

Farm Records

Wildlife

Cooperation with agricultural and other related agencies.

It was felt by members of the committee that the long-time program which was recently set up for Essex County be revised and brought up to date in order to keep abreast of the prevailing trend of agriculture today in Essex County. This long time program is in the process of being revised at the present time.

Two farmers from each of the three districts will be chosen to receive training in marketing their livestock products.

January, February, October and November will be the months for emphasis on livestock production and marketing.

3. Cooperators:

Extension Animal Husbandry Specialists
Virginia Department of Agriculture
Tappahannock Livestock Market
Livestock Buyers
County Livestock Committee
Essex County Farm Bureau
Essex County Ruritan Club

Results will be measured by a census of livestock producers and processors.

IV. General Program:

There are numerous programs in the county which need attention and will require a limited time to successfully complete, some of these are:

Farm buildings and Machinery
Poultry
Horticulture
Dairy
Water Systems
Farm and Home Electrification

Farmers will be selected in each of the three magisterial districts to receive special training in preparing their livestock products for market. These selected farmers will be asked to serve as leaders and livestock committee members.

1. Teaching tools:

Farm and Home Visits

Personal Letters

Leader Training meetings

Tours

Field Days

Demonstrations

Bulletins

News Stories

Radio

Exhibits

2. Meetings will be held in the several communities of the county at general stores and community buildings.

Tours will be conducted in Essex, Middlesex, Westmoreland and King George Counties.

Livestock

- (a) The value of all livestock and products sold in Essex County as recorded by the last census was 336,736 dollars. This was 35.4 percent of the value of all farm products sold.

If the number of livestock in the county were prorated among the 320 white farmers each person would own the following:

All cattle 17 head
Hogs and pigs 6 head
Milk cows 6 head
Sheep and lambs 1.5 head

Essex county is located in the center of a grain producing area and surrounded by heavily populated cities which are potential markets for livestock products.

- (b) Farmers will be taught how livestock fits into a farm program.

Farmers will be shown successful livestock operations in this area.

Livestock producers will be taught how to realize the most profit when marketing their products.

- (c) County and community meetings will be held to teach farmers the role of livestock in today's farm program.

Tours of cattle and hog feeding operations in Essex and surrounding counties will be organized for interested farmers.

Announcements will be made of special field days which emphasize livestock production methods.

Essex County Farm Bureau
Essex County Rural Club
County Agronomy Committee

Results will be measured in terms of changes
made by farmers.

weed and insect control plots will be selected throughout the county.

Two tours of the State and Federal Experiment stations at Warsaw, Virginia, and Beltsville, Maryland, will be organized for interested farmers and landowners.

Teaching tools:

1. Individual contacts

Personal letters

Farm visits

Tours

Demonstrations

Field Days

General meetings

Exhibits

News stories

Radio

2. April, May and June will be the months for emphasis on Agronomy. Soil tests will be taken throughout the year. Activities will be carried out on individual farms in each community. Tours of the Experiment Stations will be in Richmond County and southeastern Maryland.

3. Cooperators

Extension Soil Specialists

Soil Conservation Service Technicians

Local merchants

11. Agronomy

- (a.) There are 65,600 acres of cropland and pasture in Essex County.

Sixty-nine percent of the farms are classified as small part-time farms. Thirty-one percent average over 200 acres in size with several farms in the 1000 and 2000 acre size.

The sale of field crops amounts to approximately 750,000 dollars per year.

- (b.) Teach 30 farmers how to use a soil classification map in planning their crop rotations.

Encourage landowners and farmers to take soil samples of one-third of their cropland and pastures.

Teach insect and weed control methods to farmers in each of the three magisterial districts.

Organize a tour of the Virginia Experiment Station and the U.S.D.A. Experiment Station for interested farmers.

- (c.) Methods

Ten farmers in each of the three magisterial districts will be selected to be trained to use a soil classification map.

Soil sample sheets and boxes will be distributed to local stores in each community. Soil samples will be collected at these stores at least three times each week.

Teaching Tools -

1. Farm and home visits

Personal letters

Leader Training Meetings

Tours

Demonstrations

Bulletins

News Stories

Radio

2. January, February, and March will be the months designated for emphasis on Forestry.

Activities will be carried out in three communities, one in each of the magisterial districts.

3. Cooperators

The Virginia Department of Forestry and Conservation

Chesapeake Corporation

Essex County Farm Bureau

Essex County Ruritan Club

Extension Forestry Specialists

County Forestry Committee

Local Commercial Wood Processors.

Results will be measured by means of a personal census and selective questionnaires.

1. FORESTRY

- (a) Less than fifty percent of the woodland in the county produces wood products of commercial value. The average farmer and landowner in Essex County has not had the opportunity for studying woodland management. Problems of the landowners and commercial wood processors need to be discussed for better understanding. Inefficient harvesting of wood products wastes natural resources unnecessarily.
- (b) Teach woodland management to farmers and landowners and improve woodland having mixed species of low economic value. Bring landowners and commercial wood products processors together to promote better understanding. Teach efficient methods of harvesting wood products.

Methods -

A county wide woodland management course will be offered to farmers and landowners.

Representative farmers and landowners will be asked to cooperate in improving their present uneconomical woodland.

Community meetings between farmers, landowners, and commercial wood processors will be held.

Landowners and farmers who plan to efficiently harvest their wood products will be asked for use of these areas for tours and demonstrations.

Essex County is a rural county without an industry of commercial importance. There are 320 white farmers on the Extension mailing list. Less than thirty percent of these farms are of sufficient size or have operations which will give the farmer an average income. Ten percent of the farm operators rent land and do custom work in addition to their own operations. Five percent of the farmers are specializing in the production of swine, beef cattle and poultry.

Nineteen farmers have placed their land in the Soil Bank Conservation Reserve program.

The 1959 plan of work for Essex County follows the recommendations made by the Agricultural Committee which is composed of two representative farmers from each of the three magisterial districts.

Three commodities account for the major income received by farmers, these are; Forest Products, Agronomic Crops, and Livestock.

The Virginia Division of Forestry and Conservation lists 105,500 acres of land in Essex County as land which produces wood products. A 1954 Census of Agriculture lists 41 percent of the 160,000 acres of land in Essex County as being cropland harvested, cropland not harvested, cropland pastured and other pasture.

Livestock on the farm in 1954 consisted of:

All cattle	- 5,700
Hogs and pigs	2,100
Milk cows	1,800
Sheep and lambs	<u>500</u>
Total livestock	10,100

1959 PLAN OF WORK

H. A. LITTLE, County Agent

L.T.RICHARDSON, Assistant County Agent

Tappahannock, Virginia
Essex County