

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 Mecklenburg

YEAR 1958

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(Local Farm Agent)

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FORWARD

There seem to be but three ways for a nation to acquire wealth; the first is by war, as the Romans did, in plunging their conquered neighbors - this is robbery; the second by commerce, which is generally cheating; the third by agriculture, the only honest way, wherein man receives a real increase of the seed thrown unto the ground, in a kind of continual miracle, wrought by the hand of God in his favor, as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry. - - Franklin

Agriculture is a business. It is America's most profitable business. We must strive to guard this business, our precious heritage, with all of the powers invested in us. We know that all of the profits from agriculture comes from a thin layer of top soil capable of manufacturing food nutrients so vital to plant and animal life. It is the duty of man to preserve this valuable and precious source of material.

To be able to appreciate the true value of our soils, we must learn to manage it properly, improve our immediate surroundings objectively plan for enriched and wholesome farm living. It is our job. We can do it.

Victor R. Powell
Local Farm Agent
Mecklenburg County

AGRICULTURE IN MECKLENBURG

Our sole responsibility rest in the analysis of our present situation in comparrison with the past, and the ability to improve on the future. This we must learn to do if we are to maintain a stable farming program among rural people.

The following plan of work will cover the phases of agriculture practiced extensively in Mecklenburg county. Special emphasis will be placed on those phases that the people feel the greatest need for. Soil conservation and farm and home development are two phases of the agriculture program that are lagging behind. This is partially due to the need for more advanced cultivated minds that are interested in improving agriculture in general.

If we are to realize any noticable achievement in agriculture, we must have designated goals of our own choosing, and a desire to work towards these goals. The thinking and planning of all people concerned is vital in determining the goals and the amount of actual participation. Leadership is fundamental in every day life of all people, if they are to serve and participate in cartying out scientific practices and new development.

Man is the sum total of all the processes, procedures and practices of his environment. If he expects to reach great heights in any field of endeavor, he must set high standards and appreciable goals towards which to work. Good habits are building stones of the

future structure of good citizenship. Dreams are alright if we do not make them our aim. Every good job done was once an idea, but some one had to put it into action. Voltaire once said, "Ideas are like beards; men do not have them until they grow up." Many rural farm people are yet in a growing stage, and without ideas.

THE GENERAL SITUATION

In a moral point, the life of the agriculturist is the most pure and holy of any class of men, pure because it is the most healthful, and vice can hardly find time to contaminate it, and holy, because it brings the Deity perpetually before its view, giving him there-by the most exalted notions of supreme power, and the most endearing view of the divine benignity. . . . Franklin.

The total land area covers approximately 669 square acres, and most of it is used for the production of agriculture products. The small farms, with little or no acreage allotment, is gradually becoming isolated or lost. Living comfortable on small farms is almost impossible. Diversification of farming programs will make little or no contribution to better living. If off-farm employment could be had for some of the members of farm families, living could be made more comfortable.

The possibilities for expansion among the farm families who depend upon a share of the crop for a living, is very limited. The rural families with possibilities for expansion will receive all of the assistance from the Extension Service possible. The scope of

operation will determine the assistance needed and received.

A large percentage of the Negro farmers are share croppers. The soil bank has taken away from many the right to grow the one money crop that they have looked forward to for so long. Crop controls have forced others to seek employment in other states and cities. If the idea of keeping a good tenant can be advanced to the landlords, there may be a chance for more farmers to remain on the farm. It is easy to let some one else be responsible for the management of the farm, therefore, tenant farmers are content to live as they are. If the tenant situation is to improve, tenants must learn to assume a portion of the responsibility and do some things on his own initiate.

There are many problems worthy of consideration in the county. The Extension service can only help where assistance is requested, or where the individual show some interest in improving. The people who need the assistance most are the ones least likely to seek any such help. Therefore, together with the surveys and observation of the County Advisory Board, the Extension Service will attempt to carry out some of the following:

1. Work with families with small children to encourage the use of milk for the family
2. Help these families to produce poultry and eggs for home consumption
3. Encourage planting small gardens to furnish the family with green and leafy vegetables
4. Help the families produce fruits, and preserve them by canning,

drying or storing

5. Help them to want to improve their surroundings through clean up campaigns

6. Encourage saving and planning among the family members

"Let the farmer forever be honored in his calling, for they ~~are~~ who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God." Jefferson. Many farm people, from their action, feel that they must live, work and die without receiving any fruits from their labor. Therefore, they are content to remain as they are rather than improve.

