

MonthActivities Planned

October

Farm and Home Agents' Conference  
Community Development Work  
County Fair  
Four-H Meetings  
Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting  
Farm and Home Development Work  
Small Grain Crops  
Forestry Awards Program  
Agronomy Meeting

November

Annual Reports  
Annual Planning Meetings  
Junior Council Meeting  
Four-H Achievement Program  
Community Development Work  
Soybean Demonstrations  
Advisory Board Meeting

\*\*THE END\*\*  
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<u>Month</u>	<u>Activities Planned</u>
May	State Advisory Board Awards Program State 4-H Leaders Meeting Soybean Demonstrations Forestry work Four-H Meetings Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting Community Improvement Work Farm and Home Unit Development Work Junior 4-H Leaders Meeting Orchard Jobs-Home garden tour Corn Demonstrations Pasture Demonstrations Agronomy Meeting
June	State 4-H Short Course Meeting Four-H Club Meetings Adult Leaders Meeting Soybean Demonstrations Corn Hybrid Demonstrations Orchard Jobs Pasture Demonstrations Forestry Demonstrations
July	State 4-H Short Course Farm and Home Conference Garden Lovers Short Course Four-H Meetings Community Improvement Work Forestry Improvement Work Advisory Board Meeting Fair Committee Meeting Farm and Home Development Work Orchard Jobs Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting Agents Group Meeting
August	State 4-H Wild Life Conference Agents Group Meeting Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting Agronomy Tour Soybean Demonstrations Pasture Demonstrations Corn Hybrid Demonstrations Orchard Jobs Community Development Work Farm and Home Development Work Fair Committee Meeting
September	State Advisory Board Meeting Four-H Meetings Adult Leaders Meeting County Advisory Board Meeting Fall and Winter Pastures Corn and Soybean Projects

XII. Calendar of Activities:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activities Planned</u>
December	Annual 4-H Sweet Potato Show and Sale Planning Meetings Advisory Board Meeting 4-H Meetings Four-H Council Meeting Community Improvement Meeting Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting Forestry Meeting
January	Agronomy Committee Meeting Forestry Meeting Four-H Meetings Adult 4-H Meetings Agents Group Meeting Community Improvement Work Winter Pastures
February	Tractor Clinic For 4-H Leaders Community Improvement Work Forestry Work Four-H Meetings Adult 4-H Meeting Agronomy School Farm and Home Unit Advisory Board Meeting Home Garden Committee Meeting ASC and SCS Meeting
March	Observe National 4-H Week Forestry Meeting Home Garden Meeting Community Improvement Work Four-H Meetings Agents Group Meeting Farm and Home Development Work Special 4-H Program for all 4-H clubs State 4-H Short Course Committee Meeting
April	District Soils Meeting Home Grounds Beautification Projects Adult 4-H Program Community Development Work Agents Group Meeting Establishing Corn Hybrid Demonstrations Check Pasture Establishments Adult 4-H Leaders Meeting Junior Leaders Meeting Four-H Meetings

X. Countywide Activities Planned

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Number</u>
Advisory Board Meetings	4
Four-H Council Meetings	3
Field Meetings:	
Swine	2
Poultry	2
Forestry	4
Agronomy	4
Landscaping	2
Home orchards	2
Home gardens	2
Four-H Leader Meetings	11
Four-H Rural Life Sunday	1
Four-H Achievement Day	1
Adult Achievement Day	1
Awards Program	1
County Tour	2
Four-H Picnic	1
Neighborhood Leaders Meeting	2

XI. Specialist Needed

<u>Name</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
C. E. Gill	Jan-Feb-Mar-Oct-Nov	Forestry Contest
J. S. Higginbotham	Mar.	Home garden meeting
M. T. Carter	April August	Agronomy meeting Agronomy tour
W. L. Watson	April	Landscaping project
Swine specialist	May	Swine projects
Poultry specialist	June	Poultry projects

