

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 Southampton

YEAR 1958

Name S. G. Mansfield
(Local Farm Agent)

Date Mailed 12/21/57

PLAN OF WORK

Extension work grew out of a situation, a need for scientific knowledge in agriculture. It is an out-of-school system of service and education in which people learn by doing. The function of extension work is teaching. Listing specific working objectives is necessary for effective teaching. Plans are necessary to accomplish the desired end.

A working plan consists of flexible statements of a situation drawn up in cooperation with a group of people. These statements being basic to the needs of the people. Jointly framing this program develops an attitude of being a part of, which enhances participation. Complete participation not only contributes to motivation but develops good public relations. People should be helped in determining and solving their own problems.

The plan is a calendricized outline of methods for adopting and using scientifically proven practices. The calendar arrangement serves as a guide to encourage periodical evaluation. In the program building process leadership is automatically developed, which is a means toward accomplishment.

Upon framing the program committees will be appointed on the basis of important commodities, problem areas and special interest. Community meetings will provide opportunities

for exchanging ideas, intergrating programs, cordinating efforts and identifying leaders. These meetings should provide work, fun and fellowship. Specialist help will be used in training leaders and in other events where needed. Individual visits will be made with key people. In community and county wide meetings consideration and reconition will be given to leaders. In the process of getting this program on the ground through demonstrations and other methods the people will grow into a realization of the value in changes.

Southampton County with a population of around 800 negro farm operators covers an area of 603 square miles. Less than half of these farmers own their farms.

OVER ALL COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

The County Advisory Board is the governing body of farm families assisting extension agents with organization planning and conducting extension work in the county. This body accounts for the direction of movement of organized extension activities.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

President-----T. B. McClenny--Wakefield, Virginia
 Vice President--vacant
 Secretary-----Sataroga Brown--Hansom, Virginia
 Treasurer-----Mattie Sykes----Newsoms, Virginia

COUNTY SITUATION

Railroads and a net work of highways are convenience for marketing farm commodities. More industrial plants are being established. Small farmers are shifting to industry. The county's major commodities are: corn, peanuts cotton, small grains, hay, beef cattle, dairy products and increasing herds of sheep. We have a net work of local hog buying stations.

High out put of farm products still bring about increasing diverted acres. The advice to farmers is to hold down production cost and prevent other profit leaks. Farmers are urged to use management technique in shifting production in an attempt to adjust the farm income situation.

Liberal use of recommended fertilizers is being encouraged. Disease and insect control is advocated. With the use of certified seeds and recommended cultural practices plus other items mentioned, extra yields will assure bigger returns from, land, labor, machinery and other fixed expenses. Fixed expenses are the same regardless of yields. The added yields cost less and is most profitable. Efficient use of machinery gets work done faster with less cost.

With increased crop yields the livestock unit can be increased. Livestock can be kept on full ration rather than sustained. Farmers are realizing that

improved management technique with breeding stock pay dividends.

The demonstration approach will be used in getting proven practices established. An additional number of trained leaders and accurate record keeping are tools to be used in solving problems in improving the situation.

DEMONSTRATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED

| <u>INTERPRISES</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>ACRES & ANIMALS</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Corn | 14 | 70 |
| Peanuts | 10 | 50 |
| Pastures | 18 | 90 |
| Cover crops | 12 | 60 |
| Small grain | 20 | 140 |
| Gardens | 20 | 8 |
| Poultry | 20 | 500 |
| Forestry | 3 | 60 |
| Swine | 22 | 1065 |
| Cattle | 5 | 40 |
| Sheep | 5 | 40 |

Periodical field meetings will be held at these demonstrations, at which times events and activities will be sponsored. Specialist help will be used. Extension tools, as circular letters, news articles, community meetings, visits, tours and the like will be used in getting people to see the demonstrations.

CALANDER OF ACTIVITIESJANUARY

1. Meetings with agronomy committees
2. Preparation for gardens
3. Prunning demonstrations
4. Collecting soil samples
5. Landscaping
6. Checking 4-H enrollment & project selecting

FEBRUARY

1. Advisory Board meeting
2. Collecting soil samples
3. Prunning demonstrations
4. Forestry activities
5. Top dressing small grain
6. Checking poultry demonstrations
7. Breaking and seeding gardens
8. Publicizing recommended fertilizers

MARCH

1. National 4-H week program
2. Recommending certified seeds
3. Liming, fertilizing & reseeding pastures
4. Forestry activities
5. Preparing seed beds
6. 4-H Junior Council meeting

APRIL

1. Arranging for Rural Life Sunday
2. Selecting delegates to summer conferences
3. Planning for Fat Hog Show & Sale
4. Checking 4-H projects
5. Garden demonstrations activities

