

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 Appomattox

YEAR 1959

Name G. L. James
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed December 15, 1958

1959 PLAN OF WORK

APPOMATTOX COUNTY OFFICERS

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

President	Mr. Mace Lewis Route 2 Gladstone, Virginia
Vice-president	Mr. Sam Jones Route 1 Pamplin, Virginia
Secretary	Mrs. Theda Harris Spout Spring, Virginia
Treasurer	Mr. Lacy Webb Route 3 Appomattox, Virginia

4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL

President	Clinton Turner Spout Spring, Virginia
Vice-President	Timothy Lawing P. O. Box Appomattox, Virginia
Secretary	Mildred Johnson Route 4 Appomattox, Virginia
Advisor	Mrs. T. M. Harris Spout Spring Virginia
Advisor	Mrs. T. W. Hamlet P. O. Box Appomattox, Virginia

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111. COUNTY SITUATION

Appomattox County is situated in the southern part of the Piedmont Plateau. The topography is rolling to hilly, and is cut by numerous streams, many of which drain into the James River. The frost-free date growing season is 189 days, extending from April 14 to October 20. Annual precipitation averages 43 inches.

Agriculture is the leading industry. Fire-cured tobacco is the largest source of farm income, but in recent years has declined in importance to less than 30% of total value farm crops sold. Turkey raising has grown to rank third, behind milk sales; cattle and calves are the fourth largest totalling 11% of total value sales. Nearly two-thirds of the county area is wooded, 77,000 acres included in farms; income from forest products amounts to 4%.

The county seat is located in the Town of Appomattox with a population of 1,094. The county's total population is 8,764. There are 231 Negro-operated farms; of the total county population, 25.2% are colored - 45.8% of which live on the farm. Extension records show 426 farm families of this group are owners, renters and tenants. 9,095 acres of land is owned by Negroes.

Total land in farms total 141,476 acres. Percent of area in farms, 64%. The average size of a farm is 146.8 acres. The county population including farms, has decreased about 20%. In addition, farmers are now seeking part-time work and full-time work in town and in nearby towns. During the last five years, the garment factory recently located in Appomattox, employs a large number of women from the rural sections of the county (five factory sites - 600 employees). The new money source is being used on the farm in many cases, especially to improve home conditions.

B. ORGANIZATIONS - EXTENSION

1. ADULT

County Advisory Board - 27 men, 13 women members

Community Clubs - 11 organized

Demonstration Community - 25 families cooperating

Neighborhood Leaders - Total 51 leaders

Agronomy Committee - 14 members

2. YOUTH

4-H Clubs - 4 organized - 325 members

4-H Council - 6 Adult members - 12 4-H members (Officers)

4-H Adult Advisory Committee - 4 members

4-H Leaders Organization - 8 members

Older Youth Organization - 2 clubs with 31 members

IV. PLAN OF WORK FOR 1959

With direct relation to each Negro farm owner, the objective is a Soil Conservation plan on every farm in the county. Other activities and demonstrations will be in conjunction with this goal.

The purpose of the plan of work is to: increase farming knowledge with relation to all farms and farm products; encourage scientific practices; develop possibilities for more diversified farming; to raise the standard of living for the Negro farmer and his family.

The mechanics of the plan are broken down into an itinerary calendar for the county Extension activities to each month of the year.

December through March: Planning meetings, educational activity.

April through June: Establishing planned activities.

July through October: Advising, checking existing projects.

October through November: Culminating activities for year.

DECEMBER 1958

Develop plan of work (adult and youth)
Contact farmers '59 goals, comparisons and demonstrations
Enroll, reorganize - 4-H Clubs project discussions
4-H Officers Training Meetings
Meetings with leaders and 4-H Council
Office work - State Reports requested
Demonstration Community score checks and totals

JANUARY 1959

Meetings, County Advisory Board, Plan of Work, reports
Demonstration community planning meeting
Early soil samples encouraged (taken by agent)
Forestry committee planning (meetings & post treating demonstrations)
4-H Leaders Meeting
4-H Achievement program
Farm visits - Office work

