

May

- a. County-wide 4-H Share-the-Fun Contest
- b. 4-H Camp Leaders' Training
- c. District 4-H Public Speaking Contest
- d. Alfalfa Insect Control Program
- e. District 4-H Tractor Operators' Contest
- f. 4-H Rural Life Sunday
- g. 4-H Leaders Training -
- h. Wool Pool

June

- a. 4-H All-Star Conference - VPI
- b. 4-H Short Course - VPI
- c. Outdoor cooking and family recreation demonstrations
- d. Leader Training (4-H)

July

- a. State 4-H Conservation Camp - Virginia Beach
- b. County 4-H Picnic
- c. Senior 4-H Camp - Jamestown
- d. Community Fair and Flower Shows
- e. 4-H Sears Pig Chain placements
- f. 4-H Leaders Training
- g. Institute of Rural Affairs
- h. Middleburg Pasture Tour

August

- a. Junior 4-H Camp - Jamestown
- b. 4-H and FFA Fair
- c. Youth Leadership Camp - Virginia Beach
- d. 4-H Electric Congress
- e. 4-H Record Books due in County Office
- f. Annual Extension Conference

September

- a. Reorganize County 4-H Clubs
- b. Northern Virginia 4-H Dairy Show
- c. Atlantic Rural Exposition
- d. Assist 4-H members and leaders on Achievement Records
- e. 4-H Leader Training

October

- a. Winchester Feeder Calf Sale
- b. Fall lawn care educational meetings
- c. Reorganize County 4-H Council
- d. Reorganize County 4-H Honor Club
- e. 4-H and Youth program planning
- f. 4-H Leader training

November

- a. County 4-H Achievement Day
- b. 4-H Leaders' Training Conference at Natural Bridge
- c. Local 4-H Leaders Banquet
- d. 4-H Leader Training
- e. Completion of 4-H and Annual Extension Reports

December

- a. Reorganize 4-H and FFA Fair
- b. Prepare County 4-H Members' Handbook
- c. Summary of reports of Extension activities for planning purposes
- d. Christmas recreational programs and demonstrations

January

- a. Agricultural Board Committee Planning and Training Meetings
- b. Northern Virginia Nurserymen's Shortcourse
- c. Annual Dairy Artificial Breeding Meeting
- d. Annual Milk Marketing Meeting
- e. Annual Farm Tax and Farm Social Security Tax Educational Program.
- f. County-wide Soils Education Campaign
- g. Executive Committee Meetings with Farm Organizations
- h. County 4-H All-Star Records and Recommendations
- i. 4-H and Youth leader training

February

- a. Agricultural Board Meeting and Completion of Annual Plan of Work
- b. Northern Virginia Garden and Landscaping Institute for Home Owners
- c. Prepare County Budget for Board of Supervisors
- d. Emergency Programs - (which always turn up)
- e. Northern Virginia Pasture School
- f. Continue Soils Survey Educational Programs
- g. Assist 4-H members and leaders with achievement records
- h. Set up special 4-H projects in Tractor Maintenance, Sears Poultry Chain and Judging Training
- j. Career Guidance Programs for Youth
- k. Miscellaneous educational programs with Parent-Teachers Associations, Civic Clubs and Garden Clubs

March

- a. National 4-H Club Week Programs
- b. Complete 4-H Club enrollment
- c. 4-H Public Speaking Contest
- d. Photography School
- e. Fairfax County Annual Dairy Herd Improvement Association Meeting
- f. 4-H Leader Training ("Parent Education and Community Organization")
- g. 4-H Camp Planning
- h. 4-H Honor Club Initiation

April

- a. Spring Feeder Calf Sale - Winchester
- b. District 4-H Dairy, Livestock, Poultry and Land Appreciation Judging Contests
- c. Spring 4-H Fat Stock Show and Sale - Richmond
- d. Leader Training
- e. Insect and Disease Control Educational Programs

- g. Lack of knowledge on the part of the public concerning percolation rates, plasticity and parent material of soils for septic fields and lawn uses.
- h. Only one Extension worker in Fairfax County for each 35,000 citizens as compared to one Extension worker for approximately 5,500 person throughout Virginia.

