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A Study of Twenty-Three County 4-H Council Organizations In Arkansas

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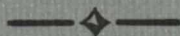
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**A STUDY OF TWENTY-THREE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONS IN ARKANSAS**



**LAWRENCE LEONARD PHILLIPS
1959**

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A STUDY OF TWENTY-THREE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONS IN ARKANSAS

By

Lawrence Leonard Phillips

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science

in the

Graduate Division

of

Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College
Prairie View, Texas

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April, 1959

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Chairman: _____

Committee: _____

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Mrs. Lula Mae Phillips

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Four-H Club work is that part of the Agricultural Extension Service program which serves rural youth."¹ Young people between the ages of 10 and 21, in a community or school organized themselves into a 4-H Club with their own officers, adult leaders, and local program. The primary purpose of 4-H Club work is to develop in boys and girls leadership, initiative, citizenship, and character, and to teach them certain subject matter demonstrations in several phases of farming, homemaking, and related fields. They raise livestock, grow crops, make clothing, learn to cook, improve their personalities and do many other things through their demonstrations. They have group activities such as camps, exhibits, tours, fairs, hikes, rallies, achievement banquets, and social meetings as a part of their club program. Similar activities conducted on a county basis are planned by county 4-H councils. Members learn to cooperate by working and playing together.

The county Extension agents help to organize clubs and supervise their activities. Young people join the club voluntary and they should have a desire to belong to a club. How well the club succeeds depends on many factors, some of which are beyond the members' control. Parents, the adult leader, teachers, and county Extension agents may contribute much to

¹Kenneth S. Bates, "Guide for Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service Workers," Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service, XX (July, 1955), 53-54.

the success of 4-H Club work.

Four-H Club work is a specialized educational enterprise for rural youth. As such, it shares in the objectives common to all educational institutions and movements in its concern with the development of individual abilities and capacities for learning. Intellectual and moral character, qualities of effective citizenship, and the like--all having a definite relationship to the development of the "heart H." Its distinctive educational objectives are:¹

1. To help rural boys and girls develop desirable ideals and standards for farming, homemaking, community life, and citizenship, and a sense of responsibility for their attainment.
2. To give rural boys and girls technical instructions in farming and homemaking, that they may acquire skill and understanding in these fields and a clearer vision of agriculture as a basic industry, and of homemaking as a worthy occupation.
3. To provide rural boys and girls an opportunity to learn by doing through conducting certain farm and home enterprises, and demonstrating to others what they have learned.
4. To instill in the minds of rural boys and girls an intelligent understanding and appreciation of nature and of their environment.
5. To teach rural boys and girls the value of research, and to develop in them a scientific attitude toward the problems of the farm and the home.
6. To train rural boys and girls in cooperative action, that they may increase their accomplishments, and, through associated efforts, may

¹Gertrude L. Warren, "Organization of 4-H Club Work," United States Department of Agriculture Handbook 33 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), 2-3.

better assist in solving rural problems.

7. To develop in rural boys and girls habits of healthful living, to provide them with information and direction in the intelligent use of leisure, and to arouse in them worthy ambitions and a desire to continue to learn, that they may live fuller and richer lives.

8. To demonstrate to rural boys and girls methods designed to improve practices in agriculture and homemaking, to the end that farm incomes may be increased, standards of living improved, and the satisfaction of farm life enhanced.

It was in the year of 1914 that 4-H Club work in Arkansas was extended to Negro boys and girls through the employment of an agent-- H. C. Ray (former county agent and district agent, now retired). He started in Pulaski County, Arkansas with 42 boys and girls. By 1915, the work extended into Lee, Jefferson, Faulkner, and Conway Counties. The work continued to expand and by 1923, all county 4-H Club activities were planned by a county agricultural committee composed of a representative from each community. The community representatives met quarterly, gave the county Extension agents assistance in carrying out the demonstrations at meetings, county marketing, and arranging for community fairs, and club rallies. This organization gave the county Extension agents help in keeping up the organizations of boys' and girls' work as well as the farm men and women.

During the period of 1923 and 1930, the youth county organizations were separated from the adults, however, the writer was unable to find any information on the exact year of the first county 4-H council organization. By 1930, there were 5,000 4-H Club members in Miller, Quachita, Conway, Union, Pulaski, Chicot, Jefferson, Phillips, and Lee Counties. With the increase in 4-H Club activities each county had a county 4-H Council organization.

The enrollment in 1937 was 8,756 members in 253 clubs in fifteen counties. World War II got underway within a few years and the enrollment increased to 16,344 members, in 385 clubs in fifteen counties. It was during this time that club members launched a "feed-a-fighter" program. In 1946, the writer was promoted to the state level to direct the 4-H Club program. The enrollment had increased to 32,269 members, in 699 clubs, in 31 counties. By 1957 many problems confronted club work in Arkansas, and the enrollment dropped to 26,996 club members, in 472 clubs, in 23 counties. This situation prompted the writer to make this study on the governing body of county 4-H Club programs.

