

Project Major Phases of Project or Subdivision of
Project Covered

Percent of time
Devoted to Project

- a. State 4-H Short Course
- b. Extension Annual Conference

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Signed

E. W. Mundie
Project Leader

Date Approved 1/28/59

Signed

W. H. Dunnington
State Director of Extension

Date Approved MAR 31 1959

Signed

C. M. Ferguson
Director of Extension Work
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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VIRGINIA EXTENSION SOIL CONSERVATIONIST'S 1959 PLAN OF WORK

1. Basic Working Arrangements and Relationships:

The Extension Soil Conservationist of Virginia is cooperatively employed by the Agricultural Extension Service and the State Soil Conservation Committee and is administratively responsible to the Director of Extension.

The Extension Soil Conservationist serves as a specialist in the field of soil and water conservation education. He performs the functions of this position in a manner rather similar to specialists in other fields of extension activity. In addition to serving as an extension specialist, the employee serves as secretary to the State Soil Conservation Committee and he performs a number of other duties that are assigned to the State Soil Conservation Committee under the provisions of the Virginia Soil Conservation Districts Law.

As an extension specialist, the conservationist endeavors to integrate the soil and water conservation aspect of extension work with that of the various subject matter departments of the agricultural college. This cooperative relationship includes working with other specialists in meetings, advising with specialists of the various subject matter fields, and aiding in the preparation of subject matter which relates to the soil and water conservation program.

On district and county levels, the soil conservationist works through the Extension District Agents and with individual county agents on the educational phases of the soil and water conservation program. Increased amounts of assistance are given the twenty-nine agents who serve as members of the Soil Conservation Districts. The conservationist is invited to attend

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meetings with the state and area personnel of the Soil Conservation Service to discuss projects of mutual concern. Communications dealing with joint conservation activities of the extension service and the Soil Conservation Service are sent to field personnel of the two agencies by the conservationist or by heads of respective agencies, depending upon the procedure which is agreed upon in joint conferences.

The conservationist serves on a state Agricultural Stabilization Committee to review county recommendations and to aid in formulating a state program. He serves on a state committee to select and make recommendations for payment practices under the Soil Bank Program. He confers with the state staff of the Farmers Home Administration on the soil and water conservation phases of the program of this agency. He advises with and assists vocational agriculture in the conduct of district and state Land Appreciation Contests for young farmers clubs and other conservation projects and furnishes material on land appreciation to this agency when called upon. He works with the Virginia Department of Highways, the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Division of Forestry to facilitate the execution of memorandums of understanding with soil conservation districts and in carrying out the provisions of these memorandums.

The conservationist serves as a member of the Virginia Resource Use Education Council and as a member of the Land Committee of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. In the work of the former organization, an opportunity for the exchange of ideas with conservationists of other agencies and organizations and an opportunity to engage in conservation projects as a joint endeavor with representatives of the several organizations

concerned with natural resource conservation is afforded. In the latter assignment an opportunity is afforded to work with and assist in coordinating efforts of conservationists, industrialists, and others of the four state basin.

The Extension Soil Conservationist works very closely with the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts, with individual districts, and individual members of boards of supervisors. Through this cooperative working relationship, additional opportunities are afforded to assist in integrating the efforts of the various agencies and organizations assisting soil conservation districts.

2. The Soil Conservation Situation:

There is only one agricultural county of Virginia not included in an organized soil conservation district. More than 40,000 landowners of the state have developed soil and water conservation plans for their farms based on the capabilities of the land.

Financial assistance provided landowners through the program of the Agricultural Stabilization Committee for carrying out specific conservation measures is contributing more effectively to the development of the conservation program than at any time in the history of the program.

The Farm and Home Development Program under the leadership of the Extension Service provides an additional opportunity to strengthen the conservation efforts on Virginia farms.

Special state-wide projects including the 100 Bushel Corn Club, the Pasture Program, and the Plant More Trees Program, have contributed much in the development of Virginia's soil and water conservation program.

The three-year Plant More Trees Program was completed in 1958. However, emphasis on tree planting continues, and evidence is at hand that more trees will be planted in Virginia during 1959 than in any year of its history.

Water problems continue to be foremost in the minds of Virginia people. The Water Resources Committee of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Committee in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee is publishing a comprehensive report of past studies and the present situation pertaining to water conservation and distribution within the state. This report will be completed and distributed during 1959.

