

PLAN OF WORK

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and
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PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

1960

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GENERAL INFORMATION

I.

Prince Edward County is an average size Virginia county. It is located in the South-Central Piedmont Area, with a population of about 15,000 - 58% white and 42% non-white. The topography is rolling. Average rainfall is around 43 inches and there are approximately 180 days to the growing season. Farm population is decreasing, but the urban part is slowly increasing. There are 1179 farm operators in the county, of which 669 are white. The area is 228,480 acres, with cropland and pasture making up about three-fifths of the land.

Farmville is the county seat; and the villages of Rice, Worsham, Darlington Heights, Prospect and Pamplin serve the county with general stores and post offices.

Hampden-Sydney College for men and Longwood College for women, two of the oldest colleges in the state, are located in the county.

Three banks serve the area, being located in Farmville. The county is served by two railroads and two main highways; the latter are Routes 15 and 460. Farmville has several small manufacturers, an egg grading and marketing warehouse, and dark tobacco warehouses. Furthermore, the section is blessed in having the Southside Community Hospital located in Farmville.

Main Sources of Agricultural Income are:

- Tobacco (Bright, Fire-cured, Burley, Sun, Maryland)
- Dairying
- Timber products
- Beef cattle and other livestock
- Orchards (apple and peach)
- Poultry (minor)

II.

AGRONOMY

Committee:

- B. M. Cunningham, Chairman
- B. C. Bass
- T. C. Hix
- Charles Owen
- J. A. Hines
- C. W. Dickhoff

- A. 48 farms and parts of 5 farms were placed in the 1960 Conservation Reserve Program: a total of 2437 acres of cropland. Annual payment for these farms will amount to \$11,186.72.

B. Tobacco (Flue, Dark-fired, Burley, Sun and Maryland)

1. SITUATION AND TRENDS

- a. The allotted acreage of each type:
- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Flue..... | 828 |
| Dark-fired... | 990 |
| Burley..... | 49 |
- (others are minor)
- b. There are 467 farms with flue, 763 with fire-cured and 100 with burley.
- c. The average acreage per farm as to type is as follows:
- | | |
|---------------|------|
| Flue..... | 1.8 |
| Dark-fired... | 1.3 |
| Burley..... | 0.49 |
- (others: minor)
- d. The Conservation Reserve Program removed from production 14.66 acres of flue-cured, 51.63 acres of dark-fired, and 2.81 acres of burley tobacco.
- e. The flue-cured tobacco growers are the only operators that attempt to have one major enterprise on their farms; however, these farm operators are few in number.
- f. The small acreage allotments in all types of tobacco has caused the farmer to add one or more major enterprises.

2. PROBLEMS

- a. The marketing procedure in all types of tobacco, as to grading and selling.
- b. More and more farms are troubled with rootknot in all types.
- c. Insects are a problem in plant bed and field.
- d. The rotation of flue cured tobacco.
- e. The proper fertilizer analysis to use in plant beds and in the field.
- f. Soil samples are not taken in sufficient time to use the results to their best advantage.

- g. Low yields of fire-cured tobacco.
- h. The insufficient supply of recommended certified dark-fired tobacco seed.
- i. Black-shank in the dark-fired tobacco type.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Encourage farmers to improve quality in all types.
- b. Explore possibilities of improved marketing conditions.
- c. Encourage farmers to use the recommended chemicals for rootknot control and insects.
- d. Encourage farmers to improve the condition of their tobacco soils for more efficient production.
- e. Have demonstrations that will encourage the farmers to accept good practices.