GOALS:

- a. Encourage home owners and building contractors to understand the problems concerning soils as it affects the foundations of buildings, septic fields, lawns, ornamentals and landscaping.
- b. Get home owners to understand soil types, climate, shade, drainage and fertilization as it effects the adaptability of lawn grasses, ornamental plants and vegetables in this area.
- c. Be prepared to disseminate continually useful information on the control of insects, diseases, rodents and predatory animals.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- a. Use all methods of communication - television, radio and news articles.
- b. Work through committeemen, local nurserymen, and the Northern Virginia Garden Institute.
- c. Cooperate with Garden Clubs, Citizens' Associations and other educational groups in transmitting information.
- d. Provide additional workers to meet the wants and needs of the local people.
- e. Maintain a library of bulletins for distribution at all times.
- f. Through office calls, telephone calls, circular and individual letters.

- g. Conduct county-wide 4-H and Youth Fair and participate in district and state fairs.
- h. Improve publicity on all 4-H and Youth activities through use of radio, TV, news articles, newsletters and exhibits.
- i. Hold demonstrations, tours, and judging training sessions on special projects.
- j. Assist 4-H leaders in family nights, share-the-fun, picnics, community socials, banquets, folk evenings and other recreational activities.
- k. Obtain the views and advice of the Youth Advisory Committee and their evaluation of the Youth Program.

IV. SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN URBANIZATION - Gardening, Landscaping
Insect Control, Plant Diseases, Sewage Disposal,
Housing, Community Development

SITUATION: There are 55,000 families in Fairfax County. Of this number approximately 1,800 are on farms with the remainder living in urban or the rural non-farming areas. Three square miles are sub-divided into new homes each year. Increased requests continue for information on landscaping; lawns; home gardens and insect and disease control on ornamental plants; soils; housing and sewage disposal.

There are 490 neighborhoods or communities in the County, with 230 garden, citizens associations or other civic organizations and numerous groups requesting information on the topics listed above.

PROBLEMS:

- a. Such large numbers of people are overwhelming.
- b. Transient population.
- c. Great variance and diversification of interests.
- d. Conglomerate soils - there are seventy types and soil conditions in Fairfax County.
- e. Everyone expects some service since they have agreed to put up the funds to provide this service.
- f. Contractors and builders do not give enough consideration to soil types, water table changes and foreign material in grading and in landscaping.

and young men and women.

e. Additional physical facilities are needed to carry out an expanded 4-H and Youth Program.

f. Many boys and girls have inadequate facilities for carrying many of the agricultural projects.

GOALS:

a. To provide an opportunity for boys and girls to become better 4-H members.

b. To adjust 4-H and Youth Programs to the needs of more non-farm and urban communities in Fairfax County.

c. To obtain at least 85% membership and project completions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. Provide specialized training in subject matter on different phases of project work and other activities.

b. To attain better trained adult and junior leaders.

c. Adjust program to more effectively meet local needs and to hold interest of older youth.

d. Work toward obtaining additional facilities including meeting room, demonstration space, recreation area, and place for equipment.

EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

a. Hold quarterly planning and training meetings of County 4-H Council, 4-H and FFA Fair Committee, Honor Club and All-Stars.

b. Conduct monthly training meetings for 4-H leaders.

c. Conduct sufficient training meetings for county and special training groups.

d. Strive to achieve greater participation in all National 4-H Club events.

e. Encourage more active participation of 4-H club members and youth in community, district, regional, state and national contests.

f. Conduct county-wide 4-H and Youth camps and participate in state and regional camps.

and cooperate with state and local veterinarians.

d. Use television, radio, news articles, farmers' bulletins, individual farm visits and meetings to distribute information and conduct demonstrations on latest disease control measures, feed production and marketing programs.

III. THE EXPANSION OF 4-H AND YOUTH PROGRAMS:

SITUATION: Fairfax County is located in the fast growing urban area of Washington, D. C. There are approximately 30,000 boys and girls of 4-H age and nearly as many in the young peoples age group. One-fourth of these are located on farms, one-fourth in rural non-farm areas and one-half in urban developments.

Parents, civic groups and farm organizations are requesting an expansion of the County 4-H and Youth Programs. Office space is short and meeting places are limited where they are most needed. There are not enough trained adult leaders to meet the needs of our diversified and growing population. Four-H and Youth activities are quite diversified. Present leaders and 4-H'ers are pressed for time from competing interests.

The 4-H and youth organization consists of an over-all County Youth Advisory Council, the County 4-H Council, 4-H Club Officers and leaders representing thirty-one different 4-H Clubs, and the 4-H Honor Club and All-Star Organization.

Girls may participate in 18 different 4-H projects or activities and project work is offered on 38 different projects for boys.