The Small Watershed Program of the state made considerable progress in 1958 and will come in for an increased amount of attention during 1959. Many problems have been encountered (none of which are unmountable) in getting this program started in the state. The works of improvement on the Pilot Watershed in central Virginia is now nearly complete. The works of improvement on one watershed for which aid is provided under the provisions of Public Law 566 has been completed and contracts have been let for construction on a second watershed which is being developed under this legislation. The brightest spot in the watershed picture is the increased interest and understanding of this program by various agencies and the public at large.

Virginia has its urbanization problems along with other states of the nation. During the year 1957 two Virginia counties lost their identity as such and became a part of one of the largest cities of the Commonwealth. Housing projects and other public developments continue to absorb sizeable acreages of Virginia farm land. Notable in such developments is the airport in Northern Virginia.

The droughts of recent years which had a paralyzing effect on crop production of the state have served to make Virginia farmers conscious of the need for storing water for future use. In addition to the construction of ponds, the development of springs and seeps and the increase in the numbers of irrigation systems, land owners are recognizing the part that sound land use and good vegetative cover play in moisture conservation and are improving the over-all conservation programs on their farms to meet this need.

Supervisors of Virginia Soil Conservation Districts are engaging in more and varied activities from year to year and Virginia people are understanding more fully the interdependency of all people on soil and water resources.

While there are many things in the soil and water conservation situation that look bright, the needs for advancing a sound soil and water conservation program in the state are numerous. Some of these needs are:

1. There is a considerable turn-over in personnel who serve as supervisors of Virginia's twenty-nine districts. One job of very great importance is to give these supervisors the necessary training to enable them to better understand their job. When this is done, supervisors will learn to use more fully the resources about them, which is the key to the development of a sound soil and water conservation program.
2. Additional basic research data is needed in many phases of the soil and water conservation program.
3. Some of the Virginia's twenty-nine districts are too large in area for most efficient operation. The large districts need to be broken down into smaller units.

4. Information about the physical capabilities of Virginia's soils which is now "in the files" should be made available to Virginia people.

5. The conservation program should be directed more to Virginia youth than has been done in past years.

6. Finally, the present program of soil and water conservation education must be greatly enlarged to provide the minimum needs in giving direction and assistance to an expanding districts program.

3. Major Objectives:

In the development of the conservationist's program of work for the year, the following projects and activities will receive priority.

1. Assistance to the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

- (a) Planning and assisting with four Executive Committee meetings.
- (b) Assisting with six area meetings of Soil Conservation District Supervisors.
- (c) Assisting with plans and conduct of annual meeting.
- (d) Observance of Soil Stewardship Week.
- (e) Observance of Natural Resources Conservation Week.
- (f) Conduct of state-wide contests
 - 1 - Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Awards Program.
 - 2 - Conservation Poster Contest
- (g) Conduct of three regional tours for legislators and other key persons

2. Assistance to individual districts.
 - (a) Administrative matters.
 - (b) Educational activities.
 - (c) Annual reports.
3. Assistance to State Soil Conservation Committee.
 - (a) Maintaining official records of proceedings.
 - (b) Keeping committee current on needs of districts.
 - (c) Related matters for which State Soil Conservation Committee is responsible.
4. 4-H Club Activities
 - (a) Supervise the conduct of a state-wide Land Appreciation Contest.
 - (b) Assist with planning a Conservation Camp program and provide one week of instruction for the same.
 - (c) Prepare a 4-H Conservation material and make available to County Agents and Assistant County Agents.
5.
 - (a) Assist with conduct of a Natural Resource Conservation Short Course at V. P. I. for public school teachers.
 - (b) Assist with conduct of a Natural Resource Conservation Short Course at William and Mary for public school teachers.
 - (c) Assist with conduct of a Natural Resource Conservation Short Course at Virginia State College for public school teachers.
6. Prepare a Soil and Water Conservation movie on Small Watershed Development.

