

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK  
IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &  
U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
Cooperating

EXTENSION SERVICE  
County Agent Work

PLAN OF WORK

COUNTY Chesterfield

YEAR 1956

Name R. F. Jones  
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed Dec., 22, 1955

1. Officers

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

Edward Friend, President  
Mrs. Maude P. Berry, Secretary  
Grover C. Crawley, Treasurer

R. 15, Richmond, Va.  
R. 1, Colonial Heights, Va.  
R. 1, Winterpock, Va.

JUNIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

LeeCogbill Friend, President  
Melvin Reese, Secretary  
Edward Friend, Treasurer

R. 15, Richmond, Va.  
R. 1, Colonial Heights, Va.  
R. 15, Richmond, Va.

2. County Situation:

Chesterfield County is located South of the James River at the head of the Tidewater but adjacent to the cities of Richmond, Petersburg and Hopewell. The county is 28 miles long, and 20 miles wide, and includes an area of 489 square miles.

The natural boundaries are as follows; North: James River and Powhatan County; East: the James River, and on the West: Powhatan and Amelia Counties.

The County Courthouse is located at Chesterfield on State Road #10 and surrounded by the heaviest populated area of the county. Here at the Courthouse are located such buildings as the Courthouse Clerk's Office, Administration Building, which furnishes office space for the County Executive Secretary to the Board of Supervisors, Commissioner of Revenue, the County Treasurer, the Police Department, an office building for the County Farm and Home Agents, (White), the Division of Superintendent of Schools and a Public Health Center.

Most farm land in Chesterfield is gentle to moderate sloping type, and requires the average conservation measures to obtain fair returns. The county is not classified as strictly agricultural. Other features are:

Chesterfield has several very large Corporations that give work to many Chesterfield County part time farmers, the adjacent counties are within 30 miles to Chesterfield, the cities of Richmond, Petersburg and Hopewell. Tens of thousands of workers find employment at these Corporations.

Among the plants located in the county are:

1. McGuire Veterans Hospital, located at the City Limits on State Highway #10.
2. W.L. DuPont De Nemours and Company, located at City Limits, on James River Seaboard Railroad, and U. S. Highway #1.
3. U. S. Government Army Depot Bellwood, located on U. S. #1. A.C.L. and Seaboard Railroads, about five miles from Richmond City Limits.
4. The Allied Chemical Company located on the James River, the Seaboard Railroad, and the State Highway #10.
5. There are numerous saw mills located in various parts of the county that give employment to part time farmers, who choose not to work at large plants.
6. Three of the nations leading railroads pass through the county.
7. There are six villages located within the county boundaries.
8. One modern bank.

The county is growing in population, industry, and is well situated for growing horticultural, poultry, swines and dairy farming.

Chesterfield County has a population of 48,000 with a total of 910 farmers, of which 148 are colored. However, a special survey revealed that there are 1,115 colored full and part time farmers.

#### 4. Organizations:

- (a) The County Advisory Board: The Advisory Board's membership consist of 36 (men and women) representing the seven Fara Community Clubs, the 4-H Adult Advisory Committee, the 4-H Council, the H.D. Council, the County Fair Association, the County Schools, Ministers and a representative of the people at large. This group is organized and is the piloting body for all county extension organized groups.
- (b) Community Clubs: These seven clubs have a total membership of about 200 families. Two men and a woman from each club, represent the club at the Advisory Board meetings. Forty seven men and thirty one women leaders assist with the various phases of the extension program.
- (c) The 100 bushel Corn and Pasture Clubs. The 100 bushel corn and pasture clubs are piloted by the Advisory Board to stimulate larger yields of corn, hay and pasture yields.
- (d) The Junior Council: The Junior Council has a membership of 66 boys, girls and leaders whose primary purpose is to sponsor 4-H projects and other club activities. The 4-H Adult Advisory Committee works with the Council in an advisory capacity for developing desirable ideals and standards of boys and girls.
- (e) The 4-H Clubs: Nine 4-H Clubs with approximately 200 members and 24 leaders, located in six magisterial districts carry out the different phases of method and result 4-H demonstrations.
- (f) The County Agricultural Fair Association: Close relationships exist between the County Advisory Board and the Chesterfield County Fair Association. The Chesterfield County Fair has a membership of 205 members, and works to promote agricultural production and to stimulate interest in the selection and exhibition of better exhibits. A special interest committee of the County Advisory Board has planned and set up 11 objectives that assist the Fair Association in carrying out its program.

#### 5. County Problems:

- (a) Too many farmers not carrying out available proven practices, therefore do not get best results.
- (b) Yields have not increased as rapidly with trend as other near by counties have done.
- (c) Too many part time farmers. Lack of knowledge of best practices to make best type of farms.

