

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 Charlotte

YEAR 1958

Name C. Hawkins
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed 12/21/57

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PLAN OF WORK FOR 1958

The County Situation and Problems

Charlotte County is located in Southside Virginia. The topography of the county is generally from rolling to hilly, and in some sections extremely hilly. The soils of the county are varied in type, from sandy to clays. The southern and western sections have a larger percentage of sandy and sandy-leams than the northern and northeastern sections. In the southern and western sections flue-cured tobacco is the leading cash crop, supplemented with other general crops. Within the past eight or ten years livestock has been added and increased with some very fine herd, particularly beef cattle with several "A" and "B" grade dairies. Flue-cured tobacco is the principal cash enterprises with the majority of farmers while there are others who grow corn, wheat, barley and beef cattle from which they realize their greatest cash income. This section may be considered as the livestock section of the county with some very modern dairies. There is also a sprinkling of barley and flue-cured tobacco found there.

Also in the northern section is to be found the most productive soils. This is due to the type of farming that has been carried on. Fire-cured tobacco, unlike flue-cured, has contributed to the soil building program, fitting into the type of soil, the animal enterprises as well as the general crops' programs with red clover the predominating legumes. Scarcely a farm is found without some of the clovers growing, as a basis for their hay and cover crops. Not too far from the lime grinding at Appomattox, has been another factor in the soil building program in this area. Since the development of the soil building program by the government the practices have increased in this area and have spreaded over the entire county many of the areas lime as well as many other of the improved practices had never been introduced. This has contributed tremendously to the economic status of the county as a whole.

The county is about average in size for the state with an area of 496 square miles with approximately 299,520 acres of farm land. There are 1010 farms averaging around 100 acres per farm. 170,000 acres are operated by their owners; 75,677 acres rented. There are 80,688 acres in crops, 139,660 in woods. There is a farm population of approximately 14,052 of which are Negroes who operate 670 farms. There are 295 owners, and 156 croppers, renters or share workers.

Executive and Auxilliary Organizations of the Extension Service

	No.	Men	Women	Total
County Agriculture Advisory Board	1	38	24	62
County Farmers Clubs	2	33		33
Families in Clubs		33		33
No. 4-H Clubs	8	213		213
No. Leaders Adult Clubs	14	6	8	8
No. Leaders 4-H Clubs	16	6	10	16

County Agricultural Advisory Board

President	Mr. Edwin Merton
Vice President	
Secretary	Mrs. Witt Maskins
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Geneva Lambert
Treasurer	Mr. H.M. Johns

4-H Club Council

President	Diana Baker
Vice President	Hazel Elam
Secretary	Bernice Burwell
Assistant Secretary	Georgia Clark
Treasurer	Robert LeGrand

Adult Demonstrations

Corn Chiles	12
Wheat	10
Tobacco	1
Farm and Home Unit	1

Barn Ventilation	2
Alfalfa	3
Forestry	3
Poultry	1

County-Wide Activities

County Agricultural Board Meetings	4
4-H Council Meetings	2
Agrenemy Meetings	2
Agriculture Fair Committee Meetings	2
Field Meetings at Result Demonstrations	4
Farm and Home Tours	1
4-H Pig Program	6
Forestry Improvement	1

Goals and Activities of The Extension Program for Charlotte County

1958

I. Five Year County and Community objectives;

- A. To increase the yield of corn per acre by 15 bushels on 55 farms.
- B. To increase the soil fertility by the use of legume crops, rotation, lime, cover crops, terracing, manures cooperation with and assisting farmers, cooperating with the soil conservation service and working with the varied agencies in developing and carrying out a well organized farm program.
- C. Increase the size of farm poultry flocks (Chickens) to at least 50 hens per flock on 70 farms.
- D. To increase egg production to 200 per hen on 70 flocks.
- E. Increase the year-around gardens to 90.
- F. To increase the yield and quality of tobacco to an average of 1350 pounds per acre on 60 farms.
- G. Increase the number of hogs to an average of 5 per family in 50 families.

- H. To increase the number of milk cows to an average of 2 in 50 families.
- I. To increase milk production to 4 gallons per cow in the case of 50 cows.
- J. To assist 5 individuals in becoming established in farming.
- K. To assist 4 individuals in becoming farm and home owners.

II. Annual Objectives: (Goals for 1957)

- A. Encourage the increase in yield of 5 bu. on 20 farms.
- B. Encourage increase of soil fertility on 15 farms by the establishment of recommended practices.
- C. Encourage in size of poultry flocks to 30 birds in 20 flocks.
- D. Encourage increase in egg production to 150 in 25 flocks.
- E. Encourage increase in year around gardens to 25.
- F. Encourage the yield and quality of tobacco to an average of 1100 pounds on 12 farms.
- G. Encourage increase in number of hogs to an average of 3 per family in 10 families.
- H. Encourage increase in number of milk cows to an average of 2 in 8 families.
- I. Encourage increase in milk production to 3 gallons per day, per cow in the case of 12 cows.
- J. Assist 2 individuals in becoming established in farming.
- K. Assist 1 individual in becoming a home and land owner.