7. Prepare a publication on grass waterways.
8. Conservation Assistance to other state and federal agencies.
 - (a) Virginia Department of Highways.
 - (b) Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.
 - (c) Department of Vocational Agriculture.
 - (d) Soil Conservation Service.
 - (e) Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.
9.
 - (a) Serve as a member of the Land Committee of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.
 - (b) Serve on the State Conservation Needs Committee.
10. Discuss conservation program before civic clubs and other community organizations.
11. Prepare reports -- annual, monthly, and special.
12. Appear on Radio and Television Programs and prepare timely news articles on the Virginia Conservation Program.
13. Prepare articles for monthly periodicals.
14. Disseminate information on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Research Program.
15. Serve on committees for:
 - (a) State 4-H Short Course
 - (b) Extension Annual Conference

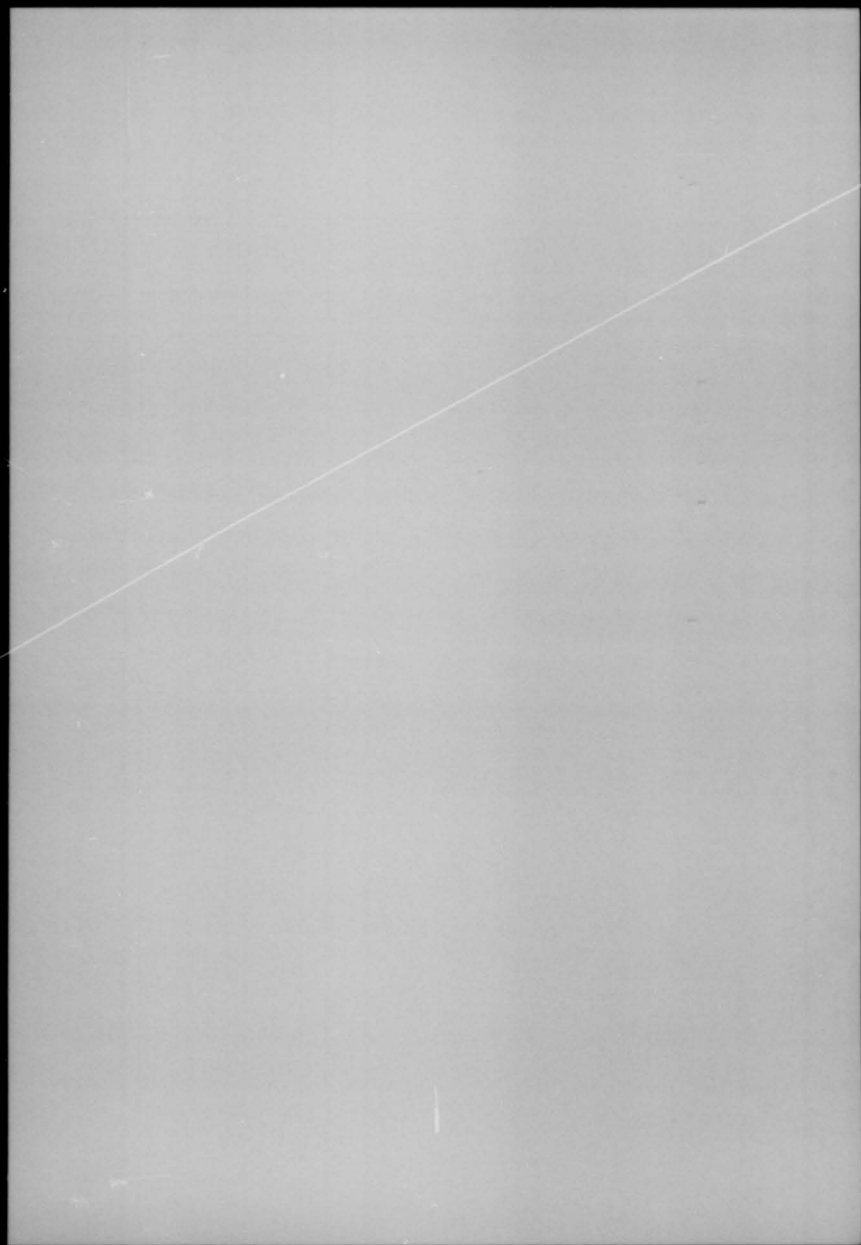
4. Procedure:

Assistance to the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts-- The Conservationist will work closely with the President of the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He will assist in planning the agendas for the four Executive Committee meetings that will be held during the year. He will encourage the Executive Committee of the Association to develop an Annual Plan of Operation based on the needs of the 29 districts. This will be accomplished by individual conferences and pointing up this need in the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Conservationist will assist the six Directors of the Executive Committee of the State Association with planning and conducting area meetings. He will serve with the Program Committee to develop a program for the meetings, assist the Director in reproducing the program and sending notices of the meetings. He will provide follow-up for these meetings which will be designed to contribute to the state-wide program of operations.

