

Goals for 1955:

1. Have older youth specialist meet with staff to discuss plans for reaching more young adults.
2. Make a survey of young adults in the county and their interest.
3. Call a meeting of a committee of young adults to meet with specialist and staff to determine the method to be used in reaching more of the young adults in the county.
4. If they decide to organize, assist the group in any way possible with setting up organization and planning program.

The objectives will be reached by selecting interested individuals as leaders and through the cooperation of the specialist.

Specialist Needed:

January Dr. James Duncan Meet with Planning Committee

I. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The agent will cooperate with other members of the staff in studying the Farm and Home Development Program in general and discuss ways it can be applied in Fluvanna County.

Goals for 1955:

1. Attend District Conference to study program.
2. Hold staff meeting to plan program for the county.
3. Select 10 or more prospects and visit them and discuss program in general with them.
4. Select 3 or more of the most interested families in the group, and assist them with the cooperation of other members of the staff in formulating a complete Farm and Home Development Plan.

VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The agent will work closely with personnel of A.S.C., SCS, Farmers' Home Administration, Vocational Agriculture, other groups, and businesses in carrying out the over-all Extension Program in the county during 1955.

The agent will strive to have a representative group of farmers attend the Institute of Rural Affairs.

The agent will work closely with the banks in the county, and plans to attend the annual Agricultural Bankers Meeting in March.

The agent plans to attend the County Agent's National Association Meeting in Michigan.

5. Continue 4-H Sears Pig Project.
6. Participate in 3 or more District Judging Contest.
7. Have one or more group projects for all members and agricultural project for older boys.
8. Have delegation attend Atlantic Rural Exposition.
9. Have delegation attend 4-H Camp.
10. Assist All-Stars in recommending candidates for All-Star Chapter.
11. Organize 5 or more new clubs in the schools.
12. Continue to stress the importance of 4-H members exhibiting at the county fair.

The goals will be achieved by first planning the work at Staff Conferences and working closely with other staff members.

At a staff conference, it was decided that the agent would contact the school officials and work out plans for reaching more members through additional clubs.

Publicity will be given to winners in each contest and prizes given so far as is practical.

The agent will seek the cooperation of the banks, other businessmen, and adult leaders in carrying out the overall county 4-H Club Program.

Specialist Needed:

February	W. E. Skelton	4-H Club Council
February	Jack Tyree	4-H Advisory Council
March	A. B. Lyon	4-H Forestry Demonstration
March	Denver Bragg	4-H Judging
March	W. N. Patterson	4-H Judging
April	George Allen	4-H Sheep project
April	Hugh Henderson	4-H Livestock Judging
September	F. H. Scott	4-H Exhibits for Fair
July	Ralph Westing	4-H Hog Project
August	W. N. Patterson	Fitting and Showing

H. Y.M.W. WORK

The Young Men and Women's Work is not organized as such, however, they take part in other organizations in the county.

The agent will work closely with other members of the staff in studying ways to reach more of the young adult group during 1955.

4. Have 5 additional farmers plant trees.
5. Work closely with present sawmill operators.
6. Have 5 or more 4-H members plant trees as 4-H project.
7. Hold a county tour.

These goals will be carried out by working closely with the leading farmers and other agencies in the county.

The agent will solicit services of the forestry specialist and furnish demonstrators with latest information available.

The results will be given at field meetings, press, and by correspondence and farm visits.

Specialists Needed:

March	A. B. Lyon	Setting Up County 4-H Forestry Demonstration
April	A. B. Lyon	Forestry Committee
August	A. B. Lyon	Forestry Tour

G. 4-H CLUBS

The 4-H clubs in the county with one exception are conducted in cooperation with the schools. The school officials have cooperated 100% with the agent in planning the 4-H program.

One of the main problems has been to plan a program to challenge the high school boys and girls in competition with the many other activities in the school. We plan to reach a large number this year by continuing the Farm and Home Electric project, the Tractor Maintenance project and to emphasize the various judging contests.

One of the recognized needs is for more adult leaders among the boys.