MAY

1. Leader training meeting
2. Planning for State Farm & Home conference
3. Checking h-H projects
4. Checking delegates to 4-H Conferences
5. Checking demonstrations
6. Forestry activities

JUNE

1. Arranging to get 4-H's to Short Course
2. Agronomy committee meeting
3. Farm & Home Development program
4. Field meetings at demonstrations
5. Checking demonstrations
6. Preparation for Wild Life conference
7. Checking 4-H projects

JULY

1. Checking delegates to Wild Life conference
2. Field meetings at demonstrations

JULY

(Continued)

3. 4-H activities
4. Field meetings at demonstrations
5. Tours
6. Farm & Home Development work

AUGUST

1. Advisory Board meeting
2. Arranging for State Advisory Board meeting
3. 4-H activities
4. Field meetings at demonstrations
5. Field Day at the Experiment Station
6. Tours
7. Wild Life Conference

SEPTEMBER

1. State Advisory Board meeting
2. 4-H activities
3. Checking 100 bushel corn demonstrations
4. Assembling exhibits for fair
5. Farm & Home Development work

OCTOBER

1. Tidewater fair
2. Market hog show & sale
3. Annual Agent's meeting

NOVEMBER

1. Checking demonstration community
2. 4-H activities
3. Annual reports

DECEMBER

1. Plan of work
2. Pruning demonstrations
3. Landscaping
4. Farm & Home Development work

This program is planned for both short and long objectives with maximum participation and sufficient organized resources to reach them. This outlined program will be evaluated at intervals. Recommended trends on the farm will be from muscles to machine, attempting to reduce production cost.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

S. G. Mansfield
Name
Local Farm Agent
Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1958

Southampton
County

#####

#####

#####

#####

#####

NARRATIVE REPORT
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

S. G. Mansfield
County Agent

November 1958

#####

#####

#####

#####

#####

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>SUBJECTS</u> | <u>PAGES</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Introductory Remarks | 2 |
| Improvement in Southampton Farming Situation | 3 |
| Status of County Extension Organisation | 5 |
| County Advisory Board | 5 |
| Field Meetings | 5 |
| Farm and Home Development Work | 6 |
| Corn | 7 |
| Peanuts | 7 |
| Small Grain | 7 |
| Pastures | 7 |
| Gardens | 8 |
| Poultry | 8 |
| Hogs | 8 |
| Adult Work Continued | 8 |
| 4-H Program | 1 |

Extension work in agriculture and home economics is a co-operative undertaking between state land grant colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture with local people and their government. It should be a unique service permitting maximum flexibility and adaptation to local people, conditions and needs. Extension function is to teach. The extension program should be built by the people for maximum participation and to fit their specific needs. This program should be direct training to help people locate and solve their problems. A workable program should have goals and objectives which will enable people to attain. Both short-time and long-time objectives are necessary in helping people to identify their needs, problems and opportunities. The people should be encouraged to group action in light of their own desires, resources and obligations and abilities. Widespread participation and group action of the people should be stressed in planning and conducting their efforts.

The Department of Agriculture backed by land-grant colleges, experiment stations, practical experiences and research is the pertinent source of information for agricultural agents to take to the people. The span between agricultural production control and the real agricultural production is a farm problem. An assured healthy stable agriculture is necessary for farm economy. Economic use of farm production capacity needs protection. Bigger markets and stable farm product prices is the answer.

Farm purchasing is ^{PSWCT} weakening. Farm share of the consumer's dollar has dropped. Farmers are confused with adjusting farm production to market needs. They have no way of measuring needs. With agricultural

sides, farmers of this area have produced an abundant yield this year. This has been accomplished with below average weather conditions. These conditions make agricultural teaching more meaningful. Farm information about conservative farming is being pressed into use. Agricultural agencies have been stressing recommended cultural practices; well prepared seed beds, use of liberal amounts of recommended fertilizers, liming where necessary, use of certified seeds, seed treatment, rotation, cover crops and improved breeds of plants and animals. All this along with combating insects and diseases farmers do produce good yields. Farm labor is up, so is machinery and cost of processing farm crops. It is the farmer's net income that needs adjustments.

Farmers are being encouraged to use all the know-how available, to use all resources for maximum production, to get maximum profits from gardens and to take the best care of machinery for more efficient performance.

Research information is being made quickly available to farm people in an understandable and stimulating manner for group action and large participation. Rural leadership is playing a worthwhile roll in stimulating farmers to recommended changes. Farm records are being kept of yields, expenditures and other important activities.

