

OBJECTIVE PLANNING FOR BETTER FAMILY LIVING

NEED:

Before Objective Planning for Better Family Living can be done, a broad basis from which to work is needed as well as an understanding and acceptance of the common objective toward which we are working. If it can first be determined "where we want to go", then we can plan how to get there.

With this in mind the following statements and outline have been prepared as a basis for planning, method of teaching and as an organized approach to the problem of Better Family Living.

OBJECTIVE:

The overall or ultimate objective of Extension and other Agricultural Workers is to help rural families develop a pattern of farming and homemaking which through proper and full use of their land, labor and other resources will result in better family, home, farm and community living.

SITUATION AND PROBLEMS:

In working toward this objective with rural families in North Carolina, two major problems are encountered. One is the lack of income and the other is the use of income. This statement specifically refers to that portion of the total income, both from the farm and other sources, which is available for family living after all production expenses and personal taxes have been paid. In other words, whether this amount be \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or \$5,000, the things for which it is needed can be classified within these broad categories as follows:

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|-----------------|--|
| 1. Food | 6. Religious Institutions and Charitable Organizations |
| 2. Clothing | 7. Recreation |
| 3. Shelter | 8. Transportation |
| 4. Medical Care | 9. Savings |
| 5. Education | |

The net cash income available to many families is not sufficient to provide the things they need, much less some of the things they want. For some, this is because of their limited resources, but for the majority it is because they are not

making the best use of their resources and taking advantage of their opportunities. For other families the way in which they use their income, rather than the lack of it, seems to be the determining factor in their not having and doing many of the things which make for better family living. In both instances the lack of family planning and good management seem to be limiting factors.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

The above statements are not made as a criticism, but as a basis for looking more objectively toward WHAT A MAJORITY OF THE FAMILIES HAVE, WHAT THEY WANT, WHAT THEY NEED AND WHAT THEY COULD HAVE IN THE WAY OF BETTER LIVING. It seems appropriate, therefore, to first determine what their overall needs, desires and objectives are with respect to family living. Then, if income is a limiting factor, to work out ways and means of INCREASING and MANAGING their income in order that they may have more of the things wanted and needed for better living.

It has already been pointed out that whatever money is available for family living is spent for one or more of the following items: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, recreation, education, church, savings and transportation -- so the first step is to determine what each family needs and desires with respect to each of these items.

It is recognized, of course, that the needs and desires may vary between families, and that some families may be inclined to follow the line of least resistance rather than make much effort to improve their situation. It is felt, however, that if each family had the opportunity of defining what it would take to satisfy their ACTUAL NEEDS and DESIRES with respect to the above items, their statements would read somewhat as follows:

Family Needs and Desires For Better Living

- I. To have the proper food for best of health.
- II. To be well clothed.
- III. To have a comfortable, convenient and attractive home.
- IV. To be healthy.
- V. To take advantage of their educational opportunities.

- VI. To experience full spiritual growth and development.
- VII. To have ample opportunities for recreation.
- VIII. To have convenient transportation facilities.
- IX. To accumulate some wealth.

If the above needs and desires can be accepted as being reasonable, realizing, of course, that all families can not reach them and that more specific objectives are needed to point direction and serve as a guide, the following outline might help to define the many things involved.

Statement of Family Needs and Desires Interpreted Into The
Specific Objectives for Better Rural Living.

FOOD

FOR THE FAMILY TO HAVE THE PROPER FOOD FOR BEST OF HEALTH

Objectives:

1. To know the foods needed, for proper nutrition.
2. To produce and conserve the food supply insofar as practical.
3. To properly prepare, serve and eat the right foods.
4. To buy only those foods that cannot be economically produced.

CLOTHING

FOR THE FAMILY TO BE WELL CLOTHED

Objectives:

1. To have proper clothing for comfort and health.
2. To be appropriately dressed for the occasion.
3. To select clothing and materials on the basis of ENTIRE family needs.
4. To reduce expenses by making, repairing and properly caring for clothing.

SHELTER

FOR THE FAMILY TO HAVE A COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT AND ATTRACTIVE HOME

Objectives:

1. To have adequate rooms with convenient arrangement.
2. To have an attractive home both inside and out.
3. To have adequate and comfortable furnishings.
4. To have those home conveniences essential to better living.
5. To provide for necessary household operation and up-keep.

MEDICAL CARE

FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TO BE HEALTHY

Objectives:

1. To have periodic physical and dental examinations.
2. To arrange for corrective measures as needed.
3. To carry out preventive measures.
4. To be prepared for unforeseen accidents or emergencies.
5. To cooperate with community health programs.

EDUCATION

FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Objectives:

1. To provide suitable reading and other educational material for ENTIRE family.
2. To learn from each other how to do different things.
3. To make possible attendance at college, short courses and other educational activities.
4. To participate in and support local and county school activities.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY TO EXPERIENCE FULL SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Objectives:

1. To attend and participate in religious activities.
2. To have each member make a contribution to the Church.
3. To support charitable organizations and institutions.

RECREATION

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY TO HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION

Objectives:

1. To provide ways and means for family and individual recreation.
2. To participate in community recreation.
3. To encourage the development of hobbies.

TRANSPORTATION

FOR THE FAMILY TO HAVE CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Objectives:

1. To have an automobile or truck available for family use.
2. To keep to a minimum the cost of operation and depreciation.
3. To provide for necessary operation and up-keep.

SAVINGS

FOR THE FAMILY TO ACCUMULATE SOME WEALTH

Objectives:

1. To own a home
2. To use a portion of the family income to increase the business.
3. To follow some plan of systematic savings.

POTENTIAL USES OF THIS TYPE OF OUTLINE AND MATERIAL

Experience has shown that this outline together with suitable material such as slides, has many potential uses. The slides are used to illustrate the many things in family living and to point out not only the need for additional income but also the importance of planning for wise use of income. It can be used very effectively in whole or in part as a basis for planning and method of teaching in a number of

situations such as:

1. County Program Planning
2. Home Demonstration Program Planning
3. Joint Community Meetings
4. Home Demonstration Club Meetings
5. Joint 4-H Club Meetings
6. P. T. A. Meetings
7. Civic Clubs, Chamber of Commerce Meetings, etc.
8. Chapel Meetings in connection with 4-H Club membership drives.

This outline is basic to our Extension Program and the objectives will remain the same throughout the years; therefore, this material has potential use from year to year and can be used as a basis for programs in connection with food, clothing, shelter, etc. or phases of these as a follow up to the original presentation. By following this procedure we would first study family living in its "entirety" then deal with the different phases.