Statement of Problem

The objective of this study was to analyze some of the factors relating to County 4-H Council Organization problems in Negro 4-H Club work in Arkansas. In order to find the problems answers to the following questions will be sought.

1. What are some of the methods used in planning a program of work?
2. What are the causes of irregular attendance?
3. To what extent are adult leaders used in the organizations?
4. What are some of the financial aspects of the councils?
5. What are the main weaknesses in the organization?
6. What have the councils contributed to the overall 4-H Club Program?
7. How can the results of the councils be measured?

Importance of the Study and Use of Results

The success of a county 4-H Club program depends upon effective cooperation, planning and action between the agents and councils. In some

places county extension work is operated through three separate county councils--one each for agriculture, home demonstration, and 4-H Club Work.¹

The importance of this study grew out of irregular attendance, lack of finance, inadequate use of leaders, lack of interest and poor methods of evaluating the accomplishments of county 4-H councils.

Albert Hoefer, State 4-H Club Leader in the State of New York, stated that, "Throughout our state we have equally spaced county 4-H Club organizations. How well they serve depends on tall thinking, tall planning, and tall execution for best scientific light shed."² As Hoefer has stated some sound thinking and planning must come from our county 4-H council.

Since the county 4-H council is giving help in the general promotion of club work it is believed that a study of this kind would be an important contribution to the development of 4-H Club work in Arkansas. This should make it possible for county extension agents and others to determine satisfactory plans to follow in the development of council work. Too, the results of this study will be used by the writer as a basis for intelligent planning and action in advising county extension agents on county 4-H councils problems. The results will also be used in formulating a state plan of work.

Scope of the Study

This study involved twenty-three counties where Negro county extension agents were employed as of 1958. The map on page 7 gives a general

¹E. J. Niederfrank, "Main Types of Organizations Found In Extension Work and Related Social Factors," Extension Service Circular, No. 500 (October, 1955), 8.

²Albert Hoefer, "The 4-H Way," New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell 4-H Club Bulletin, No. 83 (1952), 61.

conception where the study was made. Twenty-two counties have a man and woman agent. In one county (Lafayette), only a woman agent is employed.

All of these counties have problems and situations in 4-H Club work, however the procedures in projection are similar. Most of the Negro population is in the eastern part of the state which is called the delta section. The counties, however, are almost evenly distributed as to "bottom" and "hill" counties.

Definition of Terms Used

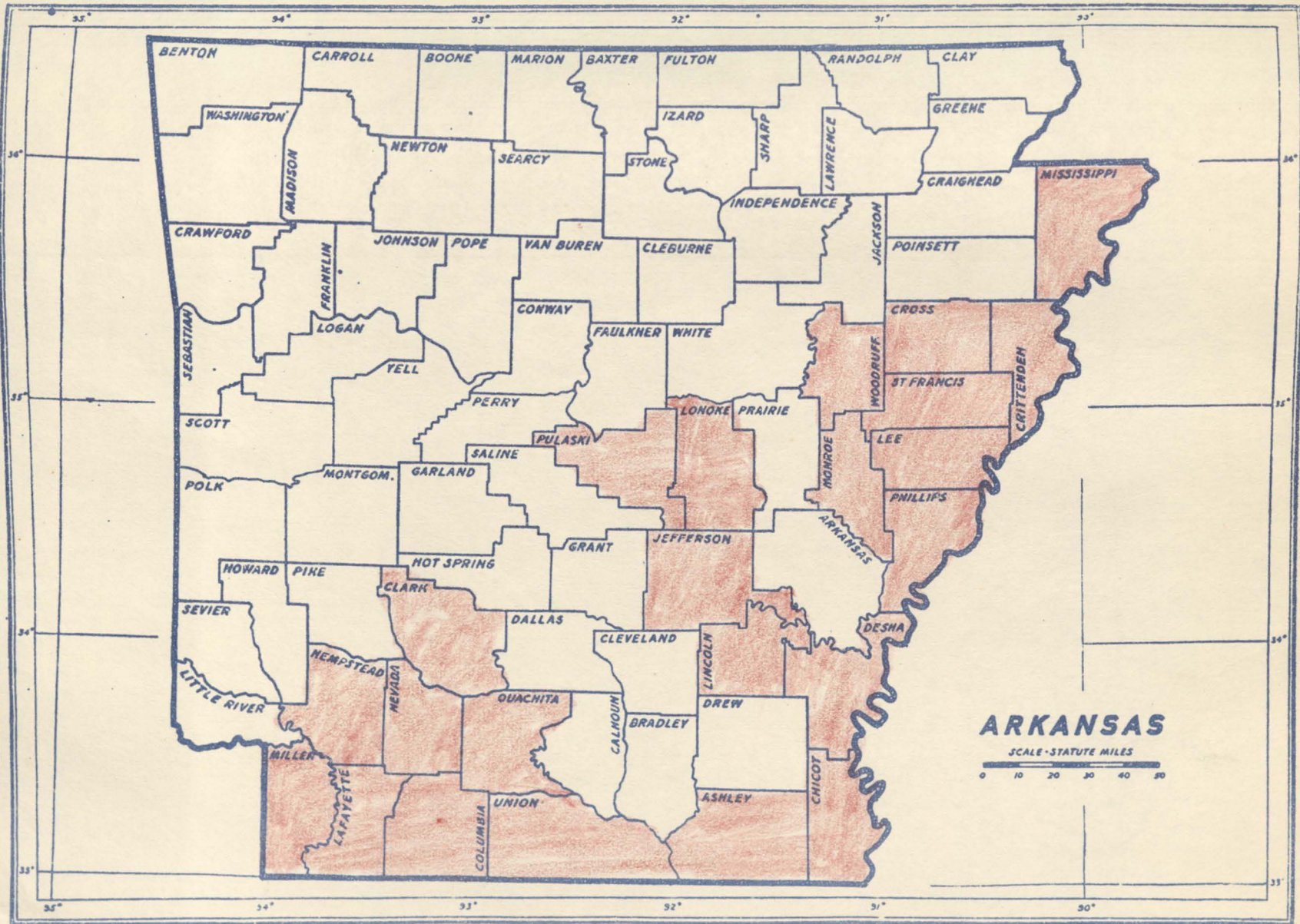
County 4-H Council - usually is composed of the president and secretary of each club, however, some counties include all officers from each club. The definition of County 4-H Council varies in different states.