Farmers are still increasing their possible output. This is apparent in expanding fields of high yielding quality crops and quality livestock grazing in improved pastures. Nutrition is uppermost in their minds both with feed and food.

IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON FARMING SITUATION

Changes indicated below have taken place in the past eight years. There are more than 216 fewer farmers. Average farm size has

increased upward of 15 acres. The average value of farms has almost doubled. More than 1000 acres previously seeded to row crops are in permanent pastures. Eight thousand acres are seeded to annual crops for livestock consumption. Corn acres have been supplemented with milo. Acres and yields of small grain have increased. Peanut acres have been cut more than 9000. Cotton acres have been cut more than 6000. In each case yields have increased.

Tractors have practically doubled. Corn pickers have increased four hundred per cent. Combines have doubled. Telephones in farm homes have more than tripled. Six hundred additional farm homes have televisions. Eight hundred have water under pressure and 800 additional home freezers.

Farmers are no longer attempting to mine the soil to improve their level of living. Constant low yields resulting from poor stands, faulty seeds and poorly prepared seed beds are being avoided. With modern science the ancient superstitions with the moon as a guide is rapidly disappearing. Farmers are having their soil tested for increased yields at economical costs. Mechanisation is changing the farm picture. Farmers deep freeze a beef, a hog or broilers for the family's consumption.

Building and repairing homes, farm buildings, fences, purchasing and repairing farm machinery, adding conveniences and time saving devices in the home and records of farm and home activities are definitely a part of the farm management program. Farm families have been stimulated to a growing participation in educational meetings and other cultural activities.

STATUS OF COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION:

County extension organizations are: County Advisory Board with a membership of seventy families; nine organized communities with a membership of three hundred twenty families; Junior 4-H Council with a membership of fifty-two and the agronomy and livestock committees. Leaders in organizations mentioned and small area committees are active sponsoring extension work.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD:

Community organizations, councils, committee members and delegates from small areas are basic to the progress. Members of these groups develop interest and encourage participation in their respective neighborhoods and communities. They aid in helping to locate and solve problems. They make recommendations and assist in evaluating progress. Meetings with these groups and other key people make it convenient to exchange ideas and purposes. Plans and programs are revised according to the situations and accomplishment of objectives.

FIELD MEETING:

Tuesday, May 27th a group of farmers of Southampton attended a field meeting at Virginia State College farm. At which we viewed a variety of small grain and listened to the method and result of fertilizing the same.

September we again attended a field meeting at the Station at which time we saw the yields in different varieties.

August 20th we attended a field meet on the Mount Airy Farm in New Kent County and spent practically the entire day listening to the progress story of Mr. Brown, owner of the farm. We also visited plots of crops and livestock.

A group also attended the annual meeting at the experiment station at Holland at which we visited plots and listened to progress stories.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK:

The farm and home development work is still active. The Warren Family is making gradual strides toward improvements. The family's four children of school age attend regularly. The two of 4-H Club age are doing good jobs in project work. The parents are church goers and active community workers. The children attend all wholesome youth activities in the community.

The family operates a balanced farm program with sufficient farm machinery to do a good job. The family's long-time goal is to increase the productivity of their soil for bigger yields and larger net income for educating the children, paying for the farm and a fairly comfortable living.

Their short-time goal is to make most needed repairs, improve the home surroundings, add a few comforts to the home and grow more winter vegetables. The Warren's older children are active in doing chores in the home and about the farm.

In a training meeting in February, of twelve families from seven different communities, Miss Amelia Fuller of Blacksburg explained the purpose of the program. The meeting was for the purpose of enabling farm families and county agents in getting a better working knowledge of the program.

CORN:

Corn still remains an all important crop in Southampton. Acres of corn have been supplemented with mdo. Farmers have put acres of their corn land in the soil bank program. With the coming of the feeder pig sale in the county at intervals, farmers are privileged to alternate their feeding practices with hogs. In cases of low price corn it is economical to feed their pigs out. When corn is bringing good prices they sell their pigs as feeders and make profit from corn by putting it on the market.

PEANUTS:

We are favored with a good peanut crop. Harvest season has been favorable. A number of farmers not only have completed the harvest but have marketed. Prices are not as good as last season but farmers have made good profits. Peanuts still provide excellent grazing for hogs and the vines winter feed for livestock. Field meetings at Holland experiment station have caused farmers to improve on cultural practices enabling them to increase yields with less acres.

SMALL GRAIN:

Increasing acres are being seeded to small grain. It serves as a winter cover as well as early spring grazing. Farmers fertilize winter growth as indirect help for the following crop.

