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1958 PLAN OF WORK

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Mecklenburg
County

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Date

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County Situation Considered in Working out the 1958 Program

Mecklenburg County is located in Southside Virginia, in the heart of the bright tobacco belt. The area of the county is 669 square miles.

According to the 1954 Farm Census, there are 3,784 farm operators in the county compared to 4,034 reported in 1950. In the 1954 census there are 1,880 white operator and 1,903 non-white operators compared with 1,972 white and 2,062 non-white in the 1950 census.

The total population according to the 1950 census 33,497, of this number 16,920 white, 16,564 colored (50.5% white and 49.5% Negro).

- There is one area in the county with more than 2,500 population, Chase City, these families are classed as urban,

There are numbers of industries in the county but a very few Negroes are employed in such, the majority depend on the farms for their living.

The chief types of agriculture on the county are tobacco, cotton peanuts, cucumbers, grain, cattle, swine and poultry, with tobacco being the chief crop. Because of the labor required to produce tobacco little time is spent on food production and other crops.

All the family members work long hours during the spring, summer and fall months on their tobacco.

In the last four or five years the cash receipts for tobacco have been greatly decreased because of weather conditions and cutting of acres.

Approximately ninety per cent of the farm families have electricity. With the new telephone lines being run in the county, a number of families now have telephones, approximately 6 or 7% have water under pressure.

Recreational facilities are very limited in the county. Only one center is being developed in South Hill.

With the construction of the John H. Kerr Dam, we now have two well developed parks. This provide recreational outlet for people in the county and surrounding areas. With the new dam, we have plenty of fishing and boating area. As a result of the dam, we have access to 800 miles of shore land, however some portion of this area is located in North Carolina.

There are sixteen Home Demonstration Clubs, fifteen 4-H Clubs and three Community Clubs organized in the county. The farm and home agents work jointly with these organizations, planning and carrying out Extension Program.

Long-time goals expressed by the county organizations:

1. Increase value of farm and home by improving home surroundings
2. Increase farm income
3. Encourage Civic participation

II. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organizations

1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board
 - a. Four meetings will be held, the first Monday in each quarter to plan and direct the Extension Program in the county.
 - b. Special guest will be invited to discuss current farm and home problems in each meeting.
 - c. Conduct demonstrations and tours.
 - d. Send delegates to State Meetings and visit Experiment Stations.
 - e. Sponsor community Improvement project.
2. General Interest Committee
 - a. Work will be continued in nutrition started last year.
 - b. Surveys will be completed and results tabulated.
 - c. An Educational Program will be planned as results of findings in surveys.
 - d. The committee of eight persons will meet as often as necessary to plan and carry out this program.
3. County Home Demonstration Club Committee
 - a. Two meetings will be held. January and July.
 - b. Activities to be carried on in the meetings will be to find and discuss community needs, help to analysis county problems and work out an effective program.

- c. Plans will be made for special activities such as; Home Demonstration Week Observance, Educational Trips, Tours, Result Demonstrations, participation in fairs and District and State meetings.
- d. Provide leadership for other Extension groups.

Club Objectives

1. "See Your Home in a New Light." Improve Lighting and Wiring in the home.
2. Increase Civic Participation through: Voting status and cooperation with other community organizations.
3. Increase value of your homestead by improving your home surroundings: Yards, Driveways, Mailboxes and out buildings.
4. Sponsor improvement projects for churches and schools.
5. Plan more recreational activities for the entire family.
6. Make your Home a Haven of Safety.

B. Project Work

1. Clothing

- a. January -- Care and Laundering-

This project was selected by the Home Demonstration Committee so that they could learn how to care for the many new fabrics now on the markets.

Demonstrations will be given on laundering of various fabrics, emphasis also will be on reading and filing labels for future use.

Two radio programs and one news article will be devoted to this topic.

One Educational Fair Booth will be exhibited at Annual Fair.

b. February - Suitable dress for the occasion -

With the increasing number of activities that the women engage in the group wanted to know what to wear and when.