Demonstration

A. Pasture

1. Goal: To conduct seven demonstrations teaching the importance of: (a) good seed has over poor seed, (b) properly culture over poorly culture, (c) properly tested and limed soil, and (d) amount of balanced fertilizer over poor uses.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) Consult with leaders and growers of successful pastures on local level.
  - (b) Make use of experiment station bulletins and specialist recommendations.
  - (c) Test soil for acidity and apply necessary amount of lime, when needed to correct acidity.
  - (d) Give publicity to practices used and results obtained from demonstration.
  - (e) Supervise fertilizing of demonstration according to test requirement.
3. General Educational Activities. Educational activities will be conducted through community clubs, field meetings, leaders, circular letters and tours to promote good pasture practices.

B. Corn

1. Goal. To conduct six demonstrations illustrating recommended hybrids with open pollinated varieties.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) Through conferences with leaders secure conspicuous places for demonstrations.
  - (b) Make available recommended hybrid seed.
  - (c) Supervise planting of demonstration to see that directions are observed for planting.
  - (d) Invite farmers of area to the demonstration to observe methods used, that some may be carried out on their farms.
  - (e) Give publicity of place and progress made on demonstration.
3. General Educational Activities. General educational procedures will be carried on through circular letters, press, club and field to promote good hybrid corn practices.

C. Garden

1. Goal. To conduct 7 gardens to illustrate how a variety of leafy, root and fruit vegetables may be

cheaper and easier than the old simple method.

2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In consultation with farm leaders will get prominent spots for garden demonstrations.
  - (b) Provide cooperators with recent experiment station garden planting guide.
  - (c) Keep cooperators informed on experiment station findings as to diseases, parasites, etc.
  - (d) Give publicity as to location and progress of demonstration.
3. General Educational Procedure. General educational procedures will be carried to promote good practices through circular letters, club and field meetings, tours and county exhibit.

D. Wheat

1. Goal. To conduct 4 demonstrations to show comparison of recommended varieties of wheat and practices over those generally used.
2. Methods To Be Used: In conference with leaders select key spots for demonstration. Make available to cooperators recommended varieties of seeds and analysis of fertilizer.
3. General Educational Activities. Methods of stimulation will be carried out through community meetings, circular letters and bulletins.

E. Poultry

Goal:

1. To conduct two demonstrations to teach good practices in brooding, housing and feeding and management.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In consultation with leaders and producers select carefully place for demonstrations.
  - (b) Furnish cooperators with assistance and information on problems involved in demonstration.
  - (c) Give publicity as to progress made with demonstration.
3. General Educational Activities. Information will be carried to promote proven practices through community clubs, field meetings, circular letters and tours.

F. Beef Cattle

1. Goal. To conduct two demonstrations to teach good livestock breeding, feeding, housing, judging, and exhibition practices.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In consultation with livestock leaders select demonstrations where suited for a demonstration.
  - (b) Provide cooperators with convenient bull service.
  - (c) Give publicity to progress throughout the year.
3. General Educational Activities. Procedures of activities will be carried out to stimulate best livestock practices through club meetings, tours and press.

G. Hogs

1. Goal. To conduct three demonstrations to teach the advantages of good breeding, housing and management.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In conference with leaders select with care places for demonstrations.
  - (b) Confer with cooperators as to breed desired and market demand.
  - (c) Use best information on feeding, controlling diseases and parasites.
  - (d) Give publicity as to place and progress of demonstration.
3. General Educational Activities. Educational work will be carried on to stimulate best methods of growing hogs through meetings, tours, circular letters.

H. Forestry

1. Goal. To conduct three demonstrations to teach recommended practices.
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In conference with good forestry men select three demonstrations.
  - (b) Provide cooperators with method demonstrations.
  - (c) Have specialist tour demonstration.
  - (d) Give publicity to progress and location of the demonstration.
3. General Educational Activities: Educational activities will be carried on through circular

letters, field meetings and tours to promote good forestry practices.

I. Farm and Home Development

1. Goal. To enroll three farm families of the county in the farm and home development program. Inventory persons in each family, total farm acres, dwellings, out buildings, crops with itemized acreage, livestock, swine and poultry.
2. Method To Be Used:
  - (a) In consultation with the Farmer Community Club and County Advisory Board, two farmers were chosen to conduct farm and home demonstration projects.
  - (b) To identify and analyze their farm and home problems and opportunities.
  - (c) Determine a course of action in relation thereto which will produce the maximum in terms of economic return and family satisfaction.
  - (d) Put plans into effect as rapidly as possible.
  - (e) Adjust plans when necessary to meet changing conditions.
3. General Educational Activities. General Educational procedures will spread over a period of years, while the family identifies and analyzes his farm and home problems and makes and plans a definite course of action with guidance for himself.