The local organizations in the county that are always ready to assist rural people in making some improvement and helping to solve many of their problems are as follows:

1. County Agricultural Advisory Board
2. Home Demonstration Committee
3. In-service training Group
4. The 4-H Junior Council
5. Soil Conservation Service
6. The A. S. C.
7. The R. E. A.

These agencies, not only give of their time and energy freely but bring in outside assistance to more adequately emphasize profitable and comfortable rural living. Circular letters, newspaper articles and radio broadcast carry helpful hints about improved living for rural people.

COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATIONSAgriculture Advisory Board

Chairman	Mr. W. H. Valentine Route 1 Box 54 LaCross, Virginia
Vice Chm.	Mr. Ceasar Wright Route 1 Norlina, North Carolina
Secretary	Mrs. Armina Valentine Route 1 Box 54 LaCross, Virginia
Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Delores G. Morse Box 127 Boydton, Virginia
Treasurer	Mrs. Marie Morse Route 1 Box 50 South Hill, Virginia

Home Demonstration Committee

President	Mrs. Sophie Hubbard Route 2 Box 94 South Hill, Virginia
Vice Pres.	Mrs. Bell Crute Route 2 Baskerville, Virginia
Secretary	Mrs. Florence Freeman South Hill, Virginia
Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Nellie White Route 2 Clarksville, Virginia
Treasurer	Mr. Lewis Stone Route 2 Box 100 South Hill, Virginia

Home Demonstration Committee (cont'd)

Chaplain Mr. Lewis Stone
Route 2 Box 100
South Hill, Virginia

IN SERVICE TRAINING GROUP

Chairman Mrs. Cordelia K. Powell
Box 442
Clarksville, Virginia

Secretary Mrs. Myrtle Dabney
Box 595
South Hill, Virginia

Members Mr. E. N. Talaferro
South Hill, Virginia

Mrs. Dorothy J. Harris
Clarksville, Virginia

Mr. E. L. Morse
Box 595
South Hill, Virginia

Mr. R. O. Harris
Clarksville, Virginia

Mr. J. A. Hudson
South Hill, Virginia

Mr. R. H. Harris
Clarksville, Virginia

Mr. R. A. Hinton
North View, Virginia

Miss. Sarah Overby
Buffalo Junction, Va.

Miss. L. Mosley
South Hill, Virginia

Mr. O. C. Walker
Lawrenceville, Virginia

Mr. J. H. Cary
Clarksville, Virginia

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 Mr. W. H. Milliner
 Clarksville, Virginia

 Mr. W. J. Wright
 Chase City, Virginia

 Mrs. Delores G. Morse
 South Hill, Virginia

 Victor R. Powell
 Boydton, Virginia

4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL AND LEADERS

President Miss. Jewel Tucker
 Boydton, Virginia

 Vice. Pres. Miss. Martha Valentine
 Bracey, Virginia

 Secretary Miss. Mattie Jean Long
 Route 3
 Chase City, Virginia

 Asst. Sec. Juanita Valentine
 Route 1 Box 54
 LaCross, Virginia

 Treasurer Mr. George T. Evans
 Boydton, Virginia

 Leaders Mrs. Essie M. Burton
 Route 3
 Chase City, Virginia

 Mrs. Lucy Long
 Route 3
 Chase City, Virginia

 Mrs. Mary Tisdale
 Route 3
 Chase City, Virginia

Club Leaders Cont'd)