Demonstrations will be given on suitable dress for various occasions with emphasis on accessories and colors combinations.

Media that will be used to inform other people will be through the newspaper, radio and county fair.

Demonstration will be given with the use of an opaque projector and flannel board.

2. Electricity - Improving Lighting and Wiring in the home.

Selecting this project was stemmed from the county wide 4-H Project on "Electricity". The committee felt that if they too worked on this more could be accomplished for both groups.

- a. Theme for the March Demonstration is "See your home in a new light."
- b. - April - - Acquiring knowledge of meters fuses, outlets and switches.

This was selected to assist homemakers to get the most out of their electricity and to insure safety.

c. - May -- Care of appliances

The club members wanted to learn how to care for and prolong the life of their appliances.

Teaching methods

1. Select leaders
2. Conduct leader training meeting
3. Select demonstrations⁶⁵ at least one for each club.

4. Representative from the Rural Electric Cooperative will give demonstrations to each club group.
5. Workshops will be conducted on making minor repairs and care of appliances.
6. Medias that will be used: Newspaper articles radio and educational exhibits.

C. Federation Program of Work

The Federation goals selected by the committee were Safety and Recreation.

Demonstraions will be given on safety and tours will be conducted to demonstrators homes.

Each club will plan recreational and game night for families in this communities.

D. Other Activities

1. Community Improvement Project.

This project is sponsored by the State and County Advisory Board to encourage Better Family Living through a unified community program.

- a. Leaders will be selected and trained to assist in carrying out this project.
 - b. Meetings will be held with all families involved three or four times during the year.
 - c. Monthly meetings with leaders.
 - d. Result demonstrations will be planned.
 - e. Demonstrations and information will be given in meetings.
 - f. Survey will be made by leaders in November to check progress.
2. National Home Demonstration Week Celebration
- a. Conduct County-wide program*

- b. Let people in the county know what the Home Demonstration clubs are doing.
 - c. Send articles to local papers.
 - d. Have club members appear on radio program.
 - e. Have at least thirty members attend district meeting.
3. Sightseeing Trip -
- a. To some Historical Place.
 - b. To acquaint the people with their state.
 - c. To stimulate interest among club members and to encourage larger participation in Extension Service.
4. County Fair -
- a. Each club have unit demonstration.
 - b. To stimulate for improvement in the home and better family living relation.
 - c. Encourage members to enter products in general exhibits.
 - d. Stimulate interest in the Extension Program since most of the county people attend the fair.
5. Work in Unorganized Communities -
- a. Give demonstrations, talks and assistance to groups and individuals.

III. Farm and Home Development

Plans have been made to continue the Farm and Home Development Program with three families.

Major areas we plan to work on are: planning the family budget and keeping records, Home Improvement and Food Production and Preservation.

Methods to be used in carrying out this program will be through home visits and at least two joint meetings with three

families.

IV. County Extension Program - Youth

A. 4-H Organizations

1. 4-H County Council

a. The 4-H County Council has a membership of ninety (Adult and Junior Leaders). The council will meet four times this year to receive training in organization and Project work to strenghten the 4-H Program.

b. Special Activities to be sponsored by the Council -

1. Annual 4-H week program.
2. Rural life Sunday Program.
3. Participation in County Fair.
4. Annual County-wide Picnic.
5. Annual 4-H Popularity Contest and Talent Program.
6. Send delegates to State meetings.

2. Leaders Association

- a. This organization will meet each quarter to plan activities to strenghten the 4-H Club Program.
- b. Leaders will be trained in project and organizational work.

3. Farm and Home Safety

Goal - Make your Home a Haven of Safety.

The committee in selecting this project was interested in cutting down on Farm and Home accidents by recognizing dangerous spots and doing something about the same.

a. Methods of Teaching -

1. Select leaders
- 2- Conduct tours and point out danger spots.
- 3- Give demonstrations
- 4* Select demonstrators

b. Medias to inform Club Members and the Public

- 1- Radio programs
- 2- Newspaper
- 3- Educational booths

4. Home Management

a. September: Kitchen Storage Space Savers

Objective: To save time, energy and improve working conditions in preparing meals.

b. October: Simplify Housecleaning

Objective: Improve method of work and to save time and energy.