County Extension Agent - is a term which will be used interchangeably in this study. The term may mean a male or female used separately or jointly because they are responsible to the people in counties for the development and activation of the agricultural program in their respective counties.

Adult Leader will be interpreted to mean a male or female person who works directly with 4-H Club in such phases as the club organization and parliamentary procedures. There are also other types of leaders.

Four-H Club Member used in this study is interpreted to mean a boy or girl between the ages of 10 and 20 regularly enrolled in a 4-H Club on a voluntary basis. Junior members are 10 to 13 and senior members are from 14 to 20 years of age.

Council meeting will be interpreted to mean an informative meeting held by a county 4-H council for the purpose of making plans or to train 4-H Club officers.



Program planning will be interpreted to mean studying and planning to meet the needs of 4-H Club work in a county on a long time as well as a short time basis.

Four-H Club is an organized group of boys and girls with the objective of demonstrating improved practices in agriculture and home economics, and of providing desirable training of themselves.

Procedure Followed in Making the Study

The first step in preparing to conduct the study was to secure all of the available records from the Arkansas State Extension Office. Complete records and history of Negro 4-H Club work in Arkansas from 1914 to 1958 were secured. The next step was to prepared a questionnaire and try it on the state staff personnel to see whether or not it would be workable.

Questionnaires were mailed by the writer to all county Extension personnel in the twenty-three counties to obtain data which were pertinent to the study.

Personal interviews with one adult leader in each county served as a double check on answers given by some of the agents.

It was the assumption of the writer that all of the county Extension agents were honest and gave the writer accurate information as they filled in the survey form.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Much has been written in regards to county 4-H council organizations and on many phases, however, the writer was able to find very little literature closely related to his particular subject. A summary of some of the studies which are related to the problem or have significant bearing thereon are given.

Rutledge,¹ of the Federal Extension Service made a study in Hawkins County, Tennessee on what causes program vitality. He pointed out that there were many factors involved but there were nine which seemed most significant. One was good organization of county club work. The goals, activities, and the calendar of events are planned with the county council of 4-H Club members. Then these are discussed in local club meetings and the clubs set goals and develop local programs accordingly. There is a close integration and relationship of the local club programs and the overall county program. It is a two-way flow. Another factor pointed out was county activities. The program of county wide activities is outstanding and is a means by which local club participants feed right into the county program. There is an average of 174 Four-H county wide activities during the year.

Lanstrip,² Arkansas State 4-H Club Agent, made a study from reports of agents. The results of the study read as follows: "See that the county

¹Lloyd L. Rutledge, "Clues To 4-H Club Program Vitality," Extension Service Review, Vol. 28 (May, 1957), 105.

²D. S. Lanstrip, "Attracting and Holding Local Leaders Is Partly A Matter of Good Human Relations," Extension Service Review, Vol. 27, (May, 1956), 94.

4-H program is such that the leader will be proud to be a part of it.

Help the leader build a club that he or she will want to continue to work with.