Mrs. Christine Long
Route 3
Chase City, Virginia

Mrs. Isabella Lancaster
148 Washington Street
Chase City, Virginia

Mrs. Sarah T. Boone
Boydton, Virginia

Mrs. Willie J. Richie
Route 2
Boydton, Virginia

Mrs. Lue Ethel Alexander
Route 1
Norlina, North Carolina

Mrs. Lazine Wright
Route 1
Norlina, North Carolina

Mr. Charlie Robinson
Route 1 Box 226
Norlina, North Carolina

Mrs. Rachael Harris
Bracey, Virginia

Mrs. Lorraine Valentine
Box 28
Bracey, Virginia

Mr. Claude E. Dokes
Route 2
Skipwith, Virginia

Mr. George Dotson
Route 3
Chase City, Virginia

Mrs. Cora Wood
Route 1
Clarksville, Virginia

Club Leaders Cont'd Mrs. Elizabeth Venable
Route 1
Clarksville, Virginia

Mrs. Omsie Smalls
Route 1
Clarksville, Virginia

Mrs. Dorothy Bragg
Route 2 Box 100
South Hill, Virginia

Mrs. Sophie Hubbard
Route 2 Box 94
South Hill, Virginia

Mrs. Angeline Hardy
Route 2 Box 155
South Hill, Virginia

Mrs. Rena Ogburn
General Delivery
South Hill, Virginia

Mrs. Lucille Royster
Route 2
Skipwith, Virginia

Miss. Mary Morgan
Skipwith, Virginia

Mrs. Elizabeth Hawthorne
Route 2
Baskerville, Virginia

Mrs. Muriel Parrish
Route 1
Union Level, Virginia

Mrs. Amie Eva Winckler
Route 1
Baskerville, Virginia

Mrs. Doretta Brooks
Route 1
Baskerville, Virginia

Mrs. Marie Simmons
South Hill, Virginia

FIELD CROPS

Tobacco

Tobacco is causing much concern in Mecklenburg County. The decrease in acreage together with the weather conditions has put tobacco almost out of the picture on small farms.

This year an attempt to help farmers get a good start with the tobacco crop will be the chief concern. Every one is trying to put as many hills on one acre as possible, thus reducing the quality and grade of the tobacco. The objective for this year will be:

To encourage the proper use and practice in plant bed preparation, and selecting the kind of seed that will yield a good tobacco wanted by the buyers.

The methods used to teach the outlined practices will be:

To hold plant bed demonstrations on proper preparation, the right kind of seed, the proper analysis of fertilizer and amounts

Insist on soil test before applying fertilizer

Furnish as many farmers as possible with the recommended fertilizer analysis for tobacco

Inform as many farmers as possible of tobacco grading demonstrations and encourage the importance of attending

Cotton

Only a few farmers grow cotton in the county. Emphasis will be placed on the proper cultural practices and the use of good seed.

The methods used to teach these practices will be through the demonstration of seed bed preparation, spraying and weed control.

Corn

Corn is the staple crop for livestock, yet its production is far too low in the county. Many farmers still like to plant the old hard kernel corn, and refuse to plant hybrid corn because they can not save the seed for another year.

The objective for the year will be to encourage at least one farmer from each area to join the 100 bushel corn club. This may help to inspire more to use hybrid seed corn.

The methods or procedures to be used in helping farmers to increase the yield of corn per acre will be:

To encourage the planting of demonstration plots

Set up 100 bushel corn club

Help select the best adaptable varieties

Plan and make field trips to demonstration plots

Small Grain

The acreage allotment act has reduced the acres of small grain, (wheat) so low that it does not pay the small farmer to grow any. If more farmers would plant other small grain along with wheat, it may prove profitable. Most of the small grain is grown for feeding to the livestock on the farm.

The methods that will be used in working with farmers on small grain will be as follows:

To encourage farmers to plant rye, oats and barley along with wheat for harvest for livestock, as well as for winter pasture.

Hold top-dressing demonstrations on small grain
Keep before them a reminder through the newspaper, radio and
circular letters the best use of small grain

Soil Conservation

The soil conservation service in the county works very close with all agricultural agencies. Most farmers fail to see the need for making improvements in the soil before it is too late. Not too many understand the work of the soil conservation service, therefore it is difficult to get them to grasp what it has to offer.

The one objective for this year will be to encourage as many farmers as possible to make use of the soil conservation service.

This will be done by: Planning and making conservation tours
Setting up conservation demonstration plots. Visiting farms making use of the service.

Pasture

The A. S. C. program has done much to increase acres in pasture in Mecklenburg county. Most of the farmers in recent years have waited until the spring to seed permanent pasture. The dry weather has just about destroyed most of these pastures.

The objective for the year will be to encourage more farmers to seed permanent pasture in the late summer or early fall, and encourage year round grazing for livestock.

The methods employed to achieve the objective are:

Plan pasture demonstration plots (seeded in the summer or fall)

Work closely with the A.S.C. in extending seeding time for those who insist on seeding in the spring

Use signs to mark demonstration plots

Hay

Hay crops in the county are increasing each year, but there is yet a large quantity being brought in by freight. Many farmers feel that they can buy hay cheaper than they can grow it, therefore very little attention is paid to its production.

The objective for the year will be to encourage farmers to use more home grown hay. This can be done by introducing them to the A.S.C. services for seeding hay crops.

The methods to be used in encouraging the production of hay on more farms are:

Hold field meetings on the production of hay

Plan and make tours of hay fields (let the farmer tell the story)

Give demonstrations on seeding, topdressing and cutting

LANDSCAPING THE GROUNDS

The farmer who does not improve his home surroundings has not learned to appreciate the beautiful. Those who make a start will continue until it is finished. The 4-H club members have done much to stimulate home ground beautification through out the county.

The methods and procedures to be used with landscaping will be determined by the number of families adopting such practices.