4. GOALS

- a. Talk to the local tobacco warehouse owners about grading and selling tobacco.
- b. Have more farmers use chemicals to control rootknot.
- c. Increase yields in all types by 100 lbs.
- d. Acquaint 300 farmers with the recommended and improved chemicals for insect control.
- e. Have 100 farmers to lime their flue-tobacco soils at the proper time.
- f. Carry on weed control demonstration for plant beds.
- g. Visit at least 300 farmers during the growing season to examine their tobacco, to aid in quality and yield.
- h. Increase soil testing by 100 additional samples.
- i. Work with the Extension tobacco specialist to have sufficient supply of certified tobacco seed.
- j. Inform growers of Experiment Station tobacco field days at Chatham and Charlotte C.H.
- k. Hold a county-wide tobacco meeting in the fall.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Have a demonstration of new varieties of flue tobacco.
- b. Inform all tobacco growers by circular letter and radio the proper time to take tobacco soil sample.
- c. Have twenty or more farmers to attend the tobacco field days at the Experiment Stations.
- d. Hold a county-wide tobacco meeting in the fall, to cover many phases of tobacco.
- e. Have one farmer to conduct a demonstration on blackshank in dark-fired tobacco.
- f. Assist one farmer with his dark-fired variety test demonstrations; work with Dr. Henderson of V.P.I. on this experiment.
- g. Work with Charlotte Experiment Station on the blackshank plots of dark-fired tobacco conducted in this county.
- h. Send tobacco research information to fertilizer dealers, local merchants and other agricultural workers.
- i. Send a tobacco variety list to all tobacco growers.
- j. Assist with the demonstration on fertilizing tobacco conducted by Experiment Station.
- k. Use all types of mass media to impart tobacco research information, such as radio, bulletins, newspaper, circular letters. Also use services of the tobacco specialist, and do personal farm visitation.

C.

C. Grain and Forage Crops

1. SITUATION

- a. In normal seasons, the farmers make sufficient hay to feed their livestock.
- b. 2437 acres of cropland placed in the Conservation Reserve Program will be put in permanent grass and legume cover.
- c. Corn and wheat produced in excess of farm use are sold out of the area.
- d. Oats and barley acreages have been increasing in recent years.
- e. There are some 28,000 acres of pastures -- but only 11,000 is pasture with seeded stands of grasses, clovers and lespedeza.
- f. Alfalfa is becoming more important on individual farms. Red clover is increasing in acreage.
- g. The baling of hay is the most common method of harvesting. There are some hay-curing units.

2. PROBLEMS

- a. High crop yields are sacrificed for more acreage and low yield.
- b. Proper use of pastures, to gain the maximum benefits from seed and fertilizer.
- c. Weeds and insects in forage crops, and weeds in small grains.
- d. Incomplete soil test and the use of ACP financing.
- e. Improper use of lush pastures in the late spring.
- f. The low phosphate content in soil-test results.
- g. Dependence on lespedeza for a winter hay supply.
- h. Disease and insect control.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Encourage all farmers to conserve their excess late spring pasture for hay supply or silage.
- b. Help farmers realize that high yields and less acres are more important than large acreages.
- c. Have all farmers strive to control insects and weeds in their forage programs.
- d. Keep the farmers informed on the recommended varieties of grain and forage crop seed.
- e. Encourage the proper harvesting and storage of all crops.
- f. Encourage farmers to raise sufficient quantities of feed to meet the demands of their livestock and reduce farm cost, if this permits efficient production.

4. GOALS

- a. Reduce the risk in winter hay supply by producing more alfalfa, clover and using excess permanent pasture for hay or silage.
- b. Increase the acreage of silage by 100 acres.
- c. Have more farmers to use the proper chemicals in controlling insects and weeds in forage crops.
- d. Inform all farmers of the value gained in rotating pastures.
- e. Increase the number of soil tests for pastures and rotations by 100.
- f. Promote the use of supplementary pastures.
- g. Increase the acreage of oats and barley, with less dependence on corn as a grain.
- h. Increase the improved pasture acreage so that 2 acres per animal will suffice for the present average 4.3 acres per animal unit.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Continue to emphasize the value of alfalfa production in order that cattle will consume good quality feed.

- b. Hold demonstrations on the control of weeds.
- c. Provide all growers of corn, small grain, and forage with a list of the recommended varieties.
- d. Have all pertinent information before making a fertilizer or lime recommendation on a soil-test result.
- e. Conduct a corn variety demonstration with a TVA Pilot Demonstrator.
- f. Use the TVA Pilot Demonstrators in furthering the promotion of recommended crop varieties.
- g. Emphasize the importance of good pasture management.
- h. Use all types of mass media to impart research information to the farmers and conduct field tours to show results.
- i. Help all cattlemen to see the importance of summer pasture, especially the dairymen.

III.