Let the leaders and 4-H Club members make the policies, rules, and plans for the county 4-H activities, serve on committees to conduct these 4-H activities, and in every way let it be their program, under the direction of the agents."

In discussing finance in county 4-H council organizations, Jernigan,¹ former Arkansas State 4-H Club Agent, compiled a report from agents' reports. In this report he stated that the year 1920 marks the beginning of the plan for self-financing of own activities by 4-H Clubs. The plan provided for having county councils composed of presidents and secretaries of the 4-H Clubs which met with the county and home agents and developed the budget for a year. Seventeen counties adopted the plan which spread rapidly over the state during the next few years and which continued until the present time. This was the beginning of the development of leadership among 4-H boys and girls.

The following is taken from the annual report of this year on the amount of money planned by county 4-H council and raised by the community clubs:

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Searcy	\$ 250.00
Polk	693.00
Little River	350.00
Boone	375.00

¹W. J. Jernigan, "Brief History of 4-H Club In Arkansas," Report, Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service, No. 7 (November, 1939).

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Columbia	\$ 200.00
Miss	150.00
Cross	300.00
Phillips	300.00
Hot Springs	125.00
Pulaski	550.00
Johnson	200.00
North Logan	215.00
South Logan	340.00
Faulkner	400.00
Sebastian	210.00
Benton	550.00
	<u>\$5208.00</u>

The above amounts planned by these county 4-H councils and raised in the communities show the popularity of the plan and the eagerness of the young people to run and manage their own affairs.

Gardy,¹ pointed out in a table showing the number of Extension organizations in program planning. The table gives a combined tabulation of statistical reports from all states.

¹Amelia S. Gardy, "Extension Activities and Accomplishments," Extension Circular No. 512, 11, U. S. Department of Agriculture, (August, 1957).

EXTENSION ORGANIZATION AND PROGRESS PLANNING

County-Wide Advisory Councils or Committees Assisting Extension Agents With Organization, Planning, and Conduct of Extension Work

Item	Overall or General	Agriculture	Home Demonstration	Young Men and Women	4-H
Number of counties having councils or committees	2,637	2,645	2,802	614	2,975
Number of councils or committees reported	4,330	11,367	7,086	891	7,763
Number of members	110,522	136,424	157,942	11,039	228,075
Number of counties reporting meetings held by councils or committees	2,569	2,604	2,780	598	2,954
Number of meetings held	17,912	32,384	25,437	3,325	32,368
Attendance at meetings	257,412	421,577	529,293	45,150	659,665

Aiton,¹ published a study made on County 4-H Councils in his monthly newsletter. A compilation shows trends over the past four years, taken from annual statistical reports. It is believed to be extremely significant that nearly 96 percent of all counties had 4-H councils or committees in 1956. There has been a marked increase in the total number of councils, their membership, meetings and attendance. There is an average of 24 such councils with memberships averaging 82 per county. Aiton states that they were proud of the progress which state and county 4-H personnel have reported in this area.

Johnson² made a study of the organization and functions of county 4-H councils. His main study consisted of three items, (1) Status of county councils. He found variations in names according to states. (2) Organization of county 4-H councils. Here he made a study of size as this relate to membership, length of service, age of members, and role of the extension agents in these organizations. (3) Functions - this included policies of the organization, selection of county winners, and relationship of councils and participation in state councils.

¹E. W. Aiton, "Ideas About 4-H Clubs and YMW," Federal Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, (October, 1957)

²J. Harold Johnson, "Organization of County 4-H Councils," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Washington University, 1942), p. 2.

CHAPTER III

AN ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Distinguishing Features of the Organization

The county 4-H council usually is composed of the president and secretary of each club. Some counties include all officers of each club as council members. For counties that do not have a leaders' organization the leaders are considered a part of the council. The chief duty of the council is to help plan and carry out the 4-H program for the county. The number of meetings held will vary. A meeting to make plans and one to train club officers should be held early in the club year. Sometimes this is done in one meeting--the officers training section in the morning and the planning section in the afternoon. Some counties have a meeting of the council each month, and others less frequently. Special committees may be appointed to strengthen the program.¹

Officers and Members

Seventy-four percent of councils elected senior 4-H Club members as officers while 26 percent of the councils elected junior members. These officers were elected by two methods. Seventy-four percent were nominated by members of the organization and 26 percent by written ballot method. Those councils using the ballot method required the officers to make a campaign speech not over five minutes long. It was optional whether or not they could use campaign managers.

¹D. S. Lantrip, and Ulyses G. Ward, "4-H Leaders," Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service, Circular No. 556 (April, 1953), 12.

Eighty-seven percent of the councils preferred to have their county 4-H council made up from officers of all local clubs, while 13 percent of the councils permitted any club member to hold an office and be a part of the organization.