### 3. Educational Activities

Organize and Hold county council meetings with 4-H officers and leaders

Promote contest among 4-H members

Distribute bulletins and records book to members and leaders

Hold leader training meetings

Present 4-H members at special occasions

Use outstanding 4-H members on radio and T V

Get all members to enroll in projects that they can afford to conduct

Select top 4-H members for special trips and awards

Visit 4-H members and parents often for project instructions

Plan calendar of work for 4-H clubs

Make us of school program and special meetings

## IX. ASC and SCS

### 1. Goals

Get 30 farmers to sign with the SCS program

Get 30 farmers to sign with the ASC program

### 2. Methods to be used

a. Use the assistance of ASC and SCS representatives

b. Hold special meetings to discuss ASC and SCS practices

c. Make farm visitations with representatives

d. Assist farmers with selected practices

### 3. Educational Activities

Hold special meetings and invite representative of the ASC and SCS. Discuss the practices available to farmers, to farmers, at farm meetings on radio, in news papers and through circular letters. Show film and make pictures of practices available in Gloucester County.

### 3. Educational Activities

Prepare information for the press and radio. Conduct tours and field meetings that will include these particular farms and homes. Use the assistance of specialist. Visitation schedules will be set-up to follow through with certain information and records will be kept for future references and help the demonstrators analyze their farm and home situations.

## VIII. Four-H Work

### 1. Goals

Organize three 4-H clubs in the county  
Organize on junior leadership club  
Send quota of delegates to the 4-H short course  
Send quota of delegates to wild life conference  
Send quota of delegates to the tractor clinic  
Observe National 4-H Week  
Observe Rural Life Sunday  
Participate in the county fair  
Hold an achievement day program  
Get 95% of the project completed  
Participate in the annual 4-H sweet potato show

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Get junior leaders to assist with enrollment
- b. Hold regular 4-H meetings in the school and in the communities
- c. Hold junior 4-H council meetings
- d. Hold adult 4-H leader meetings monthly
- e. Use the assistance of co-workers and specialist
- f. Conduct 4-H tours among members
- g. Have adult leaders assist 4-H members with projects
- h. Assist leaders and members with demonstrations

- c. Get the assistance of local business establishments in promoting the project
- d. Use the assistance of committees in making community surveys
- e. Use the assistance of specialist in promoting various farm and home projects
- f. Conduct a community tour and a community clean-up campaign in the spring
- g. Get all persons to work on specific projects and report during regular community meetings

### 3. Educational Activities

Include special homes and farms of interest on tours. Use the assistance of specialist in setting up various farm and home projects. Hold discussions and every meeting on activities and projects being conducted. Assist adult leaders with 4-H members projects and have clubmembers and leaders report progress as regular community club meetings. Hold community picnic and church meetings for youth and adults.

## VII. Farm and Home Development Work

Farm and home development work is a special educational program designed to meet the needs of the farm people through direct services rendered each farmer by the extension agent. Various recommendations are made as the result of surveys and farm analysis. The program is outlined to service the farm and home as a unit.

During 1960 our special interest will involved in selecting farmers that are interested in accepting this type of program to improve their standards of living. A special committee has been selected to work with the local farm agent in selecting and working with the families that are selected to participate.

### 1. Goals

Select one new farmer for the program

Make surveys and set bench marks for the farm and home

Maintain the present farm and home unit

### 2. Methods to be used

a. Use the assistance of specialist

b. Use the assistance of the committee and local leaders

c. Give the farm and home unit demonstrator all of the available information possible to help improve the program selected to fit his situation

- a. Assist the home improvement committee in selecting project members.
- b. Use the assistance of specialist in setting up demonstrations
- c. Use the local plumbers and electric company in making surveys and establishing projects
- d. Use all available service to get interested farmers to install running water systems
- e. Make contacts for various aids available to Farmers through the federal government.
- f. Conduct farm and home tours that will include these running water systems and have specialist present to keep information before groups that interested
- g. Use the assistance of local appliance companies

### 3. Educational Activities

Include these particular projects in farm and home tours. Hold countywide educational meetings for farm and home owners and conduct panel discussions on the importance of modern facilities. Use local news papers and the local radio station to get out helpful information on modern facilities for the home that involves running water systems.

## VI. County. Community Improvement Work

The county agricultural advisory board in cooperation with the state agricultural advisory board is sponsoring a community improvement contest. Each county is responsible for entering one community in the contest. The purpose of the program is to help improve the living standards of rural people within a given section of each county. A present Zion Hill Community is participating in the contest.