PASTURES:

The pig parlor idea has given a compromise practice. Farmers are hard-surfacing their feeding place in the pasture and sheltering it for economical feeding and improved sanitation. Pastures have proved an economical source of feed. Added participation is influenced by farmers

carrying demonstrations. Rotational grazing and other good management practices are being followed.

GARDENS:

Year-round gardens are still major factors in our farm management program. We are still stressing preparing good seed beds, using reliable seeds, combating diseases and insects as well as using recommended fertilizers. Larger varieties and additional amounts for conserving is being emphasized.

POULTRY:

Poultry flocks for eggs and table use are still considered an economical item in the family food program. Having on hand and using in the family diet chickens, eggs, milk, butter, juices and vegetables makes for more economical food bills as well as better health.

HOGS:

Hogs are still one of our outstanding enterprises as well as one of the basic resources. We have purbred breeders who participate in the county's semi-annual purebred swine sales. We also participate in our new established feeder pig organization which sponsors sales at intervals. Our farmers exhibit animals at fairs in and out of Virginia. They are kept on their farms for breeding purposes as well as for breeding purposes in the community and for income. More good animals are being distributed to other hog raisers in the county. Farmers have charts showing typical meat type animals that bring better prices.

ADULT WORK CONTINUED:

Sweet potato enterprise is gradually expanding to the extent that farmer Richard Brown of Ivor Community last year built a curing

house. Business was so good that this time he increased its capacity.

Watermelons as a commercial crop is expanding. Though prices were not too good this time some farmers made up the difference in volume. T. B. McClenny of Wakefield Community sold upward of twenty thousand.

In a recent meeting farmers asked many questions about diversifying their farm program, adding new enterprises, etc. It was there that we compromise on the likeness of the pig parlor, building a cement floor near the source of water in connection with our pastures as the feed place. Here we have good grazing for early morning and the cool of the afternoon, which hogs will adjust and also a sanitary feed place and a supply of water.

We discussed the issue of expanding our vegetable growing to the volume of establishing a road side market, perhaps on a group basis.

The idea was established that the farm management program should be expanded to the point that the farmer would be full time gainfully employed in his farm business.

4-H Program

Four H activities are broadening and becoming more meaningful. Other than the general routine of work we are getting better response and participation in county-wide activities and support of national programs as Rural Life Sunday, Achievement Day, National 4-H Week and the like.

Most of our clubs participated in Rural Life Sunday programs in their respective communities. Leaders took a very active part in the arrangements so that they could be fitted in the church programs.

A group of three hundred or more 4-H leaders, parents and friends witnessed our National 4-H Week program sponsored at the Training School. The activities further publicized National 4-H Week with the theme "4-H Salute to Parents".

Twelve of the thirteen clubs participated in the program. Leaders and parents were extended oral recognition. Carol Joe, 4-H member who won a state award told her story of three years' activity.

Beside 4-H members telling and showing the purpose of the 4-H club program through demonstrations, grading, judging purpose of the week and progress reports, Mr. Herbert Spruell, 4-H leader and sponsor of the 4-H Junior Council, presented certificates of awards to Floyd ^{HETZ}Turner for achievement as Junior Leader and also to Joyce Turner for the same achievement. The 4-H program, its activities and purpose of the meeting, was summarized by Mr. Spruell.

Four Southampton 4-H members participated in the annual Junior Market Hog Show and Sale sponsored by Voc-Ag teachers and Local

Farm Agents at Tidewater Fair in Suffolk. Results of activities with the show and sale were awarding to the Juniors in that the packers paid above top prices for their hogs plus the educational experiences they gained in growing, fitting and showing their animals.

Two boys whose hogs did not come up to regulations were not allowed to consign them but were allowed to attend the show and sale.

Carol Joe, Mead McClenny, Lemuel Warren, Jr. and Synthia Warren consigned pigs to the sale. They won Grand Champion Single, Reserved Champion Single, Grand Champion pen of threes and second place pen of threes.

Six boys participated in the Annual State 4-H Short Course and three participated in the Annual Wild Life program. Judging teams were trained in each club and participated in grading and judging farm products and vegetables.

Of the 259 4-H members 228 satisfactorily completed projects in livestock, crops and vegetables. 4-H participation in activities is increasing. We are encouraging larger participation in vegetable projects. 4-H'ers are being encouraged to participate jointly in their garden activities with the family and using information from their manuals to influence their parents in recommended cultural practices, recommended fertilizers, certified seeds and an increased number of different vegetables.

Monthly meetings offer opportunities for difusing research findings among 4-H members and leaders. Judging teams are trained as an incentive to stimulate interest for personal development. Citations and awards are used in motivating individuals to greater participation.

We are encouraging more efficient record keeping by reminding club members of the possibilities of receiving state recognition.