The tenure of officers for 70 percent of the councils was one year, 26 percent allowed for the election of club members for a two-year term. The two year term enable the officers to have more experience. When this plan is followed the councils should be in position to perform its functions to much better advantage. Four percent of the councils allowed a tenure of three years.

Meetings

Every county 4-H council meeting presents an opportunity for its members and leaders to work and plan together. The number of meetings and places may vary. Adequate places and regular meetings usually indicate better councils. It was very significant that 43 percent of the councils met in schools, 35 percent met in county extension agents offices, and 26 percent had access to rooms in county courthouses, and four percent indicated meetings at a college and different council rooms.

Table I shows the type of meeting places acquired by councils.

TABLE I

PLACE OF MEETINGS

Place of Meeting	Percent of Counties
School	43
County Extension Agents Office	35
Courthouse	26
Other	4

As shown in Table II seven councils met quarterly, five met eight times per year, and six met every month. The latter two probably held more interest throughout the year in their overall 4-H club work than those with less meetings.

TABLE II

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD BY COUNTY 4-H COUNCILS

Number of Meetings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Number of Councils	1	0	3	7	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	6

Leadership Development

The type of leadership ability displayed by 4-H council officers was surprisingly high. Sixty-five percent of the councils reported that their officers had good leadership ability, however, only 13 percent of the councils had officers rated excellent in ability. Thirty-five percent of the councils indicated that leadership ability could be improved with their officers. No council reports that officer leadership was poor.

To be selected as an officer of a county 4-H council is a great honor and is a wonderful opportunity to help develop good citizenship. Much of the responsibility for the success of a council depends on its officers under the guidance of leaders and agents.

Table III shows the type of leadership displayed by counties.

TABLE III

TYPE OF LEADERSHIP DISPLAYED BY COUNTY 4-H CLUB OFFICERS

Rank in Ability	Number of Councils Reporting
Excellent	3
Good	15
Fair	2
Poor	0
Could be improved	8

Program Planning - How Programs Were Planned

In four percent of the councils the agents planned the program and nine percent of the councils the agents and 4-H club members planned the program. Ninety-one percent of the councils preferred to have more people involved in planning which included agents, 4-H Club members and 4-H Club leaders.

Agenda for Meetings

Table IV shows what the meetings consist of in the way of an agenda during the year. All the councils reported that planning activities were the main items on their agenda in meetings. Ninety-one percent discussed business affairs of the council. Sixty-one percent devoted some time to training officers of local clubs and 57 percent conducted demonstrations which were given by agents or club members. Fifty-seven percent of the councils had recreation or some type of social activities, and 44 percent had discussions on

various topics. Thirty-nine percent had talks by different individuals and 30 percent conducted special programs. Twenty-six percent invited speakers to appear on councils programs.

Only 52 percent of the councils informed all their members of the agenda for each meeting and 39 percent of them notified some which could possibly be the president and secretary of each club. Nine percent "probably" notified the leaders.

TABLE IV
AGENDA FOR MEETINGS BY COUNCILS

TYPE OF AGENDA	PERCENT OF COUNCILS REPORTING
Planning Activities	100
Business	91
Training Club Officers	61
Method Demonstrations	57
Recreation and Social Activities	57
Discussion	44
Talks	39
Special Programs	30
Invited Speakers	26

Functioning Committees

Not all councils made use of committees. This is rather surprising, since the membership of the council is distributed throughout the county and many details must be worked out for consideration at meetings.

Table V shows the different committees used by councils.

TABLE V
COMMITTEES USED BY COUNCILS

Committees Used	Percent of Councils Reported
County 4-H Rally	74
Program	70
Dress Revue	57
Social	52
Fairs and Exhibits	52
National 4-H Club Week	44
Publicity	30
Rural Life Sunday	22
Tours	4
Banquets	4
Yearbooks	4
State 4-H Club Week	4
Tractor Work	4

It was quite obvious that eight committees were used extensively by a majority of the councils. They were committees on County 4-H Rally, Programs, Dress Revue, Social, Fairs and Exhibits, National 4-H Club Week, Publicity, and Rural Life Sunday. Committees like Tours, Achievement banquets, Recreation, Yearbook, State 4-H Club Week and Tractor Work were not too popular with the councils in planning programs of work.

Attendance of Organizational Members - Causes of Irregular Attendance

The study made relative to attendance was on a rating basis because some of the councils were larger than others in membership. Of the twenty three counties reporting it was found that only nine percent of the councils stated that the attendance by all members was excellent. On the other hand, only about half or 52 percent rated their attendance to be good, 35 percent rated the attendance fair, and four percent poor. Those councils falling in the fair and poor brackets gave some contributing factors as shown in Table VI. Two factors had fairly high frequencies. These were lack of transportation and weak leadership in the local 4-H clubs.