### 1. Objectives

- To strengthen 4-H and adult work
- To teach better farm and home management practices
- To help improve home and family living conditions
- To develop better communities by strengthening the economic, educational and social conditions

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Work with the community improvement committee
- b. Hold regular community meetings

## H. Forestry

### 1. Goals

- Conduct a forestry contest
- Promote a forestry club
- Get 15,000 seedlings set
- Maintain the demonstrations already established
- Get ten of the forestry club members to complete their practices

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Use the assistance of specialist
- b. Get the Bank of Gloucester to sponsor a supper for forestry club members
- c. Hold field meetings and set up demonstrations with the various practices involved in forestry management.
- d. Assist the forestry committee in establishing these demonstrations
- e. Include these demonstrations on field meetings and tours
- f. Contact farmers with timberlands and urge them to follow good management practices

### 3. Educational Activities

Use the assistance of specialist and local business establishments in conducting the forestry contest. Hold regular educational meetings, tours and programs for interested timberland owners. Use the facilities of the local radio station and news papers in getting out educational information and project results.

## I. Running Water

### 1 Goals

- Get twenty-five farmers to install running water systems in their homes
- Get all new home builders to install running water systems

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Use the assistance of specialist
- b. Assist the home garden committee in planning the tours
- c. Use the assistance of seed and fertilizer dealers
- d. Assist demonstrations with pruning, spraying and fertilizer recommendations
- e. Award prizes to the most outstanding home gardener
- f. Hold an educational field meeting for interested home gardeners

### 3. Educational Activities

Hold countywide educational meetings. Send out circular letters and monthly home garden hints. Use the facilities of the local radio station and local news papers to get out periodical information. Include demonstrations in field meetings and tours.

## G. Landscaping

### 1. Goals

- Conduct one home landscaping project
- Conduct one church landscaping project
- Conduct a yard improvement contest countywide
- Improve the landscaping demonstrations already established

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Assist the home improvement committee in selecting demonstrators
- b. Hold a landscaping meeting for interested persons
- c. Use the assistance of specialist in establishing demonstrations
- d. Use the assistance of seed and fertilizer dealers
- e. Award prizes to the outstanding landscaping projects.

### 3. Educational Activities

Use the facilities of the local radio station and news papers to get out educational information on landscaping and concerning the demonstrations. Include these demonstrations on tours and field meetings. Discuss the importance of landscaping with home makers and organizations

## E. Livestock

### 1. Goals

Get 4-H and Adults to purchase purebred livestock

Get two farmers to purchase purebred board

County-wide livestock program with swine

Carry 4 poultry flock demonstrations

Get two commercial producers to keep poultry records

### 2. Methods to be used

a. Get the assistance of the purebred swine breeders in the county

b. Help farmers to analyze their livestock programs

c. Assist local poultry breeders by getting more poultry producers to visit local hatcheries and purchase their chick locally

d. Use the assistance of local hatcherymen on livestock meetings and demonstrations

e. Assist the committeemen in selecting the demonstrator

f. Assist breeders with their breeding programs

g. Urge breeders of purebred animals to sell them locally

### 3. Educational Activities

Conduct livestock tours. Get demonstrators to keep records and report their results at field meetings and county livestock meetings. Use the facilities of the local news papers, radio and circular letters in getting out helpful information for livestock producers. Use the assistance of specialist and veterinarians when ever possible.

## F. Horticulture

### 1. Goals

Conduct a home garden contest

Conduct two home garden demonstrations

Conduct two home orchard demonstrations

Get all farmers to improve their roadside markets

### 2. Methods to be used

## 2. Methods to be used

- a. Assist the agronomy committee in selecting demonstrators
- b. Secure seeds and fertilizers for demonstrators
- c. Take soil test and use the assistance of specialist
- d. Get the cooperation of seed and fertilizer dealers
- e. Award certificates to year-round pasture demonstrators
- f. Get demonstrators to visit experiment stations

## 3. Educational Activities

Include demonstrations on tours, field meetings and educational trips. Use the assistance of specialist and information from demonstrators for educational meetings. Use news papers, circular letters and radio to keep interested persons informed of the projects. Get demonstrators to keep records and establish demonstrations according to recommendations.

