

CALENDAR

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Institute of Rural Affairs	Extension Conference	Arrange for 4-H Mtg.
ASC Meeting	ASC Meeting	Radio Broadcast
Radio Broadcast	Radio Broadcast	ASC Meeting
Visit 4-H Projects	Feeder Pig Mtg.	County Council Mtg.
Check on Insects and Diseases of Crops	Purebred Hog Sale	Send small grain recommendations to farmers
4-H Camp		Attend State Fair with 4-H members
Feeder Pig Sale		Participate in Northern Neck Fair
		Feeder Pig Sale
<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
ASC Meeting	4-H Meetings	4-H Meetings
Radio Broadcast	Radio Broadcast	ASC Meeting
4-H Meetings	ASC Meetings	Radio Broadcast
Feeder Pig Meeting	Annual Report	News Article
Forestry Committee Meeting	News Article	Feeder Pig Mtg.
4-H Youth Round-Up	Feeder Pig Sale	

CALENDAR

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Communication School	Fat Cattle Sale	ASC Meeting
Tri-County Poultry Meeting	Purebred Hog Sale	Radio Broadcast
Fat Cattle Sales	Feeder Pig Sale	4-H Meetings
ASC Meeting	4-H Club Meetings	National 4-H Week
Radio Broadcast	Radio Broadcast	Feeder Pig Mtg.
News Article	ASC Meeting	Fat Cattle Sale
4-H Meetings	Soil Conservation Mtg.	
Feeder Pig Mtg.	Vegetable Growers Mtg.	
Agronomy School	Talk before Ruritans	
County Council	District Poultry Mtg.	
<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Boys County Contest	ASC Meeting	ASC Meeting
Radio Broadcast	4-H Meetings	Radio Broadcast
4-H Meetings	Radio Broadcast	4-H Short Course
ASC Meetings	Rural Life Sunday	Feeder Pig Mtg.
District 4-H Contest	4-H County Council Mtg.	
Check on Alfalfa Weevil	News Article	
4-H Share the Fun Program	Feeder Pig Sale	

1. Send monthly garden letters.
2. Have 4-H boys to take soil samples of their garden and their parent's garden.
3. Stress the importance of proper fertilization and liming by farm visits, circular letters, radio and new articles.

IV. MINOR PROJECTS

ORCHARDS AND SMALL FRUITS

A. Situation

There are two commercial orchards in the county and several small orchards.

B. Goals

1. Encourage farmers to follow the recommended spray program for orchards.
2. Encourage small fruit growers to follow good fertilization and spraying programs.

C. Methods

1. Distribute the Virginia spray bulletin to fruit growers.
2. Assist fruit growers with individual problems in fruit production.
3. Have specialist from VPI visit the orchards in the county.
4. Assist farmers in spraying and fertilization program.

HOME GARDEN

A. Situation

Most of the families in the county have home gardens and there is much interest in gardening among the people.

B. Goals

1. Encourage the planning of the home gardens to utilize maximum space.
2. Encourage gardeners to follow recommended vegetable varieties.
3. Encourage soil test of the home garden.
4. Encourage winter cover crop of the home garden.
5. Encourage proper fertilization and liming of the home garden by soil testing.

C. Methods

4-H CLUBS

A. Situation

There are approximately 200 4-H Club members in the county. Ninety-five 4-H members are boys. All 4-H meetings are held at school during activity period. Other school activities keep the older boys and girls from attending 4-H meetings. Good cooperation exists between 4-H Club and F.F.A., school principals and teachers.

B. Goals

1. To hold a "Share the Fun" program in the spring.
2. To have 10 4-H boys attend Jamestown 4-H Camp.
3. To observe National 4-H Club Week and have one county-wide exhibit.
4. To have 4-H boys set out 9,000 pine seedlings.
5. Have two 4-H members attend 4-H State Short Course.
6. To hold two county council meetings.
7. To have 60% completion of records.
8. To hold county-wide 4-H Rural Life Sunday.
9. Encourage participation in the county contest.
10. To hold two 4-H parties in the spring - one for Jr. and one for Sr.

C. Methods

1. Secure the cooperation and help of the rural ministers in the county in conducting Rural Life Sunday.
2. Stress the importance of tree planting and encourage boys to take advantage of 400 pine seedlings free from the Va. Forestry Service.
3. Hold county contest for boys.
4. Provide leadership and recreational training for 4-H members.
5. Secure and train adult leaders to help with 4-H program.
6. Have 4-H members to be on radio programs.
7. Recognize outstanding accomplishments of 4-H members and publicize them.

AGRONOMY

A. Situation

Soybeans, corn, small grains, milo, tomatoes and peas are produced in the county. Several farmers in the lower end of the county raise Irish potatoes, beans and other vegetables for the Richmond market. More soybeans are raised than any other crop.

B. Goals

1. To have 25 farmers who have not sent in soil samples to do so this year.
2. Get 40 farmers to top-dress small grain.
3. Increase the use of cover crops on 20 farms and take advantage of ACP payments on cover crops.
4. Increase the use of lime by soil testing.
5. Encourage better rotation programs.
6. Encourage farmers to follow better fertilization programs.
7. To control insects on soybeans by spraying in time.

C. Methods

1. Encourage winter cover crops.
2. Encourage farmers to take advantage of ACP payment on cover crops.
3. Send circular letter on crop recommendations and proper lime and fertilizer practices.
4. Encourage farmers to take soil samples and assist them in planning their fertilization program.
5. Distribute information on the control of the alfalfa weevil and other insects by letters, radio and newspaper.
6. Assist farmers in identifying and controlling insects.
7. Encourage farmers to use soil and water conservation practices where applicable.