TABLE VI

SOME FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FAIR AND POOR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Contributing Factors	Percent of Councils Reporting
Lack of Transportation	39
Weak Leadership	17
Lack of Interest	13
Members Forgot About Meeting	9
Parents Objected Club Members Attending	4

Utilization of Leaders - How Leaders Were Used

It was found that a majority of the councils used their leaders to the best advantage. The writer did not attempt to find how many attended the meetings, but to find how well those who did attend were used.

As shown in Table VII, eighty-seven percent of the councils indicated that leaders were used in planning county-wide program activities. Seventy-four percent assisted in training 4-H Club officers which represent some progress in the utilization of leaders on a county level. Sixty-one percent either supervised or advised the club members attending council meetings. Forty-four percent were delegated certain responsibilities in the council organization. Nine percent of the councils stated that the leaders provided transportation for club members attending council meetings. Four percent said that their leaders just attended.

TABLE VII

UTILIZATION OF LEADERS IN COUNCILS

How Leaders Are Used	Percent of Councils Reporting
Assist in Planning Activities	87
Assist in Training 4-H Club Officers	74
Advise 4-H Club Members	61
Were Delegated Certain Responsibilities	44
Provided Transportation	9
Just Attended Meeting	4

Financial Aspects of Council Organizations - Method Used in Raising Funds

Eighty-seven percent of the councils had a regular treasurer, while only 13 percent did not have one. There were different methods that the councils undertook to raise funds for the promotion of club work in the county.

As shown in Table VIII, three fund raising ideas were the most popular. They were: (1) sponsoring different contest in which all local clubs were asked to participate. Forty-four percent of the councils used this method. It was also revealed that the "King" and "Queen" contest was used more often in this method; (2) representation fee assessment by the council on all local 4-H clubs in the county was practiced by 39 percent of the councils. Total amount varied in each county; (3) selling items were carried on by 35 percent of the councils, an example: selling food or soft drinks at a county 4-H Club rally or county-wide activity.

TABLE VIII

HOW FUNDS WERE RAISED

Methods Used	Percent of Councils Reporting
Contests	44
Club representation fee	39
Selling	35
Donations	26
Socials	17
Admission programs	17

Twenty-six percent of the councils also had individual organizations or companies to make donations. Seventeen percent used county-wide socials and presented programs with admission fees.

Even though the councils work closely with the county extension agents there should be some type of funds to help make the program more attractive and more worthwhile.

How Funds Were Used

Funds were used in practically all cases for the benefit of the club program in the county. Some of these include:

Insurance for delegates to State 4-H Club Week

Achievement banquets

County picnics

County 4-H Club rally

County tours

Educational tours outside county

County contest

Supplies in county-wide meetings

Awards

County camps

Floats

Demonstration material

Trophies and plaques

Expense for delegates to 4-H Club Congress

As shown in Table IX, transportation was the most expensive item with 78 percent of the councils. Most councils referred to transportation to the Annual State 4-H Club Week meeting where all counties have from 20 to 25 delegates in attendance. Achievement banquets and awards were reported by 35 percent of the councils. However, these two items are dependent on each other. Banquets are generally held to honor outstanding members and awards are presented to them during the banquets.

Very few councils paid out funds for tours and supplies.

TABLE IX
HOW FUNDS WERE USED

Purpose	Percent of Councils Reporting
Transportation	78
Achievement banquet	35
Awards	35
Supplies	17
Tours	13
County camps and picnics	9

Some Factors Contributing to Main Weaknesses of Council Organizations

Causes of Weaknesses: Reports from the counties showed nine different causes of weaknesses within the organizations. Heading the list was weak leadership among adult 4-H Club leaders. Following weak leadership was lack of interest on the part of 4-H Club members and adult leaders. Irregular attendance was listed next. This also included all members of some organizations. Lack of transportation for members of some organizations completed the four top causes. Weak leadership, lack of interest and transportation were some of the main causes of poor attendance as was shown in Table VI.

Table X gives the number of counties reporting their weaknesses. Some counties listed one or more items.

TABLE X

SOME FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MAIN WEAKNESSES OF COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS

Main Causes	Number of Counties Reporting
Weak 4-H adult leadership	8
Lack of interest	7
Poor attendance	6
Lack of transportation	5
Not enough meetings held	2
Not enough delegated	1
Responsibilities and committee work	1
Poor program planning	1
Lack of interest on part of parent	1
Need more county-wide activities	1

Results From Overall Program

Each county was asked to list one or more results of the county 4-H Club program. These contributions were few. Nine counties reported that interest in leadership was stimulated beyond local level. Seven counties pointed out that much was done in planning county-wide activities relating to 4-H Club work. Five counties stated that there was an increase in participation on a local and county level.