## D. Small Grains

### 1. Goals

- Conduct one demonstration with wheat
- Conduct one demonstration with barley
- Conduct one demonstration with rye
- Conduct fertilization demonstrations with all projects

### 2. Methods to be used

- a. Assist demonstrators with information and get projects established properly
- b. Use the assistance of the agronomy committee in selecting the demonstrator
- c. Establish according to recommendations
- d. Use the services of seed and fertilizer dealers
- e. Take demonstrators to experiment stations

### 3. Educational Activities

Use the assistance of specialist. Include the demonstrations on tours and field meetings. Report results on radio and in news paper articles. Discuss the demonstrations in countywide meetings and committee meetings.

## B. Soybeans

### 1. Goals

Get all clubmembers to increase their soybean yields to 40 bushels per acre

Conduct two soybean varietal demonstrations

Get twelve members in the club for 1960

Conduct two fertilization demonstration with soybeans

### 2. Methods to be used

a. Put on a soybean membership campaign

b. Get all clubmembers to participate in the contest

c. Use the assistance of seed and fertilizer dealers

d. Assist clubmembers with recommended practices

e. Use the assistance of specialist

f. Keep contestants informed periodically of the awards and trophy donated by the Bank of Gloucester to the highest yield.

g. Have regular meetings of the agronomy committee

### 3. Educational Activities

Hold educational meetings, conduct tours and visit experiment stations for additional information. Get demonstrators and clubmembers to visit experiment stations. Conduct field meetings, keep farmers informed with circular letters, news paper articles and radio programs. Use demonstrators for additional information in county meetings and field meetings. Measure soybean yields and present trophy at a special meeting.

## C. Pastures

### 1. Goals

Conduct one pasture demonstration with swine

Conduct three fall pasture demonstrations

Conduct two Ladino Clover-Orchard Grass pasture demonstrations

Conduct two summer pasture demonstrations

Taking in consideration the problems which have already been recognized by the various committees and their importance according to production phases and financial income for the benefit of raising the standards of living, the following projects will be treated in respect to goals, methods and educational activities for 1960:

#### A. Corn Hybrids

##### 1. Goals

Conduct two demonstrations with recommended varieties corn hybrids for Eastern Virginia

Conduct two corn hybrid varietal demonstrations

Conduct two fertilization demonstrations with 1000 pounds of a complete fertilizer

Continue the corn-pasture club and get as many cooperators as possible to set 100 bushels per acre as their goal for 1960

##### 2. Methods to be used

a. Conduct membership campaign

b. Get farmers to enter on one acre basis and increase the number of acres the following year

c. Get the assistance of local seed and fertilizer dealers

d. Assist cooperators and demonstrators in selecting their seeds and fertilizers

e. Continue the awards program for participants

f. Use the assistance of specialist

##### 3. Educational Activities

Conduct demonstrations for educational purposes. Use proper markings and signs for the public to notice. Use the facilities of local news papers, circular letters, meetings, telephone calls and radio station to get out information to farmers. Hold field meetings and educational tours and use the services of specialist when ever possible. Take pictures and use the information of specialist, experiment stations and land grant colleges for follow up study.

## V. Solutions to the Problems

The solutions to these many problems that are confronting the extension program in Gloucester County can not all be summed up in any one statement. As has been mentioned before there are many phases of the program and each phase must be broken down accordingly to get the proper analysis of the situation. Every individual does not have the same particular problems but the overall situation involves many and they are varied according to interest, educational abilities, financial conditions and management abilities. We realize that there is a high percentage of the farmers that are not using their abilities and facilities to the utmost in achieving the most from their farms. On the other hand we do have many that are making use of every effort to get information and apply the same to their particular problems according to their interest. However, the various committees that we have appointed to work on these various problems and to analyze conditions still find the same major problems prevailing from year to year, but we can say that through proper planning, setting objectives, and following through with various methods and educational activities we have been able to reduce these major problems considerably.