The Conservationist will assist the Program Committee with planning for the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association. This assistance will include preparing correspondence, including letters of invitation to the meeting, furnishing guidance to the Committee in developing a balanced program for the meeting, encouraging district supervisors to attend and assisting the secretary of the Association in the preparation and distribution of the proceedings of the meeting.

The Conservationist will assist the Association in the development of plans for the observance of Soil Stewardship Week. This assistance will



include preparing materials for districts to use in the observance, assisting the chairman of the Soil Stewardship Committee in preparing news articles, developing radio and television programs, and encouraging districts to begin planning early and developing a well-rounded program of observance.

The Conservationist will assist the Association's Executive Committee with plans for Natural Resource Conservation Week Observance. This assistance will include appearing on radio and television programs, encouraging other Extension Specialists to appear on radio and television programs and arranging with county agents and other agricultural workers and representatives of radio stations which have broad coverage to devote increased amounts of time to Natural Resource Conservation in connection with the week's observance. The Conservationist will aid in the preparation of a proclamation statement to be issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth and will distribute and otherwise publicize the proclamation statement. He will prepare other news publicity and will provide material to district boards for use in the observance. Included in this material will be suggested activities for use in the observance.

The Conservationist will assist the Association of Districts in the development of the Goodyear Conservation Awards Program for 1958-1959. He will encourage districts which have not enrolled to do so. This will be done by individual contacts, correspondence, and in district board meetings. In meeting with district boards, he will point out the opportunities afforded in this program for developing the over-all districts program; and he will assist districts in making full use of the project. The Conservationist will serve on the state committee to aid in judging the records of the participating districts.

The Conservationist will assist the Association with the Annual Poster Contest for public schools by sending to supervisors, county agents and Soil Conservation Service conservationists the rules and regulations governing the contest. He will provide follow-up correspondence to encourage participation and he will assist the collection of winning posters and assist the Association in notifying the judging committee, etc.

The Extension Conservationist will assist the Association with planning and conducting three regional tours for legislators and other key persons. Three such tours were held during 1956 and plans are to hold tours in the other three areas this year. Assistance rendered by the Conservationist in planning for and conducting these tours will include meeting with the District Board that will sponsor the tour and aid in planning. He will also assist in preparing the necessary correspondence for notifying agricultural workers, district supervisors, and other lawteens and will assist in the conduct of the tour.

The Conservationist will aid individual districts in three areas of supervisor responsibility:

- A. Administrative matters
- B. Educational activities, and
- C. In the development and distribution of annual reports.

To provide assistance in these areas, the conservationist will prepare materials and distribute to district supervisors and assisting agency representatives which deal with each of the three areas. The Conservationist will visit individual district supervisors and meet with district boards to

help implement the districts program in each of those areas of responsibility. He will serve on committees as an adviser where district boards request the same.

The Conservationist will render assistance to the State Soil Conservation Committee by maintaining the official records of the Committee and by taking care of the correspondence of the Committee which relates to these records. The Conservationist, by continuous contact with district boards, individual board members, and agricultural workers, will help to keep the committee informed on the needs of districts. The Conservationist will perform other duties assigned to the State Soil Conservation Committee as needs arise.

The Extension Conservationist will assist the 4-H Club program in planning, supervising, and conducting a state-wide Land Appreciation Contest. He will arrange through district agents suitable dates for holding district contests; he will disseminate information to county agents and assistant county agents about the contest and he will work with individual county agents in planning the district contest. He will assist in the conduct of district contests and assume responsibility for conducting the contest on a state level.

The Conservationist will assist representatives of the 4-H Club Department in planning a program for the Annual Conservation Camp. He will meet with other instructors who assist in this camp and representatives of the 4-H Club Department to help integrate the subject matter which will be provided by the several subject matter specialists. The Conservationist will provide one week of instruction in this camp.