Table XI shows all contributions as reported. It appears to the writer that the contributions were surprisingly few.

TABLE XI

COUNCILS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OVERALL 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

Contributions	Number of Counties Reporting
Stimulated interest in leadership beyond local level	9
Planned better county-wide activities	7
Increased participation in local and county activities	5
Created competitive interest in club work	3
Provided transportation to out-of-county activities	2
Provided a better understanding of 4-H Club work among members	1
Purchased supplies	1

Measuring Accomplishments of Councils

It was the writer's object to find some definite means used by councils in measuring their accomplishments.

Table XII shows the various methods used in measuring accomplishments of councils. Six counties listed "participation of members" as their method. Five counties reported they checked on "attendance." Four counties were more specific and stated that they used questionnaires and three reported that a review was made on records of the council. Three counties indicated that some type of check was made on the progress of the council each year, and three made observation of overall progress. One county made a comparative check with adjoining county 4-H councils. However, this was probably done by the county extension agents. Three counties made no efforts to measure accomplishments of the councils.

TABLE XII

MEASURING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COUNCILS

Method	Number of Counties Reporting
Participation of council members	6
Check on attendance	5
Questionnaire	4
Check progress made each year	3
Observation of overall program	3
Review past records of council	2
Make comparison with other councils	1
No evaluation	3

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The following is a summary of the data presented in Chapter III:

1. Older 4-H Club members were preferred over junior members for county 4-H council officers.
2. A majority of the councils membership were officers and leaders of each club.
3. Sixty-five percent of the councils had officers whose leadership ability rated good. However, 35 percent needed to be improved.
4. There were some differences in the number of meetings held by councils per year. Thirty percent of the councils met on an average of four times per year. Twenty-six percent met each month, and twenty-two percent met eight times.
5. Most of the councils had the school as their regular meeting places.
6. Ninety percent of the councils had more people involved in program planning which included the county extension agents, 4-H Club members and leaders.
7. There were only three main items usually accomplished on the agenda. They were: (1) planning activities; (2) business, and (3) training 4-H Club officers.
8. In program planning only two committees were used extensively. They were county 4-H rally and program committees.

9. Only about half or 52 percent of the councils rated their attendance good. The contributing factors for the others were due to lack of transportation on the part of the members and weak adult leadership.

10. Those leaders who did attend council meetings were used mostly in planning programs of work and training 4-H Club officers.

11. Eighty-seven percent of the councils had a treasury, and most of the funds were raised from three main sources--4-H Club assessment fees, contests sponsored by the councils and selling items.

12. Most of the funds raised were expended on transportation for club members attending state 4-H Club activities.

13. It was found that the main weaknesses of the councils were due to weak adult leadership and poor attendance of council members.

14. The councils did not make any worthwhile contribution of importance to the overall program.

15. Only four councils had a definite method of measuring their accomplishments.

Conclusions

The study revealed that there was a wide variation in the operation and procedures of the twenty-three county 4-H councils in Arkansas. Even with the differences no sound accomplishments of the councils could be recognized as projecting an effective program.

It seems that the councils could make some improvements with the assistance of county extension agents, state workers, qualified leaders and active and alert membership.

Recommendations

The writer makes the following recommendations for the county 4-H

Councils in Arkansas:

1. Consider the tenure of two years for officers of the council.
2. Four-H Clubs should select officers with good leadership ability so as to have better representation in council meetings.
3. There was a variation in the number of meetings held. Meetings should be held at least four times per year. Where there is only business involved and a minimum of 6 if training 4-H Club officers is a part of the meetings.
4. Committees can easily take care of detail matters and make reports of their findings to councils as a whole. Additional committees could be used, especially a budget or finance committee. An executive committee would reduce the amount of time lost during regular council meetings.
5. Adult 4-H leaders need motivation and a strong training program for them should be injected in the council program to get better attendance and stronger leaders.
6. Raising funds for 4-H Club work can be harmful especially with certain contests held each year. Popular contests should be staggered.
7. Each council should be able to pin point one or more specific items resulting from its contributions.
8. Progress is likely to be more rapid when council members are informed as to where they stand in relation to objectives. Some tool should be used to measure the accomplishments of councils.
9. A county council should endeavor to balance their programs during the year so there is no real top heavy phase.
10. All councils should see to the physical comfort of the members by adequate meeting places and facilities. To accomplish this the county extension agents would be responsible.

Suggested Procedure For County 4-H Council Meeting

Purpose of meeting: To plan a program of work for the year.

Place: County extension agents responsible for an adequate and comfortable place to accommodate the council members. Equipment to use for the day should be available.

Presiding officers: The president should preside, if absent, other officers in line should preside.

Lunch: If the meeting continues beyond the noon hour, plans should be arranged to have lunch together. Some type of recreation may be conducted by the county recreation leader.