Goals for 1955 are as follows:

1. Have a meeting of Superintendent of Instruction and principals of the county along with the Extension staff and a representative of the club department to study plans for reaching more boys and girls through club work.
2. Hold one or more meetings of the County Council.
3. Increase the enrollment by 10%.
4. Organize visitation program for agents and assistant to visit all parents at least once during the year.

In 1955, the agent will continue to place emphasis of more and better home gardens for all people. Small fruits will also be stressed.

The goals for 1955 are as follows:

1. Continue one demonstration on proper management of commercial orchard.
2. Establish one demonstration on the care of home orchard.
3. Have better balanced gardens on 25 farms.
4. Have 5 or more farmers to demonstrate thorough insect and disease control by following recommended control methods.
5. Increase number of small fruits on 5 farms.
6. Have 5 or more additional farmers exhibit at the fair.

The goals will be accomplished by selecting interested individuals by working through the 4-H clubs and other organizations.

The results will be given by exhibits at Fair, press and farm visits.

Specialists Needed:

September	F. H. Scott	Selecting 4-H exhibits for fair
September	F. H. Scott or H. B. Arcian	Judging at Fair.

F. FORESTRY

The forestry situation in the county is changing at an accelerated rate due to the increased interest of younger farmers, 4-H club members and other groups.

The agent feels that more people both land owners and others are becoming more conscious of the importance of forestry as a leading crop in Fluvanna County.

More landowners and sawmill operators are recognizing the importance of better forestry management by selective cutting and planting desirable species.

The forestry goals for 1955 are as follows:

1. Select a forestry 4-H leader.
2. Establish a forestry management demonstration to be used by all 4-H clubs in the county.
3. Establish 3 demonstration on selective cutting.

D. POULTRY

The poultry situation in Fluvanna is definitely on the increase in spite of the fact that prices are low at the present. The trend is toward production of more hatching eggs and more broilers, and one farmer is rapidly expanding in turkey production and several others in a smaller way.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee and the agent feels that poultry production offers one of the best ways for many of our farmers to increase their units especially those on small farms.

The poultry goals for 1955 are as follows:

1. Hold a county-wide poultry meeting and have Mr. Moore discuss the over-all poultry situation in the state followed by discussion of the things to be done to improve the poultry program in Fluvanna in 1955.
2. Have 3 or more additional farmers sell hatching eggs.
3. Stress poultry production in 4-H clubs and have a poultry judging team.
4. Have 5 farmers improve poultry houses.
5. Have 5 additional farmers show poultry at county fair in September.

The goals will be achieved by discussing the problems with the farmers at meetings, and individual visits and selecting the most interested demonstrators. The agent will furnish the demonstrators the latest recommendations of the Poultry Department.

The results will be discussed at meetings, and distributed by press, correspondence, and farm visits.

Specialist Needed:

March	Harry Moore	General Poultry meeting
March	Denver Bragg	4-H Judging
September	Denver Bragg	Judging at Fair

E. HORTICULTURE

We only have one small commercial orchard in the county, therefore, most of the program consists of vegetables and small fruits. There has been some increased interest in home orchards during the past year.

The interest in home gardens continues high in the county. The 4-H clubs and the home demonstration clubs take an active part in the vegetable garden program.

Livestock Goals for 1955:

Cattle:

1. To organize field trip to Front Royal Station and also to Middleburg Station.
2. Have 10 or more farmers to treat calves with Phenothiazine at weaning time.
3. To publish 4 or more articles in the paper stressing various phases of beef production in the county.

Sheep:

1. Have 5 additional farmers start sheep project in 1955.
2. Form a pool to purchase Western Ewes.
3. Have 5 or more farmers to participate in 4-times-a-year treatment schedule and pasture rotation to control internal parasites.
4. To increase sheep numbers by 25% in 1955.

Swine:

1. Establish 4 demonstrations on the use of Ladino pastures.
2. Have 5 or more breeders feed alfalfa hay in ration to breed sows.
3. Have 5 farmers treat pigs with sodium fluoride for worms.
4. Have 2 farmers secure pig breeders.

These goals will be achieved by selecting interested demonstrators and furnishing them with the recommendations of Agronomy and Animal Husbandry Departments and the results of best farmers in the county and state. The agent will discuss the program at various meetings and will use the press, correspondence and farm visits.

