

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 Albemarle

YEAR 1959

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(Local Farm Agent)

Date Mailed Dec 23, 1958

The County Situation

Albemarle County is located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge mountain section of Virginia. Most farmers practice a diversified system of farming. Small grain, corn for silage and grain, grasses and legumes for pasture, hay and silage; and a few soybeans are the principal crops grown in the county. We also produce apples and peaches along the north and north-west section of the county.

Some of the smaller farmers are going in for small fruit production such as grapes, strawberries and cherries.

The county is really a livestock producing county with most farmers carrying a combination of livestock with their crops. The combination may be beef for meat or breeding and hogs, beef and sheep or beef and poultry, and dairying.

The county farm population of 1954 states that there were 1818 farms in the county; 1,607 White and 211 Negro. There are about 1599 full owners, 163 partowners, 15 managers, 180 are tenants.

Most of the Negro farms are under the county average of 161.5 acres per farm; which means that, they cannot carry on in a general way the kind of farming being practiced in the county.

Albemarle is really suited for grass land farming, and much stress is being put on the growing of grasses and legumes. Farmers are encouraged to develop a year round grazing system.

<u>Organizations</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Members</u>
County Agricultural Adv. Board	1	48
Community Clubs	2	135
4-H Junior Council	1	26

4-H Clubs	5	110
4-H Leader Council	1	12

County Activities for 1959

The program of activities listed below which we hope will add strength to the county Extension Program and meet the needs of the people. We propose to continue emphasis on our 4-H work in the county. We propose to emphasize projects which may improve income for small farmers in the county.

Activities for this year include:

County Advisory Board meetings-----	3
4-H Junior Council meetings-----	3
4-H Leader Council meetings-----	10
Field meetings at demonstrations-----	6
Community Tours-----	1
County Tours-----	1
Community Exhibits and Achievement Days-----	4

The Annual Community Exhibit will be held in the Esmont Community which is taking part in the Community Improvement work sponsored by the State Advisory Board and the Virginia Agriculture Extension Service. The second activity will be a Farm and Home work shop for 4-H, WFA, WHA and adults exhibits will be a part of this activity. The third exhibit will be a 4-H participation in the Lynchburg Junior Market Hog Show and Sale; and also Virginia State Fair.

A 4-H activity in observance of National 4-H Week will serve to publicize 4-H work and to recognize achievement in 4-H work.

Farm Income

We propose to continue work on our major problems of finding ways to increase farm income for low income farmers in the county.

Objectivities

1. To assist farm families to increase income through selection of suitable projects to resources on hand.
2. To assist farm families in the use of resources and equipment on hand.

Methods

1. Farm visits
2. Letters
3. Circulars
4. Demonstrations

Gardens

Gardens have been a major emphasis in the county for a number of years. We feel the necessity for year-round gardens for all rural people in our county. This is essential for better health and better use of income for all families.

Objectivities

1. To encourage all families to have year round gardens.
2. To get 5 families to conduct garden demonstrations.

Methods

1. Family visits
2. Letters
3. Circulars
4. Community meetings
5. Tours
6. Contests

Crops

The crop projects carried by farmers in the county consists of small grain- corn for grain and silage, grasses and lehumes for pasture, silage and hay, and a few soybeans.

Objectivites

1. To help farmers increase crop yields.
2. To get farmers to improve pastures.
3. To interest farmers in better small grain production.

Methods

1. Farm visits
2. Letters
3. Circulars
4. 100 bushel corn clubs
5. Field meetings
6. Assistance from other Agricultural Agencies
7. Demonstrations

Livestock and Poultry

With higher yields of grain and pastures being realized by farmers emphasis will be placed on improved livestock and poultry projects.

Objectivites

1. To help farmers to develop live projects that will add to income.
2. To help farmers improve poultry projects.
3. To help establish one commercial flock.

Methods

1. Farm visits
2. Letters
3. Circulars
4. Community meetings

5. Assistance from other agencies

6. Demonstrations

Farm and Home Development

Work with the George Golden Family will continue. They will be assisted in realizing their goal of bathroom in home for 1959. They will be aided in securing additional cattle and hogs for increase income.

4 children will be enrolled in 4-H projects that will be added to the income of the family for the year.

Community Improvement Work

Meetings, garden tours, community exhibit and other activities will be conducted in the Esmont Community this year to encourage the people of this community to continue toward their goals in community improvements.

4-H Club Work

Emphasis on improved 4-H Club Work will continue in 1959.

Objectivites

1. To improve interest in 4-H program.
2. To raise % completions of projects.
3. To increase interest of parents for 4-H program.

Methods

1. Planning meetings
2. 4-H Leader Council meetings
3. Letters
4. Circulars
5. Home visits
6. Demonstrations
7. 4-H Achievement Activitites
8. 4-H Club Week Observance

Summary of Demonstrations

Poultry-----	3
Corn-----	3
Pasture-----	2
Garden-----	5
Wheat-----	1
Barley-----	1
Cats-----	1
Hay-----	2
Beef Cattle-----	2
Hogs-----	2

Cooperation with other Agencies

This Agent will do all possible to cooperate with the following agencies in assisting them in serving the people of the county;

1. Albemarle County ASC.
2. Thomas Jefferson Soil Conservation Service.
3. Farmers Home Administration.
4. Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank.

Calendar of Activities

January

1. Community meetings- Planning
2. 4-H Club meetings- Organization and Planning
3. 4-H Leader meeting- Planning
4. County Advisory Board meeting- Planning

February

1. Community Club meetings- Teaching activities and organization

2. 4-H Club meetings -Selecting projects and planning for 4-H
Club Week.

3. 4-H Leader Council meeting- Training and planning.

4. Seeding of oats and pastures.

5. Meeting Agronomy Committees.

March

1. Community meetings- Poultry and livestock management.

2. 4-H Club meetings- Project work and 4-H Club Week.

3. Getting Agronomy demonstrations started.

April

1. Community meetings- Insect and disease control in gardens.

2. Preparation for corn demonstrations.

3. 4-H Club meetings- Checking poultry and garden projects;

Home Beautification work; Starting Market
Pig Projects.

May

1. Community meetings- pasture management; garden tours; field
meetings at small grain demonstrations

2. 4-H Club meetings- Checking record books; checking project
work; organizing youth fair

June

1. Community meetings - Pasture management

2. Field meeting for hay demonstrations

3. 4-H club meetings- Fall gardens; market hog projects; baby
beef projects.

July

1. Community meetings- Winter gardens; pasture and cover crops

2. 4-H Club meetings- Market hog projects; beef projects

August

1. Community meetings - Cover crops; small grain seeding; winter gardens; poultry management
2. 4-H Club meetings - Project work; check 4-H hog projects, Market Hog Show and Sale

September

1. Community meetings - Beef cattle management; poultry management; small grain seeding; pasture seeding
2. 4-H Club meetings - Finishing record books, Va. St. Fair

October

1. Community meetings - Evaluating years work
2. Community Improvement Work
3. 4-H Club meetings - Collecting record books; shows and exhibits

November

1. Annual reports
2. Community exhibits
3. 4-H Club meetings

December

1. Community meetings
2. County Advisory Board Meeting
3. Plan of work
4. 4-H Club meetings - Organizational work for 1959