In planning our various goals and setting up objectives, first of all we have to take a look at our long time objectives. These long time objectives are often set on a five or ten year basis and our plans are made to fit in with the overall objectives planned on the basis of annual accomplishments. From year to year we are able to realize certain accomplishments and our efforts are compensated for the many outstanding achievements that we are able to witness as the result of planning and executing these ideas. In many instances it is necessary for the committee to make studies and analyze the situation very carefully along with surveys and necessary meetings for educational purposes. Within the minds of many of our clients or farmers with whom we work, they have their own minds set on certain goals and also have their own way of producing their crops or managing their farms, but within reason it is clearly understood that many of these individuals are heading in the wrong direction for success, which will more likely end failure and the course of action is not always easy to direct a farmer's thinking into the channel of better understanding as a good business man. The selling of the idea that the extension program is based on tried and proven scientific methods isn't always the best procedure or approach. Therefore, it is required of the extension work and assistants to demonstrate certain practices and services for best results. The various attitudes and conditions must be very carefully considered in making an approach to certain individuals. Many of the natural leaders and demonstrators are willing to cooperate and follow through with recommended practices, but the individual that needs this information most is always critical about making certain changes. The solutions to many of these problems must be first sold to interested persons that are willing to carry out these practices and certain methods and educational activities must be followed to get the interest of others that are very much in need of this particular information.

The problems that we have mentioned briefly on certain phases of the farming program are not all, but we consider them some of the most important and deserve consideration. These are the ones that have been recognized through the county and not necessarily on one particular farm.

## Horticulture Problems

### A. Home Gardens

1. Insufficient number of home gardens
2. High cost of production
3. Inadequate insect and disease control
4. Improper grading for market
5. Improper management
6. Garden poorly planned
7. Poor storage facilities for fruits and vegetables
8. Inadequate seed bed preparation
9. Improper fertilization methods

### B. Home Orchards

1. Too few fruit producers
2. Cost of production high for just home use
3. Improper facilities for spraying trees
4. Inadequate insect and disease control methods
5. Trees are old and not of the recommended type
6. Insufficient number of trees in home orchard

### C. Landscaping

1. Too few home laws developed with proper planning
2. Improper seeding methods
3. Poor fertilization and preparation methods
4. Poor management practices
5. Lack of interest in home beautification
6. Improper insect and disease control of shrubbery
7. Too many homes built without landscaping plans

## Forestry Problems

1. Poor management practices
2. Lack of interest in forestry production
3. Inadequate thinning and hard wood control methods
4. Insufficient number of acres reforested
5. Insufficient knowledge of the value of forest products

## Four-H Club Problems

1. Insufficient leadership
2. Lack of interest on the part of parents
3. Insufficient facilities for demonstrations
4. Inadequate meeting places
5. Competitive rural organizations
6. Lack of interest in record keeping
7. Definite need for trained leaders

C. Pastures

1. Insufficient number of acres seeded annually for livestock and soil improvement purposes
2. Improper fertilization practices
3. Insufficient number of acres seeded for fall pastures
4. Too many animal units grazing on the few pastures
5. Improper grazing practices
6. Pastures not established under the best conditions

D. Small Grains

1. Limited acreages due to allotments
2. Improper fertilization practices
3. Poor soil conservation practices
4. Low yields
5. Recommended seeding dates not followed
6. Improper land use practices

Livestock Problems:

A. Poultry

1. Diseases
2. Poor sanitation practices
3. Improper housing
4. Insufficient pastures
5. Poor management practices
6. High cost of production
7. Poor marketing facilities
8. Inferior grades of chicks purchased
9. Improper feeding methods

B. Swine

1. Too many inbred animals
2. Insufficient pastures
3. Poor sanitation methods
4. Too few purebred animals
5. Poor management practices
6. Improper housing facilities
7. Cost of production high
8. Market prices low

C. Cows

1. Too few cows maintained on the farm
2. Lack of breeding facilities for purebred animals
3. Cost of production high
4. Insufficient pastures
5. Improper feeding practices.
6. Competitive cost of producing milk and purchasing it for home use
7. Farm families are not consuming a sufficient amount of milk in the daily diet.

Many of our problems are created as the result of our own responsibility and there are many others that are made as the result of our natural surroundings and are completely out of our control. But however great or small these obstacles may be, we are constantly confronted with them and if we are expected to advance and accomplish our many goals these problems must be recognized and analyzed very carefully. From a natural point of view we are constantly aware of nature and how important it is to keep up with the natural trends in order that production and management will bring sufficient returns for our efforts. In production, soil conditions, climatic conditions and pest are the major natural obstacles that farmers have confronting them annually. Poor management is one of the lesser evils that farmers are frequently guilty of in many instances where soils, climatic and insect pest have not been too much of a problem. Therefore, adequate planning and follow-up procedures will eventually erase many of the major problems that are responsible for farmers failures. Some of the other problems that are practically out of the farmers control are: (1) High cost of production and low income; (2) Limited marketing facilities, (3) Small farm operators are required to make farming a part-time business, (4) Limited finance available to small farmers, (5) With many of the new scientific inventions more farmers need direct supervision because of their limited educational status, and (6) Farmers definite need more information in production and management of the farm business. In order to give a more complete analysis of the situation as it occurs in Gloucester County, we must break the situation down into various phases that are of particular importance of the farmers in the county. We will attempt to outline these problems briefly as follows:

#### Soil Conservation Problems:

1. Poor crop rotations
2. Improper land use practices
3. Insufficient number of acres seeded to winter cover
4. Inadequate cultural and fertilization practices
5. Too many ideas made for confusion in program planning
6. Too few farmers have soil conservation plans

#### Agronomy Problems:

##### A. Corn

1. Low yields
2. Improper cultural and fertilization practices
3. Crops seeded too late for best yields
4. Inadequate rotations on small farms
5. A large percentage of the farmers are still using seeds that are not adaptable to this area
6. Seed beds are not properly prepared

##### B. Soybeans

1. Low yields
2. Improper cultural and fertilization practices
3. Seed beds are not properly prepared
4. Recommended seeding dates are not followed
5. Improper weed control methods
6. Too many acres seeded in undesirable locations

Number of homes with.....	
Indoor toilets.....	154
Electricity.....	540
Telephones.....	248
Running water.....	246
With toilets, bath and running water facilities.....	151
T. V. Sets.....	251
Refrigerators.....	521
Deep freeze units.....	61
Gas-Electric Stoves.....	193

Housing according to the 1950 Census:

Median number of rooms per home.....	5.1
Median number of persons occupying...	3.1
Percentage of structures built since 1940 .....	23.8
Percentage of dwellings mortgaged.....	27.8
Median value of dwellings.....	\$3,650.00

II. County Population.....1950 Census:

Rural Non-Farm Dwellings.....	609
Number of farm operators.....	164

III. County Organization:

Sixty-seven members constitute the County Agricultural Advisory Board; thirty-eight women and twenty nine men. One community club is organized with a total of 47 seven members, men and women. Sixty-eight different leaders from the various organized communities assist the local farm agent with the extension activities. The county adult 4-H leader group has twenty-five leaders that assist with 4-H project work and 4-H organizational work. The county 4-H Junior Council consist of twenty-seven members that are officers and leaders of the three organized 4-H clubs in the county. The junior 4-H council and the adult 4-H leaders are responsible for outlining and planning the overall county 4-H program.

Since there are various other phases of the extension program that require definite attention and must have certain interested groups to sponsor these projects and report to the county agricultural advisory board, we have county committeemen. These county committeemen work with definite phases and they are: Agronomy, Forestry, Livestock, Horticulture, Home Improvement, County Fair and Community Improvement. These committees meet separately in working out various plans and objectives for the betterment of the overall county situation, but they plan jointly the overall county program. The joint meeting is held annually and plans and objectives are discussed and approved.

IV. Problems in the County:

Like all other important phases of the county situation, problems are continuously being presented in spite of improvements or general community progress

Two hundred and eighty-nine farms reported a total of 75,997 chickens raised and sold for a total sum of \$72,480 in 1949. Four hundred and thirty-one farms reported a total of 621,602 dozen eggs sold for \$251,183. During 1950, forty-two farms reported a total of 1,343 turkeys raised.

Truck cropping including fruits and vegetables produced in Gloucester County is mainly limited to the types of fruits and vegetables adaptable to growth in the county. In 1949 vegetable crops grossed the county \$17,219 from the 57 farms reporting. Two hundred and thirty-eight acres were involved in the total production of these particular vegetables. Fruits and vegetables produced included green snap beans, lima beans, cabbages, cantaloupes, muskmelons, sweet corn, cucumbers, kale, green peas, tomatoes and watermelons. Fruits and vegetables are produced county-wide, but the larger portion of these crops are produced in the lower southeastern section of the county. Most of the truck cropping is done by part-time farmers that are employed by the near-by government installations. Approximately 35 roadside markets are now in operation for seasonal sales of fruits and vegetables produced on the farm.

The gross income from farm products are mainly from fruits, vegetables, livestock and forest products. Forest products sold for \$4,393 in 1949.