Method of teaching

- a. Select leaders and demonstrators
- b- Two Leader Training Meeting planned to be conducted by specialists.
- c- Demonstrations will be given in club meetings
- d- Conduct tours of demonstrators homes.

2. Medias -

Newspapers, radios and education exhibits.

5. Club Choice was planned for June and November. These months will be devoted to the interest of each club.

B. 4-H Club Work

1. Project Work -

Junior and Senior Leaders met in July to plan the 4-H club projects for the year.

One county project was selected by this group. Things considered in selecting these projects were the wide range of ages enrolled, time allowed for meetings and the number of club members in each group. The project selected was Electricity.

The theme for this project is "See your Home in a New Light."

a. Methods of teaching

1. Three Leader Training Meeting were planned with the cooperation of the Home Economics and Agriculture Engineer of the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.
2. Demonstrations will be given by leaders and agents to clubs and demonstration groups.
3. Demonstrations will be selected
4. Individual and team demonstrations will be given by members in May at the completion of the project.
5. Radio programs and news articles as medias.

B. Other projects

Each member will be encouraged to carry atleast one other project.

Demonstrations and assistance will be given to these members in project groups by agent and leaders.

C. 4-H Clubs Activities.

1. Achievement Days -

- a. To conduct atleast one in each club.
- b. Exhibit proudcts amde and judge them.
- c. Give recognition to outstanding work of leaders and members.

2. Rural Life Sunday -

- a. Conduct one County-wide Service.
- b. Showthe close connection in the churches, farms and home.

3. County Fair -

- a. Display Products.
- b. Let members place exhibits. Give demonstration on making displays.

4. Annual County Picnic -

- a. Sponsor one county-wide picnic.
- b. Have atleast one social in each club.

5. 4-H Camps and Short Course -

- a. To send delegates with outstanding accomplishments - County and State Project winners.
- b. Send delegates to all State Meetings.

6. 4-H Club Week -

- a. County-wide Program with each club participating.
- b. Present awards to leaders and members.

7. Popularity Contest and Talent Program -

- a. Sponsor popularity contest, crowing king and queen at county and sending delegates to state meetings.

b. Give award to club with best talent.

V. Scope of Work

A. Organization

	<u>No. in 1957</u>	<u>Goal 1958</u>
Number of Home Demonstration Clubs	16	17
Membership	323	335
Number of 4-H Clubs	15	15
Membership	256	260
Number general interest committees	1	1
Number other organizations	3	3
No. farm and home development families	3	3

VI. Plan for Leadership

	<u>No. in 1957</u>	<u>Goal 1958</u>
A. Over-all Program Leaders (Organization leaders for county extension service board)	70	75
B. Home Demonstration Club Leadership	<u>No. in 1957</u>	<u>Goal 1958</u>
Number organizational leaders	16	17
Number project leaders (subject matter)	136	140
No. Federation program of work chairmen	8	9
Number program development leaders	22	24
Number result demonstrators	30	60
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by specialists	1	3
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by district agents	0	1
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by agent	6	8
Attendance at training meetings	110	120
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	40	60

	<u>No. in 1957</u>	<u>Goal 1958</u>
No. club meetings in which leaders assisted	79	95
Total number demonstrations given by leaders	84	90
No. talks or discussions by leaders	55	60

Plan for training and using leaders - County-wide and district leaders, training meetings will be held to train leaders in project work. Individual leaders will be trained in cases where they cannot meet in a group.

Organizational and program development leaders will be trained at the Home Demonstration Committee meeting in February.

Leaders will be used to carry recommended extension information into organized and unorganized communities; report needs and purposes; assist in giving demonstrations and give demonstrations.