III. Administration Goals and Objectives.

A. Enroll 265 individuals in some type of organized instructions and activities.

1. 4-H Club work.
2. Adult Farmers Clubs.
3. Older youth groups.
4. Pasture demonstrations.
5. Small grain demonstrations.
6. 4-H Pig Clubs.
7. 4-H tobacco projects.
8. Alfalfa - orchard grass
9. Forestry.

Enterprises, Goals and methods to be used in obtaining objectives.

Corn

Situation;

1. Yields are not what they should and can be, on a number of farms due to poor seed, insufficient fertilizers and many of the improved practices.

Goal:

1. Encourage increase in yield per acre by 5 bushels on 16 farms.

Methods to be used:

1. Confine corn production to a rotation with legumes and grain.
2. Organize 100 bushels corn clubs with 10 members.
3. Have boys in 4-H Clubs carry corn projects, giving each group all information and assistance possible.

4. Urge and assist farmers in reorganizing and setting up better farm programs and methods for corn production.
5. Stress the value of good seed and give necessary and reasonable assistance in securing.
6. Set up goals and improve practices with farmers and 4-H Club members.
7. Give factual data on and draw comparison between poor and recommended methods in corn production.
8. Distribute materials on latest methods, analysis and amounts of fertilizers.
9. Encourage the exhibition of corn at fairs, etc.
10. Induce a number of farmers to begin a rotational system, of at least 3 years.
11. Encourage farmers to have soils tested that lime and plant food requirement may be determined.

Tobacco

Situation:

1. Both yield and quality have increased during the past few years, but much improvement can still be made by the introduction and carrying out of more improved methods (all the way across the board) by many growers, i.e. rotation, cultivation, fertilization, sucker and insect control and methods of handling.

Goal:

1. Encourage increase in quality and yield to an average of 1125 pounds on 15 farms, and the cost of production to a minimum.

Methods to be used:

1. Determine with farmers the necessity of growing tobacco in a rotation with grains and grasses.
2. Farm experimental data and other factual information, the necessity of soil tests will be stressed as important and necessary due to diseases, insects and plant feed requirement.
3. Give information and suggestions on better labor distribution and management.
4. Offer assistance in constructing better and improved barn ventilation.
5. Distribute bulletins and materials on latest methods and recommendations in controlling insects, diseases and sucker control.
6. Pledge assistance in selecting, grading, and arranging products at fairs and exhibits.
7. Distribute material and give information on production from the plant bed to the market.
8. Plans are to visit with farmers at tobacco experiment stations.

Poultry

Situation:

1. Poultry has long failed to play its part on practically all of the farms in the county. Many farms do not carry a sufficient number of heads and none produce, per bird nor per flock as possible to any very definite contribution that should be expected. Most chickens are raised from day-old or bought chicks. Most of these are started to lay in the year and do not begin laying until late in December or early in January. Improves and insufficient feeding and management contribute to their non-profit. Chickens are not considered and managed as a major or minor phase of the farm income.

Goal:

1. Encourage the increase in size of flock to 35 birds in 25 flocks.

Methods to be used:

1. Stress the value of poultry from both, a feed and cash income for the farm and home.
2. Encourage a larger membership in poultry.
3. Give data on possibilities with poultry a cash income to the farm program as well as feed for the family.
4. Distribute current information and outlook materials as given by economists.
5. Stress importance of good housing, feeds and management for the most profitable income.
6. Encourage farmers to grow necessary grains at home.
7. Teach farmers and farm wives how to cull their flock.
8. Encourage grading and cooperative marketing with other farmers.

Vegatables

Situation:

1. Summer vegetable gardens are quite visable as one travel around. The winter garden program has not developed to the point that it is too encouraging. Interest is increasing in winter gardens evidence by the increase in information requested. Turnips, cellards and a few cabbage are mostly these grown during fall and winter.

Goal:

1. Encourage the increase in both number of winter gardens and number of the different varieties grown.

Methods to be used:

1. Distribute and give materials and information on year-around gardens.
2. Encourage 4-H Club Members to carry vegetable gardens as projects.
3. Hold discussion on vegetable production.
4. Discuss and give information on possibilities with vegetable gardening in relation to the large vegetables markets that are being developed in many areas.
5. Determine the amount of vegetables required for ones individual family and possibilities of marketing surpluses.
6. Stress the importance of fertilization, seed, cultivation, quality, harvesting and management.

Hogs

Situation:

1. There is too much pork and pork products shipped into this an agricultural county with the opportunities and possibilities for raising the necessary supply. Pastures for hogs have not been emphasized by the average farmer. This has contributed to the small numbers carried. This particular phase however does look encouraging.

Goal:

1. Encourage the increase in number to an average of 3 per family in 15 families.

Methods to be used:

1. Encourage more breeding animals.
2. Encourage more pastures and assist in determining the most practical and profitable crop to sow.

3. Encourage and work towards more participation in the pig show and sale program.
4. Encourage the 4-H Club members to increase participation in pig production.
5. Encourage a surplus in production above the home need that some cash income may be realized from the sale of pigs and cured pork.
6. Stress the importance of good steak.
7. Plan a visit to some progressive breeder, with parents and 4-H boys.