The objective will be to stimulate at least fifty families to make some changes in the appearance of their home surroundings.

The methods used will be as follows:

Have landscape specialist to outline several steps as a guide

Make landscape plans using native shrubbery suitable for the individuals needs

Help locate, and when possible, distribute price list and all other information available for improving the home grounds

FARM MANAGEMENT

Farm management is a high sounding work to most farmers. It can be better explained by having the farmer feel that he is doing a real service to the community when he can show something he has done. The individual file for records is a must on every farm. It tells you just where you are, where you come from and points out where you are going. The importance of farm records need to be emphasized more.

The objective for the year will be to show the need of farm records and how it relates to progress of the farm, social security benefits and better farming practices.

The methods to be used are:

Provide farmers with individual record books

Plan individual and group meetings on record keeping

Use resource persons, news articles, radio and local data

Follow through with recommendations

HORTICULTURE

Nearly every farm has some fruit trees which produce some kind of fruit, but cultural practices are not used extensively. Most of the pruning is done by cutting away only the dead branches, therefore most of the fruit is small or defected by insects.

The one objective with fruit trees will be to demonstrate how to prune trees properly for maximum sunlight and to prevent breaking of limbs when full of fruit.

The methods to be used in teaching will be to:

Visit small fruit orchards and give pruning demonstrations

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Most of the farm families have some kind of garden, Many pride themselves with early garden, and others with late garden. Not too many are successful with year round gardens. Those who have gardens late or early, do not produce sufficient quantities for the family.

The objective for the year will be to encourage more farmers to plan and prepare for vegetables the year round

The methods to be employed in achieving this objective will be:

Help plan early and late gardens as well as demonstration gardens

Assist with securing markets for vegetables and the use of the local canneries

Help farmers select and display garden products at the local fair

SANITATION

Sanitation problems are not too numerous through out the county. Most rural people are beginning to realize that sanitation is a part of comfortable living. Screened windows and doors are looked upon as necessary. With more people living at home through television and other means of recreation, sanitation problems are disappearing.

The objective with sanitation this year will be to help the rural people provide sanitary conditions at the least possible cost.

The demonstration method can best be used to teach sanitation through the use of sanitary out houses, screened doors and windows, proper lighting and ventilation.

LIVESTOCK IN THE COUNTY

Too many farmers are breeding dairy cows to beef animals. The use of scrub males is too widely distributed. The factors of production are of little concern of the farmers. Proper care and management of livestock needs to be emphasized more.

The objective set up for livestock is:

To help farmers select breeding animals

To encourage the use of good foundation stock for breeding

The methods to be used in accomplishing the objective will be:

Plan tour to livestock farms, livestock markets

Locate good breeding stock and so inform the farmers

Help in the selection of improved or pure bred males

Distribute information on livestock through news articles, radio

Poultry

The use of poultry on the farm is by far no speciality. Most rural people keep a few hens for the sake of having something around to feed and care for. The production of most farm flocks is very low. Replacements are made only when the birds refuse to lay.

The objective for the year will be to encourage as many farm families as possible to keep sufficient laying flock for the family's egg consumption.

The methods to be used are: To encourage as many farm families as possible to set up demonstration flocks.

Encourage record keeping of their flocks

Plan and make tours to poultry farms

Help in the selection of baby chicks, feeding, care and management, housing and selling of poultry products

THE COUNTY FAIR

The county fair is the place where farmers meet to discuss their farming problems, their failures and their good fortune. Most of the rural people bring something to exhibit, but only a few take the time to select the products they bring. The attractions at the fair calls many who have a chance to see the exhibits thus stimulating them to prepare to participate another year. Observation of other exhibits has done much to increase participation in the county fair.

The main objective for this year will be to encourage more of the rural people to exhibit their products, and how to select for exhibits

The method of procedure to be used in teaching rural people to exhibit at the county fair will be to help them select quality products
Encourage greater participation in fair exhibits
Give recognition to those who have exhibited
Send out circular and personal letters to all exhibitors

LEADERSHIP

Most people will be willing to lead if they think they have something to offer the public. Whenever a man is given credit for what he has done he is willing to do more. People who are given responsibility and assisted in carrying out the responsibility will venture out on their own when the time comes. People must believe what they are trying to get other people to believe. Leadership improves as the individual gain confidence in himself.

The most important objective for leadership this year will be to get local leaders to assume more of the responsibility for community affairs and other activities.