FEBRUARY 1959

Hold county-wide Farmers meeting (adult project-'59) one acre hog
pasture, forestry, 59 Social Security Law
Meeting Agronomy Committee (set up 59 field demonstrations)
Plan Engineering projects (homes, other building construction)
Farm visits (soil test, pasture, fertilization - 1 acre hog pasture feature)
4-H Hog Show and Sale Planning Meetings
4-H Achievement Day Program
Farm Visits - Office Work

MARCH 1959

Landscape work (setting shrubs, school project, homes)
Water systems (letters - visits) bathroom, central heating (3rd year
water survey)

(MARCH '59 continued)

Set up Tobacco Demonstrations (Diseases, insects, suckers, fertilization, variety seed)

4-H Activities (National 4-H Week, projects, leaders, council, special projects)

Agronomy School

Forestry projected (Pine Seedings)

Farm Visits - Office Work

APRIL 1959

Establish 100 bushel corn club (Cooperators listed)

4-H Rally, special events (tractor school, elimination driving contest, test)

Community Club Meetings

Farm Visits (seeding and fertilization practices recommendations)

Office Work

MAY 1959

Pasture field meetings

Field meetings (method demonstrations)

Field meetings (Landscape projects, homes, schools and churches)

4-H Rural Life Sunday - Community Church programs

4-H District Tractor School Event (Counties cooperating)

Farm visits and Office Work

JUNE 1959

100 bushel corn projects (cultivation - soda applications)

Meetings for Homemakers (Flower arrangements for home and Church)

Lawns and Shrubs - homes, churches and schools

4-H project checks (Show and sale, hogs; Fair exhibits; Pool project work)

4-H County-wide picnic

4-H delegates and attending Short Course (VSC)

Farm visits and Office work

JULY 1959

Farm water system follow-up (bath, sinks, hot water tanks)

Farmers Conference (State)

Field meeting - corn, pasture, tobacco

State 4-H activities participation

Farm visits and Office work

AUGUST 1959

Farm visits (demonstrations)

4-H Project visits

4-H hog show and sale event

Attend Visual Aids Workshop

Vacations

Farm visits and Office work

SEPTEMBER 1959

Secure Soil Conservation Cooperators (Goal - planning - farm plan)

5 County Fair activities (adult and 4-H exhibitors and participants)

Measure corn yields

Summary, development of Community Improvement Scores

State Advisory Board (delegates - county report)

Farm visits and Office work

OCTOBER 1959

Measure corn yields - awards

4-H Award winners announced (county and state - honors)

Annual Agents' Meeting

Farm visits and Office work

NOVEMBER 1959

Years' Work Summary (adult and 4-H) Extension Activities

Demonstration community completion Score checks

Farm visits and Office work

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OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Farm and Home Development Program	Experiment Station Meetings
Farm Unit Demonstrations	In-Service Training Meetings
Soil Conservation Contest	Special Extension Assignments
Farmers of the Year Award	Other Meetings
Tours, etc.	Special Local Projects (adult and youth) (Establish 1-acre hog pasture) (Sow and Litter - fenced and housed)

Participation in local related activities

V. METHODS OF COMMUNICATION TO BE USED

Written: Bulletins, leaflets, news articles, personal letters, circular letters, personal publicity (article and pictures)

Oral: General meetings (church, schools, other Extension meetings)
Farm and Home visits - Office visits
Telephone calls, radio, neighborhood leaders
Tape recorder (testimonials)

Visual: Method and Result Demonstrations
Pictures - camera, photos (personal, slides)
Motion pictures, charts, posters, flannelgraph

Other: Specialist VPI, VSC, local technicians, governmental agencies, local officials, businessmen, local leaders, teachers and co-workers, Supervisors

VI. INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

- A. Attend called meeting of Extension Nature
- B. Cooperation with local activities
- C. Supervise special projects that develop (Extension and other)
- D. Extension publicity for newspapers and records (photography, slides, photos)

VII. SUMMARY STATEMENT

The above program will be the working guide for this Agent for the Extension Program in Appomattox County for 1959.

The Plan of Work, though definitely states, is flexible in nature and may be added to or detracted from within the ensuing year.