

EXTENSION SERVICE - a Nationwide program established in 1914.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE - established in 1916.

Extension Service budget of \$390,000 is 1.6% of total Middlesex County budget

This office, with a staff of 24 people, has only increased personnel by two people since 1961.

Program areas covered by the Extension Service are:

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

4-H, the youth arm of Extension, exists in 3200 counties across the U.S. as a "no-fee" educational program. We, 4-H Agents, spread this educational opportunity, through a volunteer core, to boys and girls aged 8 - 19 years old, who join to develop themselves through project work in any of 35 subject areas.

Each staff member (4-H Agent) covers an assigned territory, developing and maintaining hundreds in the volunteer core whose leadership reaches thousands of youth in the 54 cities and towns in the County. Equally important is the technical support 4-H Agents provide in our largest project areas.

4-H contacts:	Service visits: 605	Meetings: 117	Calls: 1271
4-H Clubs:	107	Leaders: 232	Members: 1571
4-H Special interest groups:	111	Leaders: 111	Members: 2782
4-H Events:	4-H Fair: 479 exhibited	One-Day Events: 905	Recognition: 844
	4-H Teen Events: 109	4-H Fair attendance: 20,000 +	
Volunteer Development:	Teens: 344	Leaders: 88	Committees: 146

HOME ECONOMICS

Four professional Home Economists provide information and education to individuals, families and community and business organizations throughout Middlesex County on concerns of inflation, energy, food and social concerns.

People reached by direct teaching methods: 4,198

People reached by correspondence courses, exhibits, letter series etc.: 12,828

Untold numbers of people reached by use of mass media, - radio, TV and newspapers.

A volunteer council of county residents assists in some teaching and serves as a link to the community.

Support materials include U.S.D.A. publications, University of Mass. facts sheets, staff-prepared publications. Materials and information are provided at no charge.

AGRICULTURE

Fruit Specialist - serves an Agricultural Industry that exports a food product (apples) outside the Commonwealth. Self sufficient production levels are maintained or increased as a result of educational programs and on-farm visits resulting in a reliable supply of fruit to the Massachusetts consumer. There are 40 apple growers in Middlesex County producing 550,000 bushels annually. A similar service is provided to 100 bush or soft fruit growers who provide consumers through a pick-your-own experience, a broad selection of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and many other lesser known species for use as fresh or preserved fruit products.

Continued contact with mass media provides consumer selection and source information of

AGRICULTURE - Fruit Specialist (cont.)

a seasonal nature to the 1.4 million residents of Middlesex County. Participation in the Northeast Region Agricultural Program by the Fruit Specialist, who works in Essex and Worcester Counties, as well as Middlesex, results in support from other county specialists to Middlesex vegetable and dairy producers free of charge. This free service to Middlesex County is extremely cost effective.

The overall program results in a stabilization of these costs in an economy when other food prices have tended to escalate.

Floriculture Specialist - The floriculture industry ranks as the leading agricultural industry in Middlesex County. The current wholesale value of plants produced and sold in Massachusetts is approximately 40 million dollars annually. Middlesex County, alone, accounts for over 50% of this production and sales. This county also is considered one of the top 13 counties nationally in the production and sale of floricultural products.

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The Floriculture Specialist also services Worcester and Essex Counties. Rising fuel costs, labor, marketing, demand and supply are continual problems for the industry. In response to these problems, the Extension Service and this floriculture program has provided and will continue to develop educational programs to provide the industry with the solutions to some of these difficult problems. The ultimate goal is to maintain the growth of this industry in Massachusetts and provide the consumer in the Commonwealth with a quality product at an economical price.

The Floriculture Specialist deals with over 650 florists and related industry personnel in the three county area.

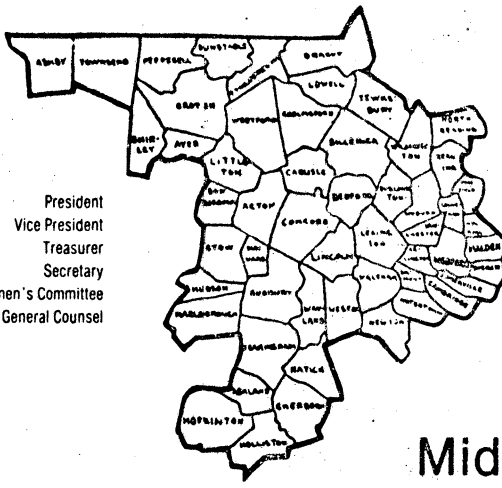
Urban Horticulture Program - This is the Agricultural Extension program which offers direct service to all County residents as contrasted to the commercial farmers in the region. In the last 20 years this program has grown from a sideline of the commercial agricultural educational and advisory service to a full time activity for our agent, plus part time assistance, providing answers and educational programs annually to over 35,000 County residents representing all 54 Middlesex County towns.

This is the County residents' source of unbiased information, based on current research by State and Federal governments, for a multitude of everyday problems related to home food production, pesticide uses and safety, plant and pest identification, home maintenance, landscaping, indoor gardening, etc. Demand for these services has increased steadily with renewed interest in home and community food production, awakening interest of taxpayers in their environment, increasing real estate values, a greater do-it-yourself incentive for home and grounds, and referrals by other agencies such as municipal governments, garden centers etc.

A variety of educational methods including individual counseling by phone, office visits and mail and group programs in the form of lectures, demonstrations and workshops are utilized.

It is our intent to continue to meet these needs of our County residents in the most efficient manner within our limited resources.

Each personnel cut represents the loss of a program. Positions are not interchangeable at the Middlesex County Extension Service.



DIRECTORS

Reading	CHARLES NICKERSON
Littleton	CHARLES ROSSBACH
Frammingham	LEONARD SMITH
Sherborn	CHARLES TULLY
Hudson	MICHAEL WALLACE
Billerica	JAMES WILSON
Holliston	

Holliston
Townsend
Townsend
Dunstable
Lowell
Lexington

YOUNG FARMERS

JOHN CAVE	Melrose
THOMAS CUPP	Lexington

Middlesex County Farm Bureau, Inc.

PARLMONT PLAZA, 13 ALPINE LANE
CHELMSFORD, MASS. 01824
PHONE 256-6711

October 29, 1981

Board of Selectmen/City Council:

The Senate Committee on Counties has proposed a budget for Middlesex County Extension Service in Concord which will severely reduce the number of agricultural agents.

It is very important to agriculture, both Commercial and backyard that the agricultural extension agents be retained. The Middlesex County Extension Service has been ironically under funded for many years. Further reduction will destroy it's effectiveness. The damage to the agricultural infrastructure of the county would have a negative impact on production and farmer moral.

Middlesex County Farm Bureau feels strongly that full funding at the 1981 level should be provided for the Extension Agricultural Agents and the related staff.

Because of the popular drive to drastically reduce the General Middlesex County Government Budget it is necessary that strong support for the Agricultural Agents be demonstrated to our legislators. Therefore we ask you to react to this threat to agriculture by writing your State Senator and Representatives urging them to fund the Middlesex County Extension Service Agricultural Agents and related staff at the 1981 level.

Sincerely,

David W. Hagg

David W. Flagg
President
Middlesex County Farm Bureau

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Comm. from David W. Flagg, Pres., Middlesex
County Farm Bureau re: budget for Middle-
sex County Ext. Service in Concord as pro-
posed by the Senate Comm. on Counties.

In City Council,

November 9, 1981

11/9/81
- Placed on File -