The methods used to develop this leadership are:

Help and plan with local leaders programs in their community
Plan and make tours to other communities for observation
Invite local leaders to appear on the radio
Invite other resource persons into the community to assist
Help set up community projects and dedicate the responsibility to local leaders

THE 4-H CLUB

There is no other organization in the county that has made as great a contribution to the Extension Program as the 4-H clubs . The importance of doing the job well has been stressed throughout the county. The merit system, learn to earn, has developed many a youngsters who other wise would have depended upon past records to bring them through.

The objectives for the 4-H clubs for 1958 are as follows:

Keep high standards for 4-H club members

Insist on a record for every member enrolled

Help them to develop a higher appreciation for the work

Develop more junior 4-H club leaders

Emphasize more livestock projects

Help new members get started by explaining the 4-H program

See that all members have a complete set of records

The methods to be used in teaching the objectives for 4-H club members are as follows:

Carefully outline the 4-H program to new members

Seek to distribute information requested by 4-H members

Make record keeping more interesting

Give awards to all worthy members

Write news stories of members achievement

Use 4-H club members on radio when possible

Encourage cooperating with other county organizations

Members who show little or no interest, let them observe

Select carefully those members who are to represent the clubs

CALANDER OF ACTIVITIES

January

- Hold Advisory Board Meeting (bring in resource persons)
- Hold Junior Council Meeting (use local leaders, teachers, etc;)
- Hold Leadership Training Meeting (invite other agents and leaders)
- Give Pruning Demonstrations
- Assist with income tax returns
- Purchase awards for 4-H club members and leaders
- Hold 4-H club meetings
- Prepare and give radio broadcast
- Write news articles
- Distribute 4-H memory books to club members

February

- Complete 4-H club calander for the year
- Plan National 4-H Club Week Program
- Work with In-service training group
- Hold lighting demonstrations
- Hold adult group meetings
- Assist with landscaping plans
- Hold 4-H club meetings
- Give pasture top-dressing demonstration
- Write news articles
- Prepare and give radio programs
- Give pruning demonstrations

March

Give shrubbery pruning demonstration
Give garden planting demonstration
Give tree planting demonstration
Observe National 4-H Club Week (Program of achievement)
Prepare and give radio programs
Write news articles
Give garden planting demonstration
Hold 4-H club meetings

April

Help with plans for Rural Life Sunday
Give flower planting demonstration
Work with In-service training group (demonstrations)
Give lighting demonstrations
Hold Advisory Board meeting (use resource persons)
Hold Junior Council meeting
Hold pasture seeding demonstration
Hold 4-H club meetings
Prepare and give radio programs
Write news articles

May

Hold tobacco planting demonstration
Give demonstration on early pasture (spring seeding)
Observe Rural Life Sunday

May (Cont'd)

Help with plans for Farm and Home Tour
Make plans for experiment station visits
Hold 4-H club meetings
Prepare and give radio programs
Write news articles

June

Make final plans for 4-H short course
Give demonstration on harvesting and selecting vegetables
Make community pre-farm and home tour
Hold leader training meeting
Visit 4-H projects
Visit demonstration plots and make further recommendations

July

Hold 4-H council meeting
Hold Advisory Board meeting
Attend Farm and Home Week Program
Plan and demonstrate late gardens
Make plans for permanent pasture seeding
Make plans for seeding lawns
Visit 4-H projects

August

Give pasture seeding demonstration
Assist with the planning and attend Annual 4-H Picnic
Make plans and attend wildlife conference
Hold leadership training meeting

Calendar continued

August continued

Hold Leader Training Meeting
Make visits to Experiment Station
Annual Leave (one week)

September

Help with the selection of products for county fair
Attend State Advisory Board meeting
Hold lawn seeding demonstration
Hold tobacco demonstrations on grading
Reorganize 4-H clubs
Hold 4-H club meetings
Write news articles and publish achievement stories

October

Hold 4-H Council meeting
Work with In-service training group on demonstrations
Participate in County Fair
Hold 4-H club meeting
Hold poultry demonstrations (housing and culling)(lighting and feeding)
Hold small grain seeding demonstration
Attend Agents Annual Conference
Hold Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting

November

Help plan farm budgets to include insurance for the family
Work with In-service training group on demonstrations

Calendar continued

November continued

Hold 4-H club meetings

Complete feature stories on 4-H club members and adults

Hold pine seedling demonstration

Hold demonstration on setting shrubbery

Hold soil improvement demonstration (work with soil conservation)

December

Work with In-service training group

Give pruning demonstration on shrubbery

Assemble and work out new contents of 4-H scrapbooks

Help plan and sponsor Christmas programs for 4-H club members

Hold 4-H club meetings

Hold adult group meetings

Complete plan of work