FORESTRY

A. Situation

Middlesex County has approximately 53,000 acres of woodland with an income of about \$250,000 per year to farmers and landowners from forest products. About 1,000 acres of saw timber is being cut annually.

More pine seedlings have been set in the county in the last 2 years than the previous years. Pine seedlings being set this year will exceed any previous year. Approximately 175,000 pine seedlings will be set this year. Of this total amount, 4-H Club members will set approximately 9,000 pine seedlings.

B. Goals

1. To increase the number of acres of thinning of young fast growing pines.
2. To bulldoze 60 acres of woodland for tree planting.
3. To set 175,000 seedlings this year as a county goal.
4. 4-H members to set 9,000 pine seedlings.
5. To increase the number of acres of chemical killing of undesirable hardwoods followed by spot planting by 100 acres.
6. To get more farmers and landowners to do some forestry improvement work.

C. Methods

1. Encourage farmers to take advantage of the cost-share practices provided under the ASC program.
2. Encourage 4-H members to set 400 pine seedlings if they have the land.
3. Hold two forestry committee meetings during the year.
4. Hold demonstrations on setting pine seedlings for 4-H members.
5. County Agent will work closely with Virginia Division of Forestry and Chesapeake Corporation to provide the needed service and information.

POULTRY

A. Situation

Poultry has been decreasing as a source of farm income. Most of the poultry is raised by commercial producers; however, chickens are found on over half of the farms in the county. The turkeys are raised by one commercial producer with the exception of a few small producers. About all of the ducks are raised by one commercial producer.

B. Goals

1. Encourage producers to attend poultry meetings.
2. Improve quality of eggs offered for sale from every poultry farm.
3. Have at least six more small flock owners to vaccinate for fowl pox.
4. Increase laying flock of one 4-H Club member.

C. Methods

1. Hold demonstrations on vaccinating for fowl pox.
2. Give farmers research information concerning cost and returns per bird in laying flocks of different size.
3. Send the poultry suggestions to all poultry producers.
4. Encourage all poultry farmers to attend poultry meetings.
5. Stress the importance to all poultry farmers the steps necessary to maintain the quality of eggs.

LIVESTOCK

A. Situation

In the 1954 census, there were 2,200 hogs and pigs in the county. This number has increased to about 4,000 now. There were about 1300 milk cows and 200 sheep and lambs in 1954 and this number is about the same. In 1954 all cattle totaled about 2,200 head.

B. Goals

1. Increase the number of feeder pig consigners to the Tappahannock Pig Sale to six.
2. Encourage ten more farmers to vaccinate for hog cholera and erysipelas.
3. Increase the number of fat cattle feeders by three.
4. Encourage more steer feeding.
5. Initiate control of internal and external parasites on six farms.
6. Increase the quality of livestock on six farms.

C. Methods

1. Encourage farmers to purchase meat-type boars and sows at the purebred hog sales.
2. Hold livestock tours in adjoining counties.
3. Advertise and encourage farmers to attend extension sponsored livestock schools in the area.
4. Encourage farmers to do a better job of feeding and management by farm and home visits, radio, newspapers and circular letters.
5. Encourage sale of fat cattle through the organized fat cattle sales.
6. Encourage the sale of feeder pigs through the Tappahannock Feeder Pig Sale Organization.
7. Encourage 3 farmers to purchase new bulls.
8. Notices will be given of purebred sales, feeder pig sales, fat cattle sales and other activities of livestock nature.

III. MAJOR PROJECTS

DAIRYING

A. Situation

1. The sale of whole milk has increased 40% in the past five years.
2. There are nine grade A dairy farms in the county.
3. All dairies have installed bulk tanks.
4. Two dairies are testing in D. H. I. A.
5. One dairy is using artificial breeding.

B. Goals

1. Encourage 2 more dairymen to use some form of testing.
2. Encourage 1 additional dairyman to use artificial breeding.
3. Encourage dairymen to have a better forage program.
4. Continue the Bangs control program.
5. Improve the herd production of the county.
6. Encourage one dairyman to install pipe-line milkers.

C. Methods

1. Hold meetings for dairymen during the year on management and feeding.
2. Explain to dairymen the value of D. H. I. A. testing.
3. Continue to hold the Bangs vaccination tours.
4. Conduct tour to Warsaw Experiment Station.
5. Stress upon dairymen the importance of good liming and fertilizing practices on their forage crops by means of farm visits, radio, newspapers and circular letters.

I. GENERAL COUNTY SITUATION

Middlesex County lies in the coastal plain and extends along Virginia's Middle Peninsula to the Chesapeake Bay. The Rappahannock River is its upper boundary and the Piankatank River and Dragon Run its lower boundaries.

There are 501 farms in the county averaging 74 acres in size and \$10,436 in value of land and buildings.

Receipts from sale of farm products usually exceed one million dollars. The income is about equally divided between crops and livestock. Field crops (soybeans, corn and wheat) contribute over one-fourth of the county's farm income. Soybeans have expanded rapidly in recent years and are now grown on a larger acreage than corn. Vegetables for processing and fresh market are important crops. These include green peas, tomatoes and snapbeans. Dairying is a rather stable farm enterprise and contributes about one-eighth of the total farm income.

The seafood industry is important and the tourist trade is becoming an increasing stimulus on the county's economy.

II. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The following is a list of the county organizations with which the county agent has cooperated in furthering the Extension Program:

- County Board of Agriculture
- Norfolk Area Milk Producers Association
- Middlesex ASC Committee
- Tidewater Soil Conservation District
- Tappahannock Feeder Pig Sale Association
- Tidewater Dairy Herd Improvement Association
- Richmond Fat Cattle Sales
- Middlesex Forestry Committee