DAIRYING

Committee:

James Gilliam
D. A. Gates
T. E. Slaydon
James Garnett
Leslie Hamilton

1. SITUATION AND TRENDS

- a. 49 grade A milk producers are milking more than 3000 cows.
- b. The grade B producers total more than 25, and milk over 300 cows. Some 25 producers ship cream.
- c. 7 dairymen are using DHIA.
- d. 31 herds are breeding artificially (and some farmers with only 1 or a few) through the Nottoway and Charlotte Associations.
- e. 90% of the grade A dairymen are using bulk tanks. One dairyman has a pipeline milking system.
- f. Most of the dairymen raise their forage and concentrates, buying only the supplement.
- g. The dairymen are raising some of their replacement heifers. Furthermore, some farmers are ~~raising~~ raising replacement heifers to sell.
- h. Farmville has a creamery that markets milk and creamery products.
- i. More farmers are contemplating the dairy business each year. Dairy herds are increasing as to number.

2. PROBLEMS

- a. Sacrificing high milk and butterfat production per cow for herd cow numbers.
- b. The control of mastitis.
- c. The use of herd bulls along with artificial breeding.

- d. The lack of high quality forage and pasture.
- e. Surplus milk and unsatisfactory labor.
- f. The failure to use DHIA and the artificial breeding programs.
- g. The high cost of dairy feeds.
- h. The inefficient use of antibiotics and insecticides.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Increase the milk production per cow.
- b. Encourage the use of more succulent feeds.
- c. Increase the herd numbers, keeping production records.
- d. Have more dairymen use the artificial breeding service.
- f. Promote the use of antibiotics and insecticides in the proper manner.

4. GOALS

- a. Increase the milk production per cow by 200 pounds.
- b. Have 2 grade B dairymen qualify to sell grade A milk.
- c. Have dairymen use labor-saving methods, in place of unsatisfactory labor.
- d. Have 5 dairymen build some type of silo.
- e. Increase the number of dairy herds in the county's artificial breeding service.
- f. Have more dairymen improve their method in marketing milk.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Hold a dairy meeting during the year, to promote all phases of improved efficiency in dairying.
- b. Improve the use of DHIA records by wider utilization.

- c. Plan to have a dairyman's trip to the Artificial Breeding Center.
- d. Increase the use of silage and summer temporary pasture, and not depend too heavily on permanent pasture.
- e. Encourage all dairymen to use some type of instrument to stop heifer calves from sucking each other; this could help to prevent mastitis.
- f. Expand the practice of dairymen buying Dairy concentrate and small grain in the raw stage.
- g. Be sure ~~ix~~ that grade B dairymen have all the facts before changing to grade A.
- h. Work with DHIA supervisor and get more dairymen to keep DHIA records.
- i. Have dairymen construct more silage-type structures, in order to feed silage the year 'round.
- j. Study the practice of "the time of day to feed silage".
- k. Have each dairyman analyze his dairy business and put into practice more efficiency and labor-saving.
- l. Have 2 dairymen use the Electronic Farm Record System.
- m. Use the necessary means of mass media to conduct an educational program.

IV.

BEEF CATTLE, HOGS and SHEEP

Committee:

F. G. Baldwin
George Shorter
D. B. Phillips
R. M. Bradshaw
Odell Cook

1. SITUATION AND TRENDS

- a. There are 50 or more herds of beef cattle, varying from 10 to 250 head per herd.
- b. The herds are being increased in size each year.
- c. Practically all herds are sired by a purebred bull.
- d. There is one livestock market but not a place to market the better type of beef, hogs or sheep.
- e. There are some farmers who market over 100 fat hogs per year.
- f. Many farmers have one or more brood sows.
- g. The ewe numbers total about 200 head.
- h. There is one registered breeding flock of sheep: Suffolk.
- i. There is one purebred yorkshire hog breeder.

2. Problems

- a. The lack of purebred sires for each beef cow herd.
- b. The use of poor quality forage and pasture.
- c. Inefficient sheep flock size.
- d. Improper housing.
- e. The control of parasites and diseases.
- f. Failure to use the organized markets.
- g. The desire to purchase bulls at the wrong time of year.
- h. The shearing of sheep.
- i. The use of purebred boars.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Encourage the production of type beef calves.
- b. Promote better quality in beef cow herds.
- c. Encourage the use of organized marketing of livestock.
- d. Improve the feeding programs of beef, hogs and sheep.
- e. Increase the number of beef herds and sheep flocks.

