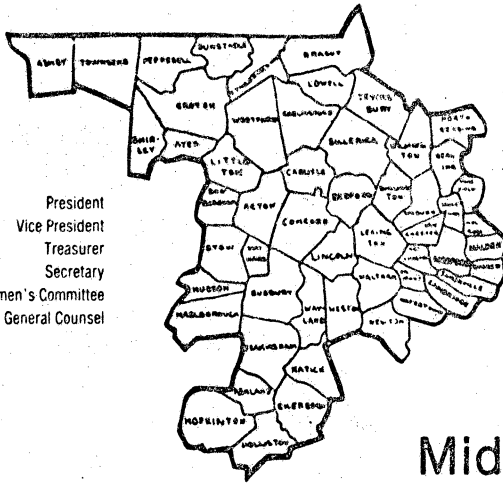


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THOMAS CUPP

Melrose
Lexington

Middlesex County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

Dear Mayor or Chairman,

According to the 1978 Agricultural census there are 654 farms producing forty one million dollars worth of agricultural products and farm related income in Middlesex County. There are hundreds of thousands of gardens. Thousands of 4H'ers and hundreds of thousands of homemakers. All of the above need the services of Middlesex County Extension Service. See enclosure 1 for an outline of Extension Service programs.

Middlesex County Farm Bureau would like to recommend the enclosed 1983 Extension Service Personnel budget which we feel is adequate to maintain a reasonable level of service. In general we believe any reduction from the FY1981 staff levels (also shown in enclosure 2) would be very detrimental to the effectiveness of the Extension Service. We hope you will give special consideration to the two part-time 4H agents whom we feel are an especially good buy. Also we feel the supports staff we have outlined in our enclosure is needed to insure that the talents of the professional staff are effectively utilized.

As you know the appropriating authority for the 1983 Middlesex County budget is the County Advisory Board on which each town has votes proportional to its assessed valuation. We hope you will be able to take an active part in their budgetary deliberations and that you will support the Extension Service budget we have outlined.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie Nickerson

Charlie Nickerson
President
Middlesex County Farm Bureau

CN/dl

encl. 1 & 2

EXTENSION SERVICE - A Nationwide Program Established in 1914.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE - Established in 1916.

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 (exhibited)	479	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 assist in some teaching, and serve as a link to the community.

Support materials include U.S.D.A. publications, University of Mass. fact sheet, 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 a seasonal nature to the 1.4 million residents of Middlesex County.

(over)

AGRICULTURE:

FRUIT SPECIALIST (Cont'd.)

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 floriculture 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 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.

MIDDLESEX EXTENSION SERVICE

PERSONNEL BUDGET

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Professional Staff			
Administrator	1		1
Home Economists	4		4
4H Agents	4+2 1/2		4+2 1/2
Home Horticulture Specialist	1		1
Community Resource Development Specialist	1*		1*
Floriculture Specialist	1		1
Fruit Specialist	1		1
Support Staff			
Administrative Assistant Communications	1		1
Head Executive Assistant	1		1
Principal Clerk	1		1
Senior Clerks	4		2
Mutilith operator	1		1
Custodian	1		0
TOTAL	24		21

19. 3-24
Comm. from Charlie Nickerson, Pres., Middle-
sex County Farm Bureau Re: Middlesex County
Extension Service budget for FY83.

*copy sent to the City Manager
1/20/82 mh*

In City Council,

January 18, 1982

1/18/82

Placed

ON

File -

copy to City Manager