Two hundred and thirty-five farms were classified as commercial farms in 1950. Three class I farms sold more than \$25,000; Ten Class II farms sold between \$10,000 and \$24,999; Thirty-three Class III farms sold farm products that valued between \$5,000 and \$9,999; Twenty-six Class IV farms sold between \$2,500 and \$4,999; Ninety-two Class V farms sold between \$1,200 and \$2,499. The class six group sold between \$250.00 and \$1,199. The 1950 census report has 119 farmers listed as part-time. Part-time farmers include those farmers that reported more than 100 days off-farm work and sold between \$250.00 and \$1,199 worth of farm products.

Financial conditions have always marked the standards of living for all type people. Due to limited farm lands and convenient facilities to near by government installations, part-time farming has been long established in Gloucester County. The average size farm is less than 65 acres, which makes it practically impossible for many farmers to make sufficient income to support their families without part time employment. The larger bulk of the farming group has less than 30 acres of farm land that can be considered to be good productive soils. With the modern labor saving devices, farmers with small acreages can no longer depend entirely on the farm for a livelihood. In the first place farm labor has been cut tremendously as the result of these labor saving devices and secondly small farmers have more time to devote to part-time jobs that will help to increase the family income. The part-time jobs in Gloucester County include fishing, oystering and employment at near-by government installations.

As the result of economical conveniences, farms have also been able to secure many of the labor saving devices and other farm and home implements that help improve the standards of living.

Number of farms with tractors.....	46
Number of farms with combines.....	27
Number of farms with corn pickers.....	21

systems must be installed to get the best result from crops produced on these soils.

Gloucester County is located in the Upper Tidewater Section of Virginia and is occupying 223 square miles within the commonwealth of Virginia. The county is well recognized for its fertile lands and convenient waterways. The county is surrounded by the following rivers; Severn, Piankatank, North, York and Ware. All of these rivers flow eastward and out to the Chesapeake Bay and into the Atlantic Ocean. The York River is possession of the longest boundary and is also the largest of the rivers that surround the county. The main north and south traffic through the county is accommodated by Route #17 which give direct connection with the Peninsula Area, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth and Norfolk. This same route also leads traffic into many of the larger northeastern cities by direct connections with Route 301.

In surface are, Gloucester County involves 164,500 acres of which 44,000 acres are in non-forest lands, 24,000 acres in waterways and 96,100 acres in commercial forest land. From an agricultural technicians point of view, not all of the lands area wise classified can be considered properly utilized. According to proper land use practices the soil conservation service has made a study of the situation and under good management practices more lands could be made servicable to a larger percentage of the owners. In many instances production could be improved through a shift of farmlands and forest areas.

Soybeans, corn, small grains, truck crops and forest products are the major cash crops produced in Gloucester County. According to the 1954 Census report, 596 farms reported a total of \$503,745 sold in crops alone, \$415,495 was received from field crops, \$8,993 was received from vegetables, \$1,814 from fruits and \$77,443 from other horticultural products. Six hundred and ninety-two farms reported 5,636 acres of corn harvested in 1949, and 691 farms reported 5,563 acres harvested for grain. Four farms reported 20 acres of corn cut for silage with a total yield of 190 tons of green weight. Twelve farms reported fifty-two acres of corn hogged down. Five farms reported 37 acres of small grain grown as a mixture and for threshing. Ninety-seven farms reported seven hundred and thirty-nine acres of wheat threshed or combined with a total yield of 10,605 bushels. One hundred and eleven reported oats threshed or combined, 851 acres were seeded and 24,197 bushels were harvested. Twelve farms reported 80 acres seeded to barley with a total yield of 2,325 bushels. Nineteen farms reported 149 acres seeded to rye with a total yield of 74,430 bushels. Two hundred and eighty-four farms reported 906 acres seeded to soybeans, this total was for soybean hay. Two hundred and thirty-nine farms reported 4,250 acres seeded to soybeans for harvesting and reported a total yield of 74,430 bushels. Six hundred and ninety-one farms reported 5,563 acres seeded to corn for harvesting and reported a total yield of 187,605 bushels. Corn ranks first in acreage and yield and soybeans rank second according yield and acreage. Oats and wheat rank third and fourth respectively with 851 acres reported by 111 farms yielding 24,197 bushels and wheat harvested 10,605 bushels from 739 acres on 97 farms. Rye and barley ranking fifth and sixth respectively with very little difference in the number of bushels produced with 19 farmers producing rye and 12 farmers producing barley for commercial purposes.