The results will be distributed by press, correspondence and farm visits.

Specialists Needed:

April	Curtis Mast	Meet with Beef Cattle Committee
April	George Allen	4-H Sheep project
April	Hugh Henderson	4-H Livestock judging
September	Hugh Henderson	Judge at Fair
July	Ralph Westing	4-H Hog Projects

3. Have 3 or more farmers build silos.
4. Have 5 or more farmers increase their feed supply.
5. Lower the cost of milk on 10 or more farms.
6. Have 20 or more additional cows bred artificially.

These goals will be reached by selecting interested demonstrators and furnishing them the recommendations of the Dairy Department and results of best farmers in the county.

The agent plans to work closely with dairy fieldman and plant manager of milk station in the county.

The results will be distributed by field meetings, press, correspondence and farm visits.

Specialist Needed:

March	W. N. Patterson	4-H Judging
August	W. N. Patterson	Fitting & Showing
September	R. G. Connelly	Judge at Fair

C. GENERAL LIVESTOCK

The agent feels that many needed adjustments in the livestock production, especially beef cattle, have been made during 1954, and that during 1955 the livestock program will be rather stable with some increases in numbers.

The agent feels that with a 90% or better of normal season, we will not have any major feed shortages in 1955-56.

The agent feels that the number of breeding hogs will be increased some during 1955. This will be partly due to the success of the 4-H Sears project which has been good during the past year. The project as a whole is at a high point at the present time.

There has been a decided increase in the interest shown in sheep production during the past year. The agent is happy to report that a Fluvanna farmer, T. J. Loving, placed sixth in the state in the Return-Per-Paw Contest. The results of this demonstration has been published which will help to create more interest in 1955.

The Extension Advisory Committee has gone on record as selecting increasing sheep as one of the major projects of the year. This will be done by purchasing Western ewes.

RM

7. Establish 5 or more demonstrations on maintaining Ladino and grass pasture.
8. Establish 5 or more demonstrations on increasing corn yields by use of recommended hybrids and more fertilizer.

These goals will be accomplished by selecting interested demonstrators and furnishing them with the latest recommendations and giving them all assistance possible.

The results of the demonstrations will be given at field meetings, other meetings, through the press, and individual visits.

Specialist Needed:

January, 1956	W. W. Lewis	Agronomy Committee
March, 1955	Shoulders	Fertilizer Meeting
August, 1955	Epperson	Land Appreciation School
September, 1955	Epperson or Shoulders	Pasture Tour

B. DAIRY

The dairy situation in the county has made some progress during the past year in spite of the severe drought. One herd of 15 was established and several others increased in numbers. We did not have any Grade A producers added during the year. The four Grade A producers we have are gradually increasing their herds and production.

One Grade A dairyman installed an irrigation system which proved very beneficial during the 1954 drought. We are hopeful of increasing the number of Grade A producers in the county during 1955. The milk receiving station in the county continues to render a great service in furnishing a market for non-Grade A milk.

The agent feels that the program for more alfalfa hay sponsored by the Agronomy Committee will also increase the dairy production.

The agent will secure the assistance of all the agencies in carrying out this program.

The goals for 1955 are as follows:

1. Get one or more additional Grade A producers.
2. Have 5 or more additional farmers sell non-Grade A milk. (By suggesting good way to use family labor.)

V. ACTIVITIES

A. AGRONOMY

The Agronomy Program in Fluvanna County has made good progress during the past few years. This has been done by all agencies working together to encourage the farmers to increase corn yields by use of adapted hybrids and more fertilizer. The pasture program has stimulated the farmers to produce better pastures. The pasture program has been greatly curtailed during the past two years due to severe drought. There has been some increase in acreage of alfalfa. More alfalfa during 1955 will be one of the major projects in the agronomy program for 1955.

One of the biggest problems in the past has been the tendency for farmers to overstock their farms, not allowing for reserve of pasture and roughage.

One of our greatest needs is for more research on production and maintenance of good pastures.

During 1954, the agent with the backing of the Extension Advisory Committee and the Agronomy Committee, plans to emphasize alfalfa production in every way possible. The goal is to double the acreage in alfalfa in 1955.

