat, 30 bushels per acre, oats, 60 bushels per acre, and barley, 50 bushels per acre.

II Livestock and Dairy

A. Beef and Dairy

1. Situation:

Our farms are too small for commercial farms. Available land is selling too high to develop into such farms.

A 50 percent increase in drainage over 1959.

B. Corn, Soybeans and Small Grains

1. Situation:

Approximately 3,000 acres of soybeans, 2,000 acres of corn and 600 acres of small grains are grown in Mathews County.

The average yields of these crops are much too low for economical production.

Most of our crop land will produce high yields if properly managed.

Chief causes of low yields are: poor preparation of land, planting out of season, not using amount and kind of fertilizer needed, improper placement of fertilizer, acid soil, using unadapted or home grown seed, failure to control weeds, too deep cultivation, loss at harvest time, and wet land prevents harvesting.

Many farmers are losing money because they have no storage facilities and are obligated to sell their grain at harvest time when prices are usually lowest.

2. Objectives:

To get farmers to understand the value of good crop production methods and management and to use these practices as a means of greater profits.

To help farmers to use better marketing methods as a means of greater profits.

3. Procedure:

a. Getting Higher Yields

Group action: To attempt to get farmers to a speaking and discussion meeting relation to crop management and practices continues to be a gross waste of time and effort.

Our 1960 plans called for an area meeting, in-

Mass media: Use local newspaper, radio and circular letters to explain the benefits derived from soil tests, the need for proper soil samples and our services available for making best use of the soil tests.

c. Around Homes

Much of the trouble home owners have with their grass, shrubbery, shade trees and vegetable gardens is the result of improper soil use, fertilizer and lime use. Home owners often blame diseases and insects for damage caused by improper use or management of their soils.

The procedure will be similar as for farm crops with emphasis on club meetings, home visits, telephone and office calls and news articles.

d. Surface Drainage

Our low, flat, wet natured land must be surface drained in order to work the land and to produce crops economically. We work with the A.S.C. office manager and S.C.S. technician to help the farmers get a good job at least cost.

Group action: Have demonstrations of the type ditches or bed plowing applicable to the type of soil and depth of ditch. Show pictures of ditches and crops at meetings throughout the year.

Individual action: Help farmers on their individual farm to determine their needs for drainage and help them make best use of A.C. Program and S.C.S. technician.

Mass media: Use local newspaper, radio and circular letters to give needs and benefits of good drainage and offer to help any who desire drainage assistance.

Goals: A 25 percent increase in the number of fields tested over 1959. We use the soil test to help people understand and use soil types as well as using lime and fertilizer for more profitable crop production.

gardens for cheaper and healthier food.

To get farmers to surface drain their fields where necessary to facilitate the working of the soil and for greater profits.

3. Procedure:

a. Using Soil Types

Group action: farmers meeting, club meetings, F.F.A. classes and 4-H meetings use soil moliths, soil maps, and soil samples to help people recognize the various types on their own places. Use live exhibits and pictures to show various results of different crops in the different soil types.

Individual action: Use soil maps and soil samples of various horizons of the different types of soil on individual farm visits to help farmers get full significance of differences in soil types and how different crops grow in different types of soil.

Mass communication: Use local newspaper and radio and circular letters to tell about soil types and their best use.

b. Testing Soils

Group action: At all possible meetings, show soil test record sheets and explain how testing helps to determine present soil fertility and needs of the various crops for most economical productions. This will include the time of placement of lime and fertilizer according to the soil types as well as amounts to use.

Encourage farmers to have their land tested and use the test as a basis for applying lime and fertilizer according to soil types and crop needs.

Individual action: Show and explain to farmers how to take accurate soil samples. Help farmers understand and use the results of the soil analysis for each field and each crop. Make recommendations for each field tested according to soil types and crops desired where this is practical.

Board of Agriculture

John Albert Mickelborough, general crop and commercial flowers;
 T. L. Kemp, general crops and commercial vegetables;
 W. F. Sadler, poultry and general crop; H. H. White, general
 crop and businessman; John Bing, custom farmer and renter;
 J. C. Miller, forest and businessman; Sherwood Sutton, retail
 merchant; S. Bruce Jones, minister; L. L. Smith, banker;
 James Turpin, dairy.

I Agronomy

Agronomy Committee: James Turpin, Robert Lewis, John Bing,
 J. A. Mickelborough.

A. Soil

1. Situation:

Over 90 percent of the soil in Mathews County is of the
 Fallsington Elkton and Plummer types. Fortunately most
 of this land is in forestry. Loblolly pines grow very
 well on this land.

The land which produces the field crop and pasture is
 chiefly Sassafra, Kempsville, Kyport and Moyock. All
 of our land responds very well to proper management.

Much of our land is low and flat, requiring surface drain-
 age. Very little can be tile drained.

Our soils are naturally low in phosphorus and potash
 and tend to be acid.

A soils type survey has been made of the entire county
 and we have soil maps which show soil types in each
 farm.

2. Objectives:

To get farmers to use the various types of soil in their
 farms according to their capabilities, where practical,
 for more economical crop production.

To get farmers to have their soil tested as a means of
 increasing crop profits.

To help home owners to understand their soil around the
 homes for better trees, shrubs, and lawns, and in the

PLAN OF WORK

Description of Mathews County 1954 Census

Total acres	55,680 acres
Cropland harvested	6,114 acres
Woodland	24,335 acres
Farm woodland	6,370 acres
Rivers, harbors, etc.	9,000-11,000 acres
Idle land	2,361 acres
Tidal marsh	3,149 acres
Pasture	562 acres

The 1959-60 Census will change many of these figures appreciably.

Only five or six farms are grossing over \$5,000. Few if any farms gross between \$5,000 and \$2,500, about 70 farms gross between \$250 and \$2,500, about 350 additional farms have gross incomes of between 0 and \$1,200 whose operators are gaining their chief income other than from the farm.

Practically all of the families in the county own their own places. Most of them have some land (yard, garden, piece of woodland, idle land) or a few acres tended by a neighbor or custom worker.

Over 50 percent of the soil is low and wet natured (Fallsington and similar types). Most of this is in timber land as it should be. Much of the crop land is Kempsville, Kyport, Sassafrass and Moyock. All of our soil responds very well to proper management of adapted crops.

The many tidal rivers, inlets, harbors and Chesapeake Bay afford opportunities for seafood activities, sports, fishing, recreational developments and residential developments.

The population of the county has been stable for many years, approximately 7,000, with about 20 percent negroes.

The taxable income of the people in 1955 was \$7,636,789.00. Less than 3 percent of this income came from farm products.

EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

MATHEWS COUNTY

1960

E. L. PHILLIPS

COUNTY AGENT