

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 Cumberland

YEAR 1958

NAME James C. Ayres
Local Farm Agent

DATE MAILED December 10, 1957

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

President Mr. Richard Foster
Route 1, Box 55
Cumberland, Virginia

Secretary Mrs. L. V. Marshall
Route 1
Farmville, Virginia

Treasurer Mr. Harold Gary
Route 1
Cumberland, Virginia

4-H CLUB COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Gertrude Gilliam
Route 1
Ballsville, Virginia

Secretary Brenda Taylor
Route 2
Cartersville, Virginia

Reporter Cornelia Eggleston
Route 1
Farmville, Virginia

1. County Situation:

Cumberland County is in the Piedmont section of the State comprising 293 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Fluvanna and Goochland counties, on the east by Powhatan and Amelia counties, on the south by Prince Edward county and on the west by Buckingham county.

Agriculture is the county's chief industry, and tobacco is the leading cash crop. There is growing emphasis on livestock, poultry, and dairy products which together, now produce greater farm income than field crops. The last few years have seen a great increase in farm fish ponds which are also used as water control ponds. Although farming is the backbone of Cumberland's economy, nearly half of all farms are part-time or residential and 40 per cent of the operators reported that income from other sources exceeded sale of farm products.

Two-thirds of the total area is forested. Cumberland has been among the leading pulpwood producing counties in recent years, and sales of standing timber, pulpwood, lumber, and other forest products bring good returns to Cumberland farmers. Mineral resources include a bituminous grade of coal, which is not produced commercially, some clay and granite rock.

Cumberland's manufactured products include lumber, wooden tool handles, mill work, flour and other grain-mill products. Although there are few plants in the county, many Cumberland residents are employed in plants in Farmville, and other near by places.

According to the 1954 census, there are a total of 977 farms in the county as compared to about 1200 ten years ago. There are approximately 184,320 acres in the county of which 64.8 per cent or 119,410 acres are in farms. In 1950, 130,942 acres were in farms. The average size of farms in 1954 was 122.2 as compared to 124.3 in 1950. The value of land and buildings average per acre, 1954, \$7331.00 as compared to \$5012.00 in 1950. The average per acre dollar in 1954 was \$62.38 as against \$39.13 in 1950. In 1954 there were 21,694 acres in 1949. The 1945 census said there were 666 non-white farm operators in the county as against 491 in 1954.

This means that there are year after year less farm operators, and less farms of greater size, but a much greater production of crops. The increase in production is due to better cultural and managerial practices. The decrease in farms is due to small farms being combined with large ones. The decrease in farm operators is partly due to the fact that as the older operators pass on, the younger people are moving from the farms and seeking work elsewhere.

A study of the situation through farm meetings, farm visits, county surveys, the census report on yields and related facts, consultations with specialists, and other professional agriculturists,

and other analysis, indicate that the conservation of natural resources is a major problem in Cumberland County. Although some farmers are making much progress in soil building and conservation practices, they are greatly needed in the county in general. There are still many farmers who are not aware of the great losses through wastage of natural resources. Many farmers do not cooperate with the agricultural agencies in the county and do not realize the benefits and help that may be secured through the proper cooperation.

The land is poor and the per acre yields are low, but a few of the farmers are proving that with proper management the yields can be greatly increased. Conditions are suitable for a good Live-At-Home program, but too few are developing such a program.

Fertilizer is used too sparingly on most crops except, perhaps, tobacco. However, the corn and pasture programs for the last several years have done much to make farmers conscious of the fact that liberal amounts of fertilizer, good seed, and better cultural and managerial practices must go hand in hand with farm profits in the future.

Too much land is left bare during the winter months, resulting in wastage of much of the valuable top soil.

The county as a whole does not grow enough livestock and poultry to adequately furnish the home needs, and where they are grown the housing, pastures, and general management are inadequate.

Even though there is yet much to be accomplished, marked progress is being made toward reducing the stated problems.

2. Organizations

There is an Agricultural Advisory Board in the county with 48 members, 24 men and 24 women. Among them are committees, to assist in formulating and carrying out the county program, and the plan of work. There are seven 4-H Clubs, and 15 leaders. There is a Junior 4-H Council.

3. County Problems

1. The need for more and better soil building and conservation practices.
2. Poorly managed woodlands.
3. The pasture program needs strengthening.
4. Too few livestock and poultry grown.
5. Housing and management of livestock and poultry inadequate.
6. Insufficient food and feed grown for home use.
7. Insufficient plant food used with most crops.
8. Farm management practices inadequate.
9. Home orchard management inadequate.