PROBLEMS:

- a. Not enough TRAINED adult and junior leaders to meet the needs of a diversified and transient population.
- b. Present leaders are pressed for time from competing interests such as school work, church and community interests and social obligations.
- c. Urbanization and transient population results in considerable of 4-H membership. There is a continued need for more diversified activities and a greater variety of programs to meet the needs of a large and transient population.
- d. There is a demand to develop a more appropriate program to meet the needs of older 4-H'ers as well as younger 4-H'ers

PROBLEM:

- a. Mastitis, leptospirosis, virus type colds, internal and external parasites and nutritional diseases are prevalent.
- b. Many livestock diseases and problems are not properly diagnosed.
- c. Many farms are over-stocked and low on forage and pasture requirements.
- d. Many livestock producers still market without using market grades and standards.

GOALS:

- a. Improve quality of livestock by using top quality proven sires.
- b. Eliminate certain livestock diseases and reduce other livestock diseases and insects.
- c. Provide at least one and one-half tons of hay and at least 3 tons of silage per animal unit.
- d. Improve the livestock marketing program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. Make full use of the Dairy Herd Improvement and Artificial Breeding Associations.
- b. Place registered sires of proven merit on livestock farms.
- c. Continue disease eradication and parasite control programs.
- d. Make full use of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, Soil Survey and Experiment Station recommendations in providing more and better quality feeds and forage.
- e. Encourage farmers to market livestock on a graded basis.

EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- a. Work through Livestock and Dairy Committees, Artificial Breeding, Dairy Herd Improvement and Marketing Associations.
- b. Continue educational campaigns at dairy, livestock and 4-H club meetings to eliminate livestock diseases and parasites.
- c. Make full use of State Diagnostic Laboratory facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Make full use of County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation and Soil Conservation Programs using Soil Survey information as a guide.
- b. Test soil in each field for lime and fertilizer needs at least once in each rotation and use latest method of applying proper amounts of lime and fertilizer to farm crops.
- c. Spray forage crops for insect and weed control.

EXTENSION EDUCATION PROGRAM

- a. Make full use of trained and informed Agronomy Committee.
- b. Continue studies and surveys to determine needs.
- c. Send out quarterly agronomy newsletter to all farmers recommending methods of improving pastures, controlling weeds and insects and proper fertilization practices.
- d. Hold educational meetings throughout the County on proper use of Soil Survey and Experiment Station information.
- e. Conduct radio programs and prepare timely news articles.
- f. Conduct tours to demonstrations and Experiment Stations.
- g. By writing individual letters, individual farm visits, and through the distribution of farmers' bulletins.

II. DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

SITUATION: According to the latest census figures there are 11,994 animal units in Fairfax County with a total production of 13,862 tons of hay produced or slightly over one ton per animal unit. This is a reduction of the total number of animal units given in the 1955 census figures but it represents a more realistic figure at present. This figure includes cattle, sheep and horses but does not include approximately 6000 head of hogs. Approximately one-half of all the hogs are fed garbage. A State Diagnostic Laboratory is located 32 miles away at Warrenton, Virginia. There are two Dairy Herd Improvement Associations and one Artificial Breeding Association. Milk markets are good but Livestock Marketing is poor.

3. While 30,000 acres of farmland are presently covered by conservation work-plans, no more than 30% of these conservation measures have been put into effect. This has resulted in a loss of soil fertility, soil and water. We not only need more acres under conservation work-plans, but the ones that have been prepared must be put into effect to prevent siltation of ponds and rivers and to conserve soil, water, forests, wildlife and the beauty of our county.

4. Approximately one-third of the soils in Fairfax County are excellent agricultural soils; one-third are mediocre agricultural soils and the remaining one-third are very poor agricultural soils. If farming is to be continued on a profitable basis in Fairfax County, we need to work out some means to reserve the better soils for agricultural uses.

GOALS FOR 1959

1. It is mandatory that crop yields be raised if farms are to produce profitably on the high priced Fairfax County farm land.
 - a. Alfalfa yields should be raised to two and one-half tons per acre by 1965 and to at least two tons per acre during 1959.
 - b. Mixed hays should be raised from 1.10 tons per acre to two tons per acre by 1965 and to at least 1.4 tons per acre during 1959.
 - c. Corn silage yields should be raised from 9.7 tons per acre to 15 tons per acre by 1965 and at least to 11 tons per acre during 1959.
 - d. Corn for grain should be raised from 60 bu per acre to 90 bu per acre by 1965 and at least to 65 bu. per acre during 1959.
 - e. The 3.23 acres of crop land and pasture presently furnishing forage to each animal unit in Fairfax County should be reduced to 2 acres per animal unit by 1965, and at least to 3 acres per animal unit during 1959.
 - f. It is anticipated that Fairfax County farms will contain 75,000 acres in 1965. Our goal is to effect complete conservation measures on 42,000 acres by 1965, and to complete conservation measures on at least 9000 acres by the end of 1959.