Milk Cows

Goal:

1. Encourage an increase in numbers to an average of 2 in 12 families.

Methods used:

1. Help plan and have pastures a definite part of the farm program.
2. Encourage farmers to look forward to pastures in their rotational system, contributing to soil building, increased yields of other crops as well as for feed.
3. Urged farmers to improve the quality of their cows by purchasing and through the
4. Determined with farmers the possibilities with his dairy animals, through the buying of baby calves from the markets, raising and selling them as veals, selling cream and whole milk and growing breeding stock for sale.
5. Produced factual data on the trends in farming.

Forestry

Situation:

1. The farm forest of the county has been very much abused.
2. Most of the farms have been depleted of marketable timber. Saw timber has long been depleted on many farms. Many farms are now being cleaned of every thing that is large enough for pulp wood. Reforestation in farms seem to carry or incite a very meager amount of interest and activity. There are a few farmers who make selected cuttings, thinning and planting seedlings.

Goal:

1. To improve farm forest by selected cutting-planting seedlings.

Methods to be used:

1. Encourage more selected cuttings of the farm forest.
2. Encourage farmers to use the forestry services in preserving and improving their forest lands.
3. Encourage planting eroded, waste, idle and very hilly soils to young seedlings.
4. Visit Forest Demonstrations.
5. Give statistics on present activities and interest in tree farming, the income possibilities and value and contribution of a good forest to a farm and its program.

Livestock

Situation:

1. For the lack of an appreciation for little things- failing to consider them as important and as they are, and determining the possibilities with them; small acreage allotment of the cash crops and small farm acreage. the average farmer feels that he is not in position to meet the necessary requirement for

a creditable livestock program.

2. There are a number of families that do not have enough milk cows to furnish the family through out the year. There is however a gradual increase in number, especially the beef type on a limited number of farms.
3. Some farmers sell whole milk and a few sell cream.
4. There is a dairy cattle breeding association here in the county which contribute to improving the quality of animals.
5. There are a number of farmers who supplement their income from both the sale of milk, cream and market beef.

Goal:

1. Encourage the increase in number of animals where ever the farm is capable of supporting an increase.
2. Encourage improvement in the quality of animals.

Methods to be used:

1. Assist farmers in reorganizing their farm program.
2. Assist farmers in improving their pasture program.
3. Furnish farmers factual data on feeding, management and conducting a livestock program.
4. Continue to encourage farmers to use the services of the dairy cattle breeding association.
5. Work constantly with the Farm and Home Unit and members in the community improvement program that they may stimulate interest and action in other communities.
6. Encourage farmers to take advantage of and use the Cost-Share benefits in the A.S.C. program for the production and increase in their pasture programs.

Farm and Home Development

There were goals and objectives set up at the beginning of this program in 1954. Home improvement-additions and remodeling, yard beautification, crop production and soil improvement were among the objectives. A number of improvements have been made in the home. So far, another flue for heating has been built, addition space added, wall siding and a few other small improvements made.

On the farm a piece of idle land has been redeemed and more soil building crops added. Improvement on the yard will begin in the late winter.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1966

ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE MONTH	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
4-H clubs reorganization	x											x
Writing up and sending in Plan of Work	x											
Studying extension methods and teaching	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Project selection		x	x	x								
Methods of Crop production			x	x	x							
Junior Council meetings	x									x		
Planning club activities		x	x	x								
Production methods in vegetables			x	x								
Organizing pig project program		x	x	x								
Planning crop activities			x	x	x							
Planning group activities			x	x	x							
Planning and selecting exhibits for fairs											x	
Observe Rural Life Sunday				x								
Planning and developing pig projects		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Records and record keeping	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Dairy and beef project management					x	x						
Organizing-developing pasture programs				x	x				x	x		
Fertilization of projects and field crops			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Plan activities for the summer					x	x						
Select delegates for the Short Course						x	x					
Take delegates to State Short Course-Wildlife Conference								x	x			
Visit farmers and 4-H club projects		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Controlling diseases and insects					x	x	x	x				
Touring and visiting projects								x	x	x		
Surveying and planning for future projects-improvement								x	x	x		
Conduct Farm and Home Tour									x			
Cooperate and sponsor recreational activities						x	x					
Make follow-up visits of special activities				x	x	x						
Attend Agriculture Advisory Board meetings	x		x				x			x		
Conduct 4-H club meetings	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x
Instruction in marketing, grading and selling				x	x							
Visit out-of-county fairs										x	x	
Check results of 4-H projects and activities										x	x	
Collect records books, summarize, analyze and compile												
Take inventory and check accomplishments											x	
Attend Annual Conference of Agents											x	
Work up materials and sent in Statistical Report												x
Work out and send in Narrative												x
Send in Live-at-Home Community Report					x							
Send in 4-H club enrollment						x						
Send in report for State and County awards												x
Attend Farm and Home Development Program								x				
Attend State Advisory Board meeting										x		
Agency Committee meeting	x				x							