10. Too few cooperate with Agricultural Agencies in the county.
11. There is a lack of water conveniences in the home.
12. Lack of proper provisions for closets and storing space.
13. Electrical power and fixtures inadequate.
14. Homes need painting and improving inside and outside.
15. Roadways to farm homes need improving.
16. Improvement in fencing needed.
17. Ornamental horticulture needs improving.
18. More importance need to be placed on farm buildings and mechanics.
19. More knowledge needed on importance of wildlife to farm people.
20. Improvement needed on mail boxes, screen windows and doors.
21. Rat and mouse control.

4. Demonstrations

Corn hybrids (100 bushel per acre corn club)	1
Pastures (Permanent, Winter, Summer, Hog)	6
Soil and Water Conservation	1
Fat hogs for market	2
Poultry	2
Small Grain	2
Hay	1
Forestry (Adult and 4-H)	2
Farm and Home Development	1
Community Improvement Work	1
Tobacco grading and sorting	1

Corn Hybrids

1. The Situation:

Corn is the basic crop grown in the County. Every farmer grows some corn, but in many cases the yields are far too low, even though they are continually increasing. In 1939, 10,125 acres were planted in corn and the average yield was 19.6 bushels per acre. In 1950, there were 7550 acres planted to corn and the average yield per acre was 38 bushels. This means that 2575 acres were taken out of corn, but the per acre yield average had increased by 18.4 bushels. The past four years of drought here in the county caused a great drop in yields. In 1954, 6,369 acres were planted to corn with 5381 acres being harvested for grain, with a yield of 101,329 bushels harvested, or an average per acre of a little over 18 bushels. The same year 841 acres were harvested for silage and 147 acres hogged down, grazed or cut for green or dry fodder. The 1956 corn crop seems to have topped the yields for the past four years. The yields of the 1957 corn crop was greatly reduced due to the severe drought condition prevailing during the summer.

2. The Objective:

To increase the average yield to 50 bushels per acre, and to initiate a program to get farmers aware of the importance of bigger

yields on fewer acres and encourage application of means to bring the program into effect.

3. Method to be Used:

- a. Give publicity to 100 bushel corn club and encourage greater participation in it.
- b. Give farmers recommended practices for producing 100 bushels of corn per acre.
- c. Encourage all corn growers to use recommended seed, fertilizer, and topdress.
- d. Supervise closely enough to see that proper procedures are followed.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities to promote program of procedure in producing 100 bushels of corn per acre through discussions at general meetings, circular letters to key farmers and leaders, personal visits, and field meetings. Plans have also been made for a tour of corn club members, perhaps in July or August.

Pastures

1. The Situation:

Pastures in Cumberland County have increased in recent years. There are still many idle acres and an additional number of acres presently used for other purposes that could be used to better advantage in pastures. Over grazing due to dry weather, the price squeeze and other factors make it necessary for the production of low cost feed in the form of pastures desirable.

2. The Objective:

To develop on each farm a pasture with the recommended seed mixtures and proper cultural and managerial practices.

3. Method to be Used:

- a. In consultation with County Advisory Board and Agronomy Committee, set up pasture demonstrations in each of the three county districts.
- b. Provide proper information and procedure for developing good pastures and a year round feed program.
- c. Supervise the development and maintenance of the pastures closely enough to see that proper procedures are followed.
- d. Hold field meeting at each of the demonstrations at the proper stage of development, and encourage greater participation in the pasture program.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried out through general meetings, circular letters, personal meetings and field meetings.

Soil and Water Conservation

1. The Situation:

There were 3624 acres of land in 1954 owned by 549 non-white farmers. One thousand eighty acres harvested crops the same year, leaving 2544 acres idle or in woods or pastures. Much of this land could be more profitably used. The figures are slightly less at present, but the proportions are approximately the same.

There are more than 100 farms with soil and water conservation plans developed by the S.C.S. Many farmers are not following their plans as closely as they should.

2. Objective:

To promote greater participation in the Soil and Water Conservation program and in turn produce more and better crops and a better profit.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Work with farmers who are now cooperating with the Soil and Water Conservation program and give information on its importance.
- b. To encourage additional farmers to participate in the soil and water conservation program.
- c. Hold field meetings at farms where a good program is being carried and point out the advantages.
- d. Have specialists and the farm owners to point out advantages of such a program.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried on through press release, general meeting, personal visits, field meetings, and farm tours.