J. Community Improvement Program.

1. Goal. To enroll all farm and non-farm families of community in a contest to improve the community club membership, to improve the food, feed and home standards and to cooperate in carrying out the objectives set up by the State Advisory Board for the, "Community Improvement Program."
2. Methods To Be Used:
  - (a) In consultation with the Community Club and the County Advisory Board this community was selected for the Community Improvement Program.
  - (b) Select leaders from both adult and 4-H club for checking scores.
  - (c) Leaders to assist agents in checking community.
3. General Educational Activities. Public meetings, method and result demonstrations, circular letters, tours and the press will be used in stimulating good work.

6. County Wide Activities

- (a) Junior Council meeting ----- Jan.
- (b) Agronomy Committee meeting ----- Jan.
- (c) Horticultural Committee meeting ----- Feb.
- (d) Livestock and Poultry Committee meeting ----- Feb.
- (e) Forestry field meeting ----- Feb.
- (f) County Advisory Board meeting ----- Feb.
- (g) Pasture Committee meeting ----- Feb.
- (h) Leaders meeting ----- Feb.
- (i) Annual Fair meeting ----- Mar.
- (j) 100 Bushel Corn club meeting ----- April
- (k) Four H Electric Clinic ----- May
- (l) Four H Club Picnic ----- June
- (m) Trip to Experiment Station ----- June
- (n) County-Wide Tours ----- July
- (o) Four H Achievement Program ----- Oct.
- (p) Adult Achievement Program ----- Dec.

7. Specialist help needed

- (a) Forestry Field meeting ----- V.P.I Extension Forester -- Feb.
- (b) Home Ground Improvement ----- Mr. William Watson ----- Mar.
- (c) Pasture Field Meetings ----- Mr. W. T. Carter ----- Apr.
- (d) Poultry Field Meeting ----- Mr. I. C. Peoples ----- Apr.
- (e) Electric Clinic ----- Repres. of Electric Co. -- May

8. Other Federal Agencies: Work is done with other agencies as far as possible, such as the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Home Administration, A. C. P., and State Forestry.

9. Calendar of Extension Activities

Dec.

- (a) Re-organizing 4-H clubs
- (b) Holding Adult Achievement Program
- (c) Checking on Live At Home Program for 1956
- (d) Compiling and writing 1956 plan of work
- (e) Taking Holiday Leave

Jan.

- (a) Checking with Farm families of A. S. C. program
- (b) Holding agronomy meeting
- (c) Holding horticultural committee meeting
- (d) Checking on Farm and Home Development Program
- (e) Holding Junior Council meeting
- (f) Re-organizing 4-H clubs
- (g) Checking on county wide bazaar

Feb.

- (a) Holding Advisory Board meeting
- (b) Holding leaders' training meetings
- (c) Checking on pasture program
- (d) Checking small grain and pastures for top dressings.
- (e) Holding forestry field meeting

Calendar of Extension Activities continued

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March

- (a) Checking on pasture projects
- (b) Holding Yard Improvement demonstrations
- (c) Holding pasture field meeting

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April

- (a) Holding 100 bushel corn club meeting
- (b) Reporting 4-H club membership to State office
- (c) Checking on Farm and Home Development Program
- (d) Holding Poultry improvement demonstration
- (e) Attending State Farmers' conference

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May

- (a) Holding 4-H Electric clinic
- (b) Checking with leaders on goals of the Live at Home Community
- (c) Checking on Rural Life Sunday
- (d) Checking on 4-H club projects

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June

- (a) Checking on delegates for the State Short Course
- (b) Checking on demonstrations for community tours
- (c) Checking on Farm and Home Unite demonstration
- (d) Checking on top dressing needs as to field crops

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July

- (a) Holding 4-H County wide picnic
- (b) Conducting trip to Experiment Station
- (c) Checking on Community Improvement Program

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August

- (a) Checking the Farmers' needs for fall pastures
- (b) Compiling reports for the State Advisory Board meeting
- (c) Checking on educational exhibits for County Agricultural Fair
- (d) Annual Leave

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September

- (a) Taking delegates to State Advisory Board
- (b) Holding Junior Council meeting
- (c) Checking on small grain program
- (d) Holding County Wide Agricultural Fair

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October

- (a) Checking on 4-H club reports
- (b) Checking on 100 bushel corn club members
- (c) Checking on livestock sales
- (d) Holding 4-H club Achievement Program
- (e) Attending annual Agents' meeting

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November

- (a) Compiling annual statistical and narrative reports
- (b) Compiling County 4-H club reports and award list
- (c) Checking soils for 1956 pasture demonstrations
- (d) Checking final 100 bushel club reports
- (e) Report on Evaluation of the year's Extension Program