ESTIMATED CALLS FOR SERVICE 1959-64

Year	County Population	Service Requests
1959	220,000	83,569
1960	230,000	93,957
1961	245,000	104,829
1962	260,000	117,408
1963	275,000	131,497
1964	290,000	* (103,395)

* Since there is likely to be a higher percentage of the population occupying apartment housing by 1964, it is felt that a figure of 103,395 service requests will be more realistic by that date.

I. AGRONOMY - Crops, Soils, Conservation

Situation: Fairfax County contains approximately 264,960 acres of land 27% of which is presently in farming. We expect only 20% to remain in farming by 1965. There are now 700 farms in the County, averaging 121 acres each. Farmland, including buildings is valued at approximately \$700 per acre. It is estimated that there will be 400 farms by 1965, and that farmland and buildings will then be valued at \$950 per acre. Approximately 30,000 acres of the 85,000 acres in farmland in Fairfax County is covered by a conservation work-plan.

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS:

1. Census figures indicate 2,583 acres of alfalfa with an annual yield of 1.8 T. per acre; 4,469 acres of mixed hays yielding 1.10 T. of hay per acre; 2,961 acres of lespedeza yielding .8 T per acre, 2,000 acres of corn silage yielding 9.7 T per acre; 5,350 acres of corn yielding approximately 60 bu. per acre. These yields are entirely too low on land valued at approximately \$700 per acre.
2. Census figures show an average of 2.2 acres of pasture 1 acre of hay, .23 acres of silage, or the equivalent of 3.23 acres of crop and pasture land furnishing forage for each animal unit in the County. This does not include land producing grain. Fairfax County is presently nearly sufficient in forage production to meet the local livestock needs, but with land valued at \$700 per acre, present forage yields should be doubled in order to reduce the capital investment per animal unit.

1959 PLAN OF WORK

The Fairfax County Agricultural Extension Plan of Work for 1959 was arrived at:

First, by analyzing past programs and making studies of requests received during past years.

Second, meeting with commodity committeemen, 4-H and youth committeemen and special action committees where census data is reviewed, specific problems were discussed and recommendations were set up for the 1959 Plan of Work.

Third, over-all programs and policies were reviewed, committee reports were received and long range objectives were revised in continuing: (a) Agronomy; (b) Dairy and Livestock Improvement; (c) 4-H and Youth; (d) Special Problems in Urbanization. The special study group of twenty-two members which was set up last year to study the effects of urbanization on agriculture in Fairfax County has continued. This group which meets monthly is known as the Agricultural and Rural Economic Development Committee. It has assisted in the preparation of the material in the preceding charts and is now making recommendations to the county government concerning the needs of agriculture throughout the county.

Approximately one-third of the Fairfax County population requests some type of service from the Department of Farm each year. This fact must be taken into consideration in the preparation of work plans and long range programs.

ACTUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 1953-58

Year	County Population	Service Requests
1953	135,000	45,833
1954	145,000	48,070
1955	150,000	50,858
1956	160,000	55,114
1957	202,000	68,859
1958	210,000	74,615

This represents a 61.4% increase for a five year period from 1953-58, or an average increase of 12.3% increase per year.

Continued

FAIRFAX COUNTY

YEAR	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965
IDLE LAND NEEDING IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES	7,495	3,750	--	3,103	7,137	
NUMBER OF FARM PONDS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY			90	305	578	700
TOTAL ACRES CORN	10,387	6,140	5,500	5,350		
TOTAL ACRES WHEAT	4,013	5,000	3,007	2,500	1,800	
TOTAL ACRES HAY	11,482	--	16,733	11,994	--	
ALL CATTLE & CALVES	11,536	14,968	18,000	17,600	8,900	
MILK COWS	--	--	7,700	7,600	5,700	
HOGS	9,581	--	7,924	6,700	3,800	
SHEEP	580	1,180	1,050	1,600	500	
CHICKENS	100,574	--	75,178	53,709	--	

76.6% of Fairfax County Farm Income is from sale of dairy and livestock products.