Small Grains

1. The Situation:

Around 1,000 acres of wheat and less oats, barley and rye are seeded annually by the non-white farmers in Cumberland County. Due to shortage of feed caused by the drought during the past few years, an increase in small grain production seems desirable.

2. Objectives:

- a. To continue to promote a program to help alleviate the feed shortage through increasing the small grain yields already started.

- b. To promote a small grain program to meet farm needs in 1958.
- c. To put special emphasis on better cultural and managerial practices.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Intensify educational work on top-dressing.
- b. Encourage seeding of winter and spring oats.
- c. Encourage the seeding of more barley.
- d. Emphasize recommended practices, especially fertilization and good seed.
- e. Supervise closely enough to see that the work is done at the proper time and according to recommendations.
- f. Hold field meetings at proper stage of development.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational meetings will be held to discuss proper time and method of top-dressing small grain and other recommended practices. Circular letters will be sent to farmers. The matter will be discussed on personal visits and field meetings, held at the demonstrations.

Hay

1. Situation:

The production of good quality hay has increased greatly in the last few years. Lespedeze leads the list with clover-timothy second, and alfalfa third. There are still many idle acres or acres at present used for other crops that could be used to better advantage in hay. The hay shortage caused by the severe drought the past few years, the price squeeze, and other factors plus the fact that livestock is on the increase in the county, makes the production of more and better quality hay desirable and necessary.

2. Objective:

To continue the program to help alleviate the feed shortage through increasing the quality and quantity of hay grown in the county to meet consumptive demands.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Intensify educational work on the production and maintenance of good hay.
- b. Emphasize recommended practices, especially good seed and fertilization and a year round forage program.
- c. Institute a program to encourage seeding of supplementary hay crops.
- d. Hold field meetings and farm tours.
- e. To supervise closely to see that proper procedures are followed.

4. General Educational Activities:

The production of a plenty of good hay is being encouraged, with the livestock program being sponsored in the county. The information is being given through discussions at general meetings, circular letters, field meetings and farm visits.

Forestry

1. Situation:

Forestry plays a large part in the lives of many families in Cumberland County. The stumpage value of all forest products sold 3 years ago amounted to \$271,621.00, and I understand it has not varied so much since then.

A total of 508,250 trees were set in the county in 1953, but 596,840 trees were cut for pulpwood alone, not counting trees cut for lumber, veneer, and tie timber. The trees are being taken off much faster than they are being replanted or re-seeded.

2. Objective:

To initiate a program to get more farmers and 4-H Club members interested in forestry as a necessary part of the farm program, and to create interest in the conservation of forestry products for future generations.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Establish Forestry Committee to sponsor work.
- b. In consultation with farmers and forester, set up recommended practices according to present and future needs.
- c. Encourage 4-H members and adults to plant more pine seedlings.
- d. Supervise closely enough to see that recommended practices are followed.
- e. At proper stage of development hold field meetings to show farmers what was done and why certain practices were followed.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried on to promote general use of recommended practices in forestry management through discussions at general meetings, circular letters to key farmers, personal visits and meetings at forestry demonstrations.

Livestock

1. Situation:

The county farmers are becoming interested in more livestock. Livestock and livestock products are bringing in much income annually to farmers in Cumberland County. A sound program of beef and dairy cattle, swine and poultry, must be based on effective agronomy program and

individual needs. Some problems are management, feed and feeding, disease control and marketing.

2. Objective:

To promote a sound livestock program based on the agronomy program and the individual needs.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Encourage the use of better animals through breeding, purchasing, and management.
- b. Encourage the expansion of poultry enterprises where desirable.
- c. Encourage disease and parasite control and good management in all enterprises.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried out through general meetings, circular letters, personal visits and field meetings. The livestock committee and agronomy committee will be used in distributing general information on livestock production.

The Improvement Community

1. Situation:

Cedar Fork is the improvement community in the county with 26 farm families participating in this community project. There are a total of 295 acres in crop land, 73 acres in pastures and 351 acres in forest.