We plan to continue the emphasis on increased corn yields, better pastures, including supplementary pastures.

The agent plans to reach the people with this program by demonstrations, field meetings, farmer and other meetings, correspondence and the press.

The agent will work closely with the ASC and SCS and other agencies in carrying out the program.

The goals for 1955 will be as follows:

1. Establish or increase alfalfa production on 25 farms.
2. Establish 5 or more demonstrations of red clover.
3. Hold one Land Appreciation School.
4. Have group of farmers attend Orange and Middleburg Experiment Stations.
5. Maintain 2 pasture demonstrations in cooperation with the Plant Food Institute.
6. Establish 3 or more demonstrations on increasing tobacco yields by better fertilization.

II. CHANGES IN SITUATION WHICH WILL CHANGE THE PLANS FOR 1955

The agricultural situation in Fluvanna County has undergone many readjustments during the past two years. Due to two successive years of drought, it has been necessary for many farmers to reduce their beef herd and in several cases the herds have been dispersed. Many of the smaller farmers have increased their poultry, however, the broiler and turkey markets have been low for the past several months which has cut the production. Several hatching flocks have been increased.

The interest in sheep has grown and our Extension Advisory Committee at a recent meeting went on record of advocating that more emphasis be placed on increased sheep production for 1955.

The theme this year will be more hay with emphasis on alfalfa, more pasture, and sheep on more of the cattle farms. Poultry will also be stressed.

The farmers financially are not in too bad shape. Since cattle prices have gone down many of the farmers have curtailed their spending particularly with reference to new equipment.

III. HOW THE COUNTY EXTENSION PLAN FOR 1955 WAS DEVELOPED

The County Extension Plan for 1955 was developed with the help of the professional workers, the farm agricultural leaders and members of the various commodity groups.

The County Extension Advisory Committee made up of leading farmers representing different organizations in the county including key banker, met and discussed with the agent the overall agricultural Extension program in the county. The agent feels that this committee of six men representing each section of the county will be a big help in directing the program during the year.

This group of men with a similar group of women will comprise a committee to work with the home agent and county agent in carrying out the Farm and Home Development Program on several farms.

IV. GENERAL PROBLEMS OF COUNTY

- A. Large number of small operating units.
- B. More regular income needed.
- C. Large amount of cut over timberland in undesirable hardwoods.
- D. More cash crops needed.
- E. Much of land is low in natural minerals.
- F. Tendency to overstock small farms.
- G. Yields have been low in many cases.

1955 PLAN OF WORK

I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Fluvanna County is located in the approximate center of the state, in what is known as the Piedmont Section. It has a land area of slightly over 180,000 acres. Approximately 75% of this area is wooded, most of which has had timber removed in recent years.

Two major hard surfaced roads pass through Fluvanna County. Route 250 roughly follows the northern boundary of the county from Charlottesville which is 15 miles from the northwest, and to Richmond which is approximately 50 miles from the northeast of the county. Rout 15 passes almost directly through the county from north to south. Route 6 also passes through the south side of the county.

The main C&O Railroad passes through Fluvanna County along the southern boundary of the James River. A side line of the C&O passes through the county from south to north. Marketing of produce is therefore made easier by good transportation system and good roads.

A large percent of the county is in the Mason-Tatum belt. The topography is mostly rolling except along the James River and Rivanna River bottoms which is mostly Congaree soil.

The population in Fluvanna County has been declining since 1880 until 1950 when the population showed a slight increase over 1940. The population in 1950 was 7,121 of which approximately 60% was white and 40% colored. The number of farms have decreased from 1,054 in 1940 to 889 in 1950. The trend is definitely toward larger farms.

The leading types of farming in the county are general livestock, dairying, poultry, tobacco and general crops.

The trend during the past year has been toward less beef and more poultry. We have one producer which raised more than 20,000 turkeys and several broiler growers that have made large increases during the past two years. We have had several laying flocks established to produce hatching eggs.

The trend has been toward less tobacco since several of the small producers do not reach their quotas.

1955

PLAN OF WORK

FLUVANNA COUNTY

VIRGINIA

P. H. France, County Agent

R. C. Watts, Assistant County Agent