Roll call: The secretary calls the name of each 4-H Club in the county for present or absent.

Procedures:

I. Purpose of the meeting given by the presiding officer.

II. To plan a program of work for the year and set up goals to be accomplished.

The following outline may be helpful in planning the program of work:

1. Enrollment and completion. Goals for each club reported by the council member.
2. Selection of projects (led by county extension agents).
3. Importance of effective work and completing records (discussed by county extension agents).
4. Monthly club meetings--suggestions on conducting effective and successful meetings.

III. Community Activities

1. Club meetings
2. Tours, workshops, socials and picnics
3. Exhibits

IV. County Activities

1. Leader and officer training meeting. Set date.
2. County 4-H Club rally
3. Judging activity
4. Tractor driving activity
5. Dress revue
6. Participation at fair
7. Workshops
8. Achievement Day
9. County 4-H Club banquet

V. State Activities

1. Four-H Club Week
2. Four-H Club Congress

VI. Other

1. Regional 4-H Club Camp

Each council member should be appointed on some committee of the council.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

610½ West Ninth Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
April 1958

To All Assistant Extension Agents
for Negro Work:

We are all aware of the changes taking place in all organizations. This is particularly true of methods in doing Extension work. Farm and Home Development is one with which we are familiar. Changes in other methods are gradually being brought to us. However, it will take time to make adjustments in accepting these changes.

Just recently, Mr. Phillips sent out a questionnaire that we hope you will answer very frankly. Since no names are requested, you are free to answer without giving thought to offending anyone. Your honest opinion is what is wanted.

It is hoped that this material will help to make 4-H Club work more effective in our effort to meet the challenge.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Fannie Mae Boone
Negro Home Demonstration Agent

T. R. Betton
Negro Agricultural Agent

FMB:TRB:pmr

Appendix B

610½ West Ninth Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
March 1958

IMPORTANT

To All Assistant Extension Agents
for Negro Work:

I am enclosing a questionnaire relating to county 4-H council organizations. Information obtained from you on the questionnaire will be used for a thesis this summer. After the material has been compiled, I hope that it will be of some value to the 4-H club program.

I would appreciate your returning the questionnaire to me in the self-addressed envelope (enclosed) on or before April 21. Your frank and honest opinion, and your cooperation will also be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

L. L. Phillips
Negro 4-H Club Agent

LLP:pnr
Encls.

Appendix C

QUESTIONNAIRE

DIRECTIONS: PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY, PICK OUT THE CORRECT ANSWER OR ANSWERS AND PLACE AN "X" IN THE SPACE FOLLOWING IT: LIST ITEMS WHERE THEY ARE REQUIRED.

1. Do you have a regular organized county 4-H council?

Yes _____ No _____

2. How many meetings are normally held annually?

1____ 2____ 3____ 4____ 5____ 6____ 7____ 8____ 9____ 10____ 11____ 12____

3. Where are the meetings usually held?

a. Agents' office _____ c. Courthouse _____
 b. School _____ d. Church _____
 e. Other (Specify) _____

4. What 4-H Club members make up the structure of the county 4-H council organization?

a. Local club officers _____ b. Any members _____

5. Would you say that the county 4-H council officers display the following type of leadership:

a. Excellent _____ c. Fair _____
 b. Good _____ d. Poor _____
 e. Could be improved _____

6. How are 4-H council officers elected?

a. Nominations _____ b. Nomination committee _____
 c. Written ballot _____

7. What is the average tenure held by 4-H council officers?

a. One year _____ b. Two years _____ c. Three years _____

8. Each year do you have more junior or senior members holding offices in the 4-H council?
- a. Seniors _____ b. Juniors _____
9. Does your 4-H council have a treasurer? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, what method or methods are used to raise funds (Specify)
- a. (Specify) _____

- b. How are the funds used? _____

10. Who plans the program for the year?
- a. Agents only _____ c. Agents and 4-H club members _____
b. 4-H club members only _____ d. Agents, 4-H club members and leaders _____
11. What do the meetings usually consist of?
- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. Business _____ | f. Training officers _____ |
| b. Planning activities _____ | g. Discussion _____ |
| c. Talks _____ | h. Method demonstrations _____ |
| d. Invited speakers _____ | i. No planned agenda _____ |
| e. Special programs _____ | j. Recreation and social activities _____ |
12. How many of the members know what the agenda is for each meeting?
- a. All _____ b. Some _____ c. Few _____ d. None _____
13. Check the special committees that exist in the county 4-H council.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. National 4-H Club Week _____ | f. Fairs and Exhibits _____ |
| b. Rural Life Sunday _____ | g. Programs _____ |
| c. 4-H Club Rally _____ | h. Publicity _____ |
| d. Dress Revue _____ | i. Others (Specify) _____ |
| e. Social _____