2. Objective:

To plan a program and execute the same that will result in improving agriculture and the level of living among the 26 farm families.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. In consultation with the Improvement Community Committee and the County Advisory Board intensify educational work on production of good crops in the community:
 - (1) seed bed preparation
 - (2) use of good seeds
 - (3) application of fertilizer
 - (4) management
- b. Hold at least one of each demonstrations planned for the county in the Improvement Community.
- c. Emphasize the use of approved plans for construction of new homes and farm buildings.
- d. Encourage home and home ground beautification work.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried on through community meetings, committee projects, personal farm visits, circular letters, community tours,

demonstrations, and the County Advisory Board.

Farm and Home Development Work

1. Situation:

Three families, Mr. Walter Jenkins, Mr. Richard Foster, and Mr. Elwood Scott, are participating in Farm and Home Development Program in the County. Mr. Jenkins' farm consists of 304 acres, Mr. Foster's farm consists of 141 acres and Mr. Elwood Scott's farm consists of 17 acres. Since these families have been cooperating with the program marked progress has been made in the area of field crops, pasture improvement, and livestock production. There is still a great need for home improvements, such as closet space, kitchen arrangements, water system, and improvements in the home in general.

2. Objective:

To continue at least three families in the program for 1958 and assist these families in establishing goals, techniques, and in evaluating the farm and home operations in order to promote a more desirable farm and home unit.

3. Methods to be Used:

- a. Personal farm visits to each farm and home at least once per month.
- b. Assist the families in establishing goals that will make for a more efficient unit.
- c. Obtain the assistance of a Home Agent in planning changes in the home.
- d. Encourage the families participating in the program to make visits among themselves and discuss individual farm and home development work.
- e. Hold group meetings with the families.

4. General Educational Activities:

Educational activities will be carried on through news releases, farm visits, circular letters, discussion periods, and group meetings. The services of a home agent will be requested in helping the families with improvements to be made on the inside of the home. A tour of these families will be made in September or October.

Miscellaneous

1. Situation:

In addition to the major activities listed, work is planned in garden production, water under pressure, church grounds and cemetery beautification, roadways to farm homes, ornamental horticulture, wildlife, farm record keeping, fencing needs, farm buildings and mechanics and such other activities and problems that require attention at specific intervals.

2. Objective:

To plan a program to meet the needs of farm people in all farm

activities and execute the same.

3. Methods to be Followed:

- a. Analyze the situation at the beginning of each month on current needs and prepare to meet them.
- b. Assist in the planning of the farm and home unit demonstrations program and in the community improvement program and in the execution of it.
- c. Hold discussions, personal visits, and send circular letters on timely topics to garden growers and other interested groups.

COUNTY WIDE or COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The following activities are planned:

1. Two Leader Training and 4-H Junior Council meetings.
2. Forestry meeting in January or February.
3. Winter pasture meeting in March or April.
4. Meeting at small grain demonstration in May.
5. Farmers Day Program in June.
6. Field meeting at pasture demonstration at proper stage of development.
7. Tour of 100 Bushel Corn Club members.
8. Meeting at poultry demonstration at different stages of development.
9. Hold meeting at Farm and Home unit demonstration.
10. Hold meeting in Improvement Community.

4-H CLUBS

1. Observe national 4-H Club Week.
2. Hold Rural Life Sunday Program.
3. Hold two 4-H Junior Council Meetings.
4. Hold annual 4-H Club Picnic.
5. Hold 4-H Achievement Program.
6. Send delegates to 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College.
7. Send delegates to 4-H Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College.

Calendar of Work

January 1958

1. Hold Advisory Board meeting.
2. Hold Agronomy Committee meeting.
3. Organize material for promoting 1958 Agronomy Program.
4. Check on broiler demonstration projects.
5. Arrange for meeting on forestry management.
6. Visit orchard demonstration and check on activities.
7. Replace inactive members on Advisory Board.

8. Hold Leader Training meeting.
9. Visit Improvement Community and check on work.
10. Arrange for top dressing pasture demonstrations.
11. Revise mailing list for farm people.
12. Hold regular 4-H club meetings.
13. Arrange for 4-H members to participate in Livestock Show.

February 1958

1. Hold 4-H Council Meeting.
2. Check on work of demonstration pastures.
3. Hold regular 4-H club meeting.
4. Work with tobacco growers on plant beds.
5. Organize 100 Bushel Corn Club members.
6. Hold meeting emphasizing Agronomy program.
7. Send out information on top dressing, small grain and pastures.
8. Plan for a pruning demonstration in March.
9. Send letters to parents of 4-H members.
10. Submit 4-H enrollment.