4. GOALS

- a. Increase the number of registered sires by 10, and of pure-bred boars by 15.
- b. Have more farmers market feeder calves and feeder steers and heifers, also feeder pigs, through organized sales.
- c. Have all sheep flock owners use purebred rams.
- d. Increase the number of BCIA herds by 3.
- e. Increase the number of livestock producers to treat for for internal and external parasites.
- f. Have improved feeding programs for beef, hogs, and sheep.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Visit as many as possible of the beef and sheep and swine producers in the county.
- b. Assist producers in the purchase of registered breeding stock, such type, source of, and time to buy.
- c. Keep all beef cattle and swine producers aware of organized markets.
- d. Assist with the organized marketing, having farmers to help.
- e. Promote the marketing of wool and lambs cooperatively.
- f. Keep all producers informed of good livestock management.
- g. Promote the docking and castrating of all market lambs.
- h. Take beef producers to the beef cattle field day at Middleburg.

- i. Secure a sheep shearer for the sheep producers.
- j. Have one general farmer to use the electronic/^{farm}record system.
- k. Use all types of mass media.

V.

POULTRY

The poultry enterprise is minor. Some broilers are produced; the number of laying hen flocks (on a commercial scale) is at a standstill because of the low price of eggs.

An egg-grading and marketing establishment is located in the county, serving more than the State of Virginia.

It is becoming more difficult for family-flock owners to find a market for their surplus eggs.

The Agents will assist in many ways to keep the farmer informed on poultry matters; and furthermore, will cooperate with the poultry service men in the county for better poultry.

VI.

FORESTRY

1. SITUATION AND TRENDS

- a. The woodland in farms constitutes 30% or more of the area, around 85,000 acres.
- b. There are several local lumber manufacturers that own tracts of timber.
- c. The State has a large tract of forest, somewhere around 8,000 acres, supervised by the Virginia Division of Forestry.
- d. Lumber and pulpwood are important sources of income. The shipping points by rail are Farmville, Pamplin, Prospect, and Green Bay.
- e. Farmers have been making about 20-25% of the yearly plantings.

2. PROBLEMS

- a. Markets for certain types of hard wood.
- b. Forestry management, and low income from forestry.
- c. Undesirable young growth of hardwood brush.
- d. Lack of reforestation.

3. ~~State~~ objectives

- a. Encourage the farmer to increase income from forestry.
- b. Bring about more interest in reforestation.
- c. Harvest timber according to good forestry management.
- d. Have trees to promote conservation, where crops are impractical.

4. GOALS

- a. Work with the Virginia Forest Service to get 25 additional woodland management projects.
- b. Inform farmers as to use of 2,4,5-T to control sprouting of hardwood when cutting for fire- and flue-wood.
- c. Increase the planting of seedlings by 60,000.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Inform farmers about services offered by Virginia Forest Service, through farm visits and radio and news releases.
- b. Assist with the control of pine sawfly by using mass media, news articles, radio.
- c. Take orders for forest pine seedlings.
- d. Advise farmers concerning the ACP payments for forestry practices.
- e. Investigate possibilities of having a demonstration on control of undesirable hardwood, and pine reforestation.
- f. Assist the Virginia Forest Service in getting more forestry management practices.

VII.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. FRUIT GROWERS

The county has 9 peach growers raising the fruit for sale, and 6 apple orchardmen. Value of apples and peaches sold on a commercial scale is not obtainable, since the Census does not treat the county data as such. Some of these commercial growers do a volume of business.

Many farmers produce strawberries for sale, with the berries harvested mainly by letting the buyers pick.

One orchardman produces grapes for sale.

Several orchardmen sell fruit by having roadside stands.

A fruit growers' school is held in February of each year, in conjunction with other nearby counties.

Assistance will be given to fruit growers, both large and small producers. Farm visits and mass media will be used.

B. SOIL CONSERVATION

The agent will cooperate with Extension's co-workers, the Soil Conservation Service men. The agent is secretary of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District.

The Buffalo Creek Watershed project is progressing. Landowners' signatures are being secured, in connection with easements. This project is a part of Public Law 566.

Each dam site has a local committee and these committees function as helpers in bringing about the complete project. It is hoped that construction of one or more structures will be attained this year, since Congress has approved the project. Every effort is being used to hasten the materialization thereof, as it will aid in flood control and improve the economic value of farm property, also provide more recreation for this area.

C. the five county fair

The agent will cooperate with the other counties, as well as local farm and business personnel. Farm people will be encouraged to exhibit in order that the large display will be educational and bring about greater appreciation for

the agricultural business. Furthermore, the Fair will help to "narrow the gap" between rural and urban people. There are eight divisions of exhibits that include Agriculture and Home Economics.

D. FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT

Three farmers are participating in this program. Two are TVA "pilot demonstrators". These three farmers are assisted in many phases of agriculture, production, marketing, and combination of enterprises. Furthermore, they carry out demonstrations on their farms to further the development of agriculture.

These farmers will be encouraged to strive for greater efficiency in farming, and participation in agricultural and economic affairs of the Community, County, State, and Nation.

Under this program, the farm and home must function as a unit.

1. SITUATION AND TRENDS

- a. There are 6 community clubs, comprised of 106 boys and girls: 5 are junior clubs, 1 senior.
- b. Regular monthly meetings are held during the year. (12 meetings)
- c. Because of the county's private-schooling, many of the youth are members-at-large.
- d. Groups meet in community churches and one community building.
- e. During the summer months, 4-H meetings will be held at homes of various members.
- f. Extra recreation meetings are held when desired.

2. PROBLEMS

- A. More adult leaders are needed.
- b. Lack of 4-H county Extension personnel to carry out a broader program.
- c. Proper meeting places.
- d. Transportation of youth, when meetings are held in the afternoon.
- e. The interest of the parents in their children as to out-of-home activities that build youth; the children are interested.
- f. Instilling the attitude to take responsibility to carry out club activities.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Extend the 4-H Club program to more youth.
- b. Encourage youth to take more interest in preparing themselves for adulthood.
- d. Improve 4-H record-keeping and a greater desire for proficiency therein.

- d. Encourage youth to participate in community, county and state activities.
- e. Have all folder youth to explore career opportunities in Agriculture and recognize the need for a continuing education.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The 4-H County Council will be the governing body of the 4-H Club program.
- b. Have 4-H Club members to publicize their work by writing.
- c. Secure additional leaders for improved project work.
- d. Sponsor the Sears pig chain project.
- e. Have 4-H Club members to exhibit at county and state fairs.
- f. Participate in the 4-H District Contests.
- g. Send delegates to the 4-H Short Course.
- h. Send delegate to Forestry Camp.
- i. Have the youth to participate in the county "Share the Fun Program" and Rural Life Sunday.
- j. Have 4-H'ers to plant more pine seedlings.
- k. Sponsor a 4-H Club Achievement Program.
- l. Participate in 4-H Camp program at Holiday Lake Camp and state camps.
- m. Continue the 4-H poultry experimental project.
- n. Assist the youth with their 4-H recreation program and secure qualified new members.
- o. Promote 4-H Club week.
- p. Visit all 4-H youth during the year, and assist as needed.
- q. Use mass media, news articles, radio, bulletins, other youth, and circular letters to promote youth work.

IX.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CIVIL DEFENSE

Help in preparing the county's population for emergencies.

LEADERSHIP

Encourage the citizens of the county to take part in community, county, state, national and international affairs.

ORGANIZED COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Participate and become a part of those organizations which foster the principle of helping people to help themselves.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Assist the county people in taking an active interest, and developing a fuller understanding of the need for a more critically constructive analysis of each public program as it develops, -- instead of merely "jumping on the bandwagon".

ACTIVITIES

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Tobacco Variety Demonstrations		x			x		x				x	x
Tobacco Meetings & Field Days	x						x	x				x
Weed Control	x	x	x	x						x	x	x
Forestry			x	x	x					x	x	x
Fruit Growers		x			x			x	x			
Sheep and Wool Marketing				x		x	x					
Field Day at Middleburg		x										
Beef Projects and Marketing		x	x	x				x	x			
Pastures and Forage	x	x			x	x						
Crop Variety Demonstrations			x	x		x		x	x			
Public Affairs	x	x					x					
Five County Fair									x			
Dairy Meetings and Field Trips			x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x
Farm Records	x	x				x	x					x
Swine Program and Marketing	x		x		x		x		x		x	
4-H County Council	x				x			x		x		
Sears Pig Chain					x							x
4-H County & District Contests			x	x	x			x				x
State 4-H Short Course				x	x	x						
Rural Life Sunday				x	x							
Achievement Program												x
4-H Summer Camp				x	x	x	x					
Community Clubs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4-H Club Week, Ntl.		x	x									
4-H Share the Fun Program				x	x							
Visitation of 4-H Projects	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
County Public Speaking		x	x	x								