We have 2.2 acres pasture, 1 acre hay, 23 acres silage and produce 3471 lbs. of hay equivalent per animal unit.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

YEAR	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965
COUNTY POPULATION				150,000	230,000	290,000
TOTAL LAND - 264,960 Acres						
PERCENT IN FARMS		48%	41.6%	33.6%	26%	20%
NUMBER FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMS	1,484	1,788	1,656	1,153	699	400
TOTAL VALUE FARM LAND AND BUILDINGS	\$ 14,286,929	\$ 24,764,855	\$ 39,292,340	\$ 54,446,966		
VALUE LAND AND BUILDING PER ACRE	\$113.69	\$ 193.60	\$356.28	\$ 633.00	\$750.00	\$950.00
VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD	\$ 2,218,158	\$ 3,472,888	\$ 3,754,546	\$ 3,324,883	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,000,000
ACRES IN FARMS	123,909	127,915	110,285	82,023	85,278	75,000
ACRES WITH COMPLETE CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED FOR OWNER			13,769	22,304	30,623	42,000
TOTAL ACRES CROPLAND ON FARMS	71,019	53,697	55,842	41,918	33,781	20,000
CROPLAND ACRES NEEDING IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES	47,346	35,798	37,894	27,946	22,520	21,520
TOTAL ACRES PASTURE LAND ON FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMS		45,622	36,784	32,980	29,350	24,000
PASTURE LAND NEEDING IMPROVEMENT & CONSERVATION MEASURES		30,414	29,044	21,986	19,566	15,000
TOTAL ACRES WOODLAND FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMS	44,515	41,571	39,756	33,744	29,021	16,000
WOODLAND NEEDING IMPROVEMENT & CONSERVATION MEASURES	29,744	27,740	26,504	22,496	19,354	9,000
TOTAL ACRES OF IDLE LAND ON FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMS	7,495	3,750		3,103	7,137	

* Will not total cropland, pasture and woodland because of overlapping uses.

** Approximately 9 acres per farm is used for yard, lots, roadways, ponds and gardens.

THE GENERAL SITUATION IN FAIRFAX COUNTY 1959

Fairfax County in the extreme northern section of Virginia, lies just across the Potomac River from Maryland and the District of Columbia. A great portion of the County is in the greater Washington area. This section is densely populated.

The County contains 410 square miles of farmland, suburban developments and woodland. 700 farms cover about 27% of the County. Approximately 40% of the county is in woods. Most of this is held for speculation.

Suburban influences are spreading throughout the County accompanied by sewage and water shortages. The population is not only increasing rapidly but it is transient accompanied by a fast turn-over. The development of the Chantilly Airport and the expansion of major highway systems are uprooting farmers and great sections of the population. Expanded housing developments, enlarged shopping centers, expanded school and church building programs, prospective annexations by towns and villages, the University of Virginia Extension and high land values, all create swift and sudden changes in the profile of our County.

Two families live on the average farm. In 1959 there are 700 farms in the County housing 1797 farm families. There are 17,113 non-farm families living in rural areas and 35,333 urban families living in the subdivisions and towns. Latest census figures show 7800 persons living on the 700 farms. Farmland, including buildings, is valued at approximately \$700 per acre.

Government employment, income from tourists, and farming are the main sources of income. Approximately \$3,400,000 worth of farm produce was sold in 1958. The main source of agricultural income is from dairy farming. Livestock farming, ornamental plants and nursery stock, general farming, and the sale of timber and lumber follow next in line of importance.

The greatest problems are high cost of housing, crowded schools, transient population, water shortages, sewage disposal, high land values, conglomerate and poor type soils, a lack of understanding on the importance of soil structure, idle farm land, a lack of completed conservation measures on both farm and non-farm lands, and the adjusting of 4-H and Youth programs to meet the needs of an urban area.

Of the 31,000 acres of cropland now in farms, over two-thirds could be improved and needs conservation measures. Pasture improvement must take place in order to carry the desired numbers of livestock on the high-priced land. At present 126 farms consisting of 15,490 acres are either idle or are on a very low production basis.

There are presently 490 neighborhoods or communities in the County. Citizens Associations, garden clubs, and other civic groups total 230 organizations. There is a Chamber of Commerce, four community granges, one county grange, and a Northern Virginia Nurserymen's Association. Milk is marketed through the Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers' Association and dairymen use Dairy Herd Improvement and Artificial Breeding Association services.

1959

PLAN OF WORK
OF
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
FOR
Fairfax County, Virginia
BY

JOSEPH E. BEARD COUNTY AGENT
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