March 1958

1. Plan for Rural Life Sunday.
2. Check on progress in top dressing, small grain and pastures.
3. Arrange for 4-H participation in National 4-H Club Week.
4. Visit small grain demonstrations, check activities.
5. Visit and check pasture demonstrations.
6. Hold meeting at winter pastures.
7. Send letters on timely garden suggestions.
8. Have clubs observe national 4-H Club Week.
9. Check with Junior Pig Show and Sale projects.
10. Distribute 4-H Record Books and project material.
11. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings.

April 1958

1. Meet with and visit Improvement Community Committee.
2. Contact 100 Bushel Corn Club members and give out information.
3. See that proper seed and fertilizer are obtained.
4. Work with Soil and Water Conservation group.
5. Work on water pressure system.
6. Letters to 4-H Leaders on work for the month.
7. Plan for Rural Life Sunday Program in May.
8. Work with farmers on Farm and Home development.
9. Visit broiler production projects.
10. Meet with farmers on feed needs and plan for supplementary feed.
11. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings.
12. Meeting at Plant Food Institute demonstration.

May 1958

1. Select farms for Farmers Day tour.
2. Check on work of 4-H Pig Show and Sale projects.
3. Check on 100 Bushel Corn Club members on proper procedure.

4. Plan summer work with 4-H Club members.
5. Observe Rural Life Sunday.
6. Plan for Soil and Water Conservation Day Program.
7. Visit broiler growers project.
8. Work on water under pressure.
9. Plan with workers on County Fair.
10. Work with Farm and Home Development program.
11. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings.

June 1958

1. Check on 4-H Club project work.
2. Send circular letters on top dressing corn.
3. Check on garden project work.
4. Make plans for 4-H Annual Picnic with 4-H Clubs.
5. Complete plans for delegates to State 4-H Short Course.
6. Meeting with 4-H Junior Council.
7. Follow up Pig Show and Sale project.
8. Follow up agronomy Program work.
9. Visit community Improvement Committee.
10. Check on 100 Bushel Corn Club group.

July 1958

1. Complete plans for annual 4-H picnic.
2. Visit and supervise 4-H club projects.
3. Hold Conservation Day tour.
4. Start work on pasture seeding in August.
5. Start work on winter gardens.
6. Follow up livestock and crop demonstrations.
7. Follow up Pig Show and Sale work.
8. Complete plans for delegates to State Wildlife Conference.
9. Check on Soil and Water Conservation work.
10. Check on tobacco barns and ventilators.
11. Check poultry project work.
12. Meet with farmers on Fence Post treating.

August 1958

1. Check pastures for proper management.
2. Check 100 Bushel Corn Club members.
3. Send delegates to Wildlife Conference.
4. Visit and supervise 4-H projects.
5. Visit poultry projects and give instructions.
6. Work on fall and winter gardens.
7. Take Annual Leave.
8. 4-H Pig Show and Sale.

September 1958

1. Plans for closing project record books.
2. Estimate yields of 100 Bushel Corn Club members.

3. Circular letters on winter cover crops.
4. Attend State Advisory Board meeting.
5. Assist in plans for County Fair Exhibits.
6. Work with Five County Fair.
7. Arrange for Grading demonstration on Flue-Cured tobacco.
8. Alfalfa seeding work.

October 1958

1. Send out fire prevention material and emphasize value of fire insurance.
2. Plan for forestry meeting.
3. Attend agent's annual meeting.
4. 4-H Junior Council meeting.
5. Check 4-H Club project records.
6. Small grain seeding.
7. Regular 4-H meetings.

November 1958

1. Closing out year's work.
2. Complete annual report.
3. Hold Extension Achievement program.
4. Check on water under pressure.
5. Check on Community Improvement work.
6. Check winter pastures.
7. 4-H Reorganization.

December 1958

1. Meeting of County Advisory Board.
2. Make plan of work for 1959.
3. Complete reorganization of 4-H Clubs.
4. Meet with organized 4-H Clubs.
5. Check on water under pressure.
6. Check winter pastures.
7. 4-H Reorganization.
8. Check on Pig Projects for Junior Market Show and Sale.

SPECIALISTS NEEDED

Mr. V. G. Meck -	On Farm Management Work
Mr. A. B. Lyon -	On Forestry Work
Mr. J. F. Shoulders -	On Agronomy Program
Mr. Roy R. Gordon -	On Flue-Cured Tobacco Grading Demonstration
Mr. J. E. Settle -	On Small Farm Operators
Home Agent -	Farm and Home Development Work