Three hundred and ten farms reported a total income of \$110,947 from cattle, hogs, sheep and horses. Swine ranked first with 496 farms reporting 2,889 hogs raised.

### 3. Soil Types.....

The subdivision of the soil series based on texture of the solid surface layer according to the soil survey classification used in the United States is called a soil type. Areas of the same soil type, even at a distance apart, show very little variations. Any particular soil of a series is designated by the textural name of its surface layer. These surface layers are very important in getting at the real nomenclature of the soils that farmers are concerned with in getting acquainted with soil analysis, such as sandy loam, clay loam or silt loam. The soil type consist of two parts, the first designating the series and the second the soil texture. For example, Sassafras sandy loam soil would give indications of the soil series and texture.

- A. Sassafras and Kempsville fine sandy loam soil types are well spread through the county. These soils are classified as the better soil types according soil technicians. They are well drained with good clay subsoils, which meets the qualifications of a good or ideal soil type. These soils will grow and produce any of the crops adapted for production in the eastern section of Virginia and this includes alfalfa which requires a very high pH for suitable production. These soil types are considered to be the best in the Coastal Regions of Virginia.
- B. Evesboro and Rufford sandy loam soil types are considered to be the second best soil types located in the county in regard to importance, fertility and general purpose production. Since these soils don't maintain sufficient moisture for long season crops, they are better adapted to truck cropping. These type of crops require only a few months in the year for maturity from seeding time. However, the average crops yield well in these soils when there is a heavy rainfall and plant food in abundance are sufficiently available.
- C. Dragston, Lenoir and Atlee soil types are the more prevailing types in Gloucester County. These soil are of the intermediate well drained group, and are adaptable for best results of plant growth and yields of the various crops produced and are adaptable to the county. These crops include the major cash crops produced in the county and they are corn, soybeans, potatoes, small grains and hay crops.
- D. Elkton and Bladen sandy loam type soils are also located in Gloucester County and are adaptable to permanent type pastures and hay crops which include ladino clover and orchard grass mixtures. These soils lay near the rivers and are the most complexed types in the county due to a hard grey subsoil that does not drain well. Elaborate drainage

1960

PLAN OF WORK FOR GLOUCESTER COUNTY

I. The County Situation:

Description of soils in Gloucester County.....

1. The soils in Gloucester County are varied and are like most soil types that make for the production of food and feed for human and livestock consumption. Good practical management facilities are very much necessary to keep these type soils in top production. Since soils are natural bodies that are located on the surface of the earth in which plants grow, consisting of mineral materials, organic matter, water and air, there is a certain amount of depletions that have a common place as the result of plant growth and certain chemical reactions. Man being the custodian of these soils and depending upon them for a livelihood, warrants consideration of the many physical factors that man can employ to made and keep the soils in the best of production and in the meantime conserve all of the natural characteristics that are required to produce our foods and feeds more abundantly. The necessity of knowing more about these particular items are becoming more and more important. The Soils in Gloucester County are of the Coastal Plain Region. Climatic conditions and various mineral deposits have been the major items involved in the types of soil formations. Soils are of varied depth, drainage, aeration and organic materials. These particular items are also vital factors in soil formation and constituents. These particular items also make for the differences in soil profiles and soil subdivisions. Soil subdivisions are soil families that are very closely related and also called soil series. The soil series are alike but not absolutely identical, in profile, except for the texture of the surface layer. Soil technicians work by a standard profile and all soils that approach it closely enough are made a part of this particular family or series. In studying the standard profile, variable factors are involved and they are: thickness, texture, structure, color and reaction. Soil depth, zone of calcium carbonate, color characteristics also aid in identifying soil series.

2. Soil Series.....

Now we know that soils are classified according to families or series. These particular series or families are given names from some city, village, river or county. The most prominent series of soils located in Gloucester County are, Kempsville, Evesboro, Rumford, Dragston, Lenoir, Atlee, Elkton and Bladen.

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COUNTY Gloucester

Name F. B. Goode  
Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed March 10, 1960