

MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
ESTABLISHED IN 1916

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

Program areas covered by the Extension Service are:

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. In these inflationary times, the information provided enables consumers to make informed cost efficient decisions.

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 Massachusetts fact sheets, staff prepared publications. Materials and information are provided at no charge.

AGRICULTURE

Fruit Specialist - serves an Agricultural Industry that export 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.

Continued contact with mass media provides consumer selection and source information of 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 program serves 40 apple growers producing 550,000 bushels and 100 bush or soft fruit growers providing "pick-your own service".

Floriculture Specialist - The floriculture industry ranks as the leading agricultural industry in Middlesex County, and is considered one of the top 13 counties nationally in the production and sale of floricultural products.

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 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. This program reaches approximately 35,000 people from all 54 cities and towns in the county.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Each proposed personnel cut represents the loss of a program. Positions are not interchangeable in the Middlesex County Extension Service.
- Because of professional qualifications required, there is limited flexibility for filling positions indiscriminately.
- It is possible that the Middlesex Extension Service could be absorbed by the State Extension Service (U. Mass. Amherst), but would require both time to negotiate the intergration administratively, and would require amending Chapter 128, Section 40 of the General Laws, which now precludes such integration.
- The Middlesex County Advisory Board, in it's recent report recommendation was less harsh, recommending a commensurate level of cut backs with the other County agencies, verses 68% in this recommended budget.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Middlesex County Extension Service

University of Massachusetts and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating

105 Everett Street
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
(617) 369-4845, 862-2380

October 20, 1981

Dear Cooperative Extension Client,

Perhaps you are not aware of the recent layoffs at Middlesex County Extension Service - 68% of the staff is presently not working. Therefore, there are no agricultural or home economics services being provided in Middlesex County.

We are writing to inform you that any programs carried on by the Home Economics and Agriculture Departments are currently not available. The scheduled programs affected by these cuts are:

Home Economics

- .Newsletter
- .So-Sew
- .Food Additives Home Study Course
- .Fabric Fair
- .Home Buyer Lecture Series
- .Estate Planning
- .Speaking engagements to community groups

Agriculture

- .Termination of all programs for commercial growers in floriculture and fruit - telephone inquiries and grower visitations
- .Termination of all consumer inquiries and speaking engagements in home horticulture, including pest control and soil testing

The positions specifically eliminated are the total Home Economics Department of 4 professionals, 1 Home Horticulture specialist, 1 Regional Floriculture specialist, 1 Regional Fruit specialist, 2 4H Agents who are Home Economists.

If you would like to see these services restored, you should contact your state senator and representative immediately. Call Citizen Information at 1-800-392-6090 for their names and numbers.

Nancy C. Stutzman
Nancy Stutzman, Head Home Economist

Jane Cappuccio
Jane Cappuccio, Home Economist

Debra Doncov
Debra Doncov, Home Economist

Mary Mulvey Williams
Mary Mulvey Williams, Home Economist

James T. Williams
James Williams, Regional Fruit Spec.

Donna Beusch
Donna Beusch, 4H Club Agent

Susan Staniewicz
Susan Staniewicz, 4H Club Agent

Robert F. Luczai
Robert F. Luczai, Regional Flor. Spec.

H. Thurston Handley
H. Thurston Handley, Home Hort. Spec.

The Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer.

Comm. from the Middlesex County Extension
Service re: Home Economics and Agricultural
programs no longer available due to
recent layoffs.

In City Council,

November 9, 1981

11/9/81

Placed on File