	<u>No. in 1957</u>	<u>Goal in 1958</u>
C. Over-all Youth Leaders (Organization leaders for county youth council)	25	25
D. 4-H Club		
Number 4-H Club officers	60	
Number adult project leaders	33	36
Number junior project leaders	31	32
Number result demonstrators	21	30
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by specialist	1	2
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by district agent		
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by agent	7	10
No. meetings at which leaders were trained by personnel in 4-H Dept.	1	1

No. meetings at which leaders were trained by others	<u>No. in 1957</u> 1	<u>Goal in 1958</u> 2
Attendance at leader training meetings	128	140
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	47	45
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	51	60
No. club meetings at which leaders assisted	91	92
No. demonstrations given by adult	73	75
NO. demonstrations given by junior leaders	27	70

Plans for training and using 4-H leaders - 4-H and Adult project leaders will be trained to give demonstrations and to assist the agent in giving demonstrations. Leaders will serve as demonstrators to set examples for other club members. Leaders will conduct small project groups in the neighborhood. Leaders will be given directions for keeping records. These leaders will report accomplishments to agent.

Organizational leaders will be trained at the County Council Meeting and in small groups on how to conduct meetings and keep records. These leaders with the assistant of the agent will meet in June to plan the 1957 4-H Program and activities.

VII. Plans for work with other agencies.

A. I plan to cooperate with the school program in rendering services in giving talks, demonstrations and information on recommended extension practices to students, senior league veteran classes. I will take an active part in a home improvement workshop in March which is planned by the Home

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Economics Department for students and adults.

B. Church

Encourage more participation in church by young people, have Rural Life Sunday in connection with Church Services, appear on church programs when necessary.

C. Health Department

Give demonstrations to clinic groups. I will cooperate with the health department in encouraging members to make their outdoor toilets sanitary.

VIII. Plans for developing Good Public Relations in County With -

A. General Public - I plan to cooperate with all county organizations by attending meetings and rendering services to all groups.

B. Co-Workers - work with other extension personnel in planning the county program. With all the families working on similar programs, it will seem more important and will encourage more participation.

C. Other Professional Workers - Have group meetings to discuss problems and to acquaint each other with their programs. Encourage club members to cooperate with other workers' program.

IX. Plans for Recording Progress and Evaluating Programs as Planned for 1958.

Leaders will be used to help in recording the needs and achievements. Observation and studies will be made of previous practices to show the progress of the program. Tours will be conducted to show progress.

Meetings and demonstrations will be held at result demonstrations.

Have achievement days in h-H club meetings and products will be exhibited at the county fair.

X. Plans for Professional Improvement.

A. Organized Study -

Agents Conference - I will attend the annual agent's conference and all other workshops designed for extension agents.

B. Reading Professional Publications - A part of each Monday and other available time will be spent reading newsletters, publications from U.S.A., and Home Magazines.

C. Membership in Professional Organization - I will retain my membership in the County Teacher's Association and the Hecklenburg Professional Workers' Group and the P. T. A., in my community.

D. Participating in programs, workshops, etc., planned by other organizations. I will attend all programs and workshops that will improve my professional growth.

E. Planned Educational Trips -

To visit some historical place during the summer with the Home Demonstration Club.

XI. Cooperative Plans for a Unified County Extension Program -

No plans have been made for a Unified County Program. The Local Farm and Home Agent plans all their programs and activities jointly. Weekly conferences are held to evaluate and plan further actions for the development of a better program.

XII. Problems in Carrying out the Extension Program -

Tobacco being the chief source of income in the county, re-

quires a great deal of time and labor, especially from May to November.

The extension program was planned to work on projects that require more time from January to May. Projects requiring less time for completion were planned for busy seasons.

Record keeping is one of the biggest problems we have with 4-H members. This year each member was given a folder to keep all their 4-H records and materials in. This book is called a 4-H Memory Book. We hope this will help solve the problem of record keeping.

With the cutting of tobacco acres and other crop allotment, more and more homemakers are having to seek employment outside of the home. Less time is spent by the homemaker in the home in some cases they have had to discontinue club work.

To reach these women and others we now have a daily radio program instead of a weekly one. Monthly newsletters will be sent out. We will continue the weekly news article in the three county papers.