The Conservationist will make available to county agents, assistant county agents, and 4-H Club leaders the U. S. D. A. publication entitled, "Soil and Water Conservation Projects and Activities--A Guide for 4-H Club Leaders," and the "Manual for Local Leaders in Soil and Water Conservation."

The Conservationist will serve as coordinator and director of three natural resource conservation short courses which will be offered public school teachers during the summer of 1959. The short courses will be offered on the campuses of V. P. I., the College of William and Mary, and Virginia State College. Each of the courses will be repeats of 1958. The courses will be conducted rather similarly to the 1958 courses. Three semester hours credit will be given for satisfactory completion of the course in each of the three institutions. The project will be undergirded with a scholarship program made possible by industry, soil conservation districts, Isaac Walton Leagues, Garden Clubs, and other interested organizations.

The Conservationist will serve as a technical adviser in the production of a color movie on the small watershed program of Virginia. The Soil Conservation Service has agreed to cooperate in the production of this movie. First, a meeting of the television production unit of V. P. I., the conservationist, and the Soil Conservation Service personnel will be arranged. Secondly, a preview of other watershed movies will be made. Third, a tour of the Pilot Watershed and one of the Public Law 566 projects will be made by the conservationist, the V. P. I. television production unit, and the Deputy State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service. On this tour, we will confer with soil conservation district supervisors, county agents, bankers and others who have been instrumental in the development of the projects which we will

visit. Following this visit, the script for the movie will be prepared by a member of the television production staff and then approved by an appointed committee. Most of the photography will be cared for during the summer of 1959, and the movie should be completed before the end of the year.

The Conservationist will continue to work closely with other agencies having natural resource conservation education responsibilities. In working with the program committee for the Annual Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors, the State Forester was suggested to appear on the program by the Conservationist, and this has been arranged. In working with district boards, the Conservationist encourages the boards to utilize the services of personnel with forestry assignments. Last year the Extension Forester met with one or more boards and the Virginia Division of Forestry representatives met with several district boards.

Arrangements were made by the Conservationist for representatives of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries to meet with district boards last year to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding. This year it is planned to arrange for meetings of this agency with all of the Virginia districts which do not have Memorandums with the Game Commission for the purpose of considering the execution of such a Memorandum. The Conservationist works very closely with representatives of this state agency.

In 1958 representatives of the landscape division of the Department of Highways met with several districts to discuss ways and means of implementing the Memorandums which have been executed by the Department of Highways and the individual districts. This year the Conservationist plans to further

this cooperative effort by encouraging districts to invite highway representatives to their meetings, which will in some cases include field trips to observe the conservation needs in areas of joint responsibility.

The Conservationist will continue to work with the Department of Vocational Agriculture in providing conservation materials and rendering other assistance wherever possible in the conduct of Land Appreciation Contests for young farmers groups and F. F. A. chapters.

The efforts of the Conservationist in a number of projects have been made effective by the cooperative help of Soil Conservation Service personnel. The Conservationist will continue to keep close contact with state and area personnel of this agency, participating in their meetings and otherwise working closely with representatives of the agency wherever the opportunity presents itself.

The Conservationist will serve on a state committee which is selected by the Agricultural Stabilization Committee to evaluate county recommendations and to recommend practices for payment in the state-wide program.

The Conservationist will serve as a member of the Land Committee of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. As a member of this committee he will work with agriculturalists, industrialists, and people of other interests of the four-state compact on a sound land use program as it relates to pollution abatement. The work of this committee will in part consist of assembling data that is now available from the files of various organizations and agencies and using this data in the development of a promotional program of the Commission.

The Conservationist will serve as Chairman of a subcommittee of the State Conservation Needs Committee.

The Conservationist will discuss the Virginia soil and water conservation program with civic clubs and other community organizations during the year. He will prepare monthly, annual, and special reports as necessary and will appear on scheduled radio programs originating here at V. P. I. These programs are distributed to radio stations throughout Virginia by the Extension visual aids section. The Conservationist will schedule at least one television program during the year, prepare timely news articles on the Virginia soil conservation program, and prepare at least one article for a monthly periodical. Special emphasis will be given during the year to disseminating information on the Virginia soil and water conservation research program.

The Conservationist will serve on committees for the state 4-H short course and for the annual Extension Conference, and will serve on other committees as requested.