

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

FOR 1933

The extension activities of the department of agricultural engineering for the year 1933 will probably cover the following projects:

I. Terracing

It is planned to hold soil erosion schools (community or district) of two day duration for adults in at least ten counties. These schools will cover the theory and practice of terracing and will be held during October, November and December.

It is also planned to organize several additional terracing clubs among the school or club boys. A total of three lectures to each club will be given during January, February and March, and during September, October, and November the boys will be taught to survey and construct terraces.

Counties in which soil erosion schools will be held and clubs organized will be selected in the order of their applications for such service. As the number of counties in which such work can be held during the year are limited, agents should file their requests at an early date. Terracing demonstrations will also be given, as far as possible, as requested by the agent.

II. Drainage

Drainage surveys will be made of fields needing drainage. Maps showing the proposed drainage system and estimate of costs will be furnished. Only a limited number of such surveys can be made during the year. Requests for such service should only be made when it is definitely known that the farmer will go ahead with the drainage work at an early date.

III. Irrigation

Irrigation practice is becoming quite popular in some sections, especially in orchards. The department plans to give assistance to any farmers wishing to irrigate. Surveys will be made and recommendations given as to the best method of irrigation. It is planned to give considerable attention to orchard irrigation this year. Numerous requests for such assistance are already on file in the office. County agents in orchard sections should acquaint their growers of this service. Several orchards have been getting splendid results from irrigation and this practice will no doubt grow more popular as the possibilities of orchard irrigation become more generally known.

IV. Farm Water Supply

It is planned to put on county wide farm water supply campaigns in at least ten counties. This work will be handled from April 1st to September 1st.

During these campaigns visits will be made to as many farms in each county as request this service. Each farmer will be given information on the best method and cost of securing running water in his home. The number of counties in which this service can be rendered each year is necessarily limited. It is therefore important that the county agent put in his request for such service at an early date. Counties will be selected in the order of their application for this service.

V. Farm Sanitation

Bulletins, blueprints and detailed instructions on building septic tanks and sanitary privies are available for any one asking for them. Information on sanitation will be given all farmers who are visited on the water supply project. Farmers wishing information on sanitation alone should be advised to write the department direct.

VI. Farm Home Equipment

Research work in labor saving home equipment is being conducted by the department. The department is ready to answer any inquiries in regard to labor saving equipment in the farm home. The farm women should be advised that they may write the department for information on home equipment problems. Some field assistance in this work may be rendered.

VII. Farm Structures

The department has a large supply of blueprints of various types of farm structures. The Farm Building Plan Booklet should be used in ordering plans for farmers. If a plan is wanted that is not shown in the booklet, the agent should write the department, giving detailed information as to the type of structure desired, so that plans may be prepared.

The service of the farm building specialist is available to the farmer for field assistance in farm buildings and equipment. Work on fruit storage and packing houses, etc., will be done in the fruit section during the spring, summer and early fall. Work on sweet potato storage houses will be done in Southside Virginia, the Northern Neck, Eastern Shore, and Norfolk section during the summer and early fall.

Cooperative work in dairy barns and equipment will be carried on with all the milk producers organizations and individual dairymen.

VIII. Farm Operating Equipment

The department is carrying on research in farm machinery and teaching farm machinery subjects. The department is not equipped to do field extension work in farm machinery. Questions on the subject will be handled by correspondence as far as possible. In some special cases field assistance may be rendered.

Field assistance will be rendered orchardists in the design of stationary spray plants. The growers who have installed stationary spray plants in their orchards, have materially reduced spraying costs and secured better results. This method is now recommended by the Extension Horticulturist.

IX. Rural Electrification

The department will render assistance to any community or group of farmers wishing to secure electric service from a power company. A survey of the situation will be made and by consultation with the power company plans for a line extension will be worked out when practicable.

Assistance will be rendered any community or group of farmers, not able to secure electric service who wish to develop their own community plant. Plans for development and estimates of cost will be made.

Demonstrations in the use of electric power for any special farm operation may be established in cooperation with the agricultural engineer of the local power company, the county agent and the farmer. On such demonstrations cost records and results will be measured to demonstrate the advantages of electric power.

L. Miscellaneous Engineering Service

The county agent is invited to submit any agricultural engineering problem to the department for solution. Any request for field assistance on a problem not under any of the regular projects, will be handled in so far as possible, when one of the extension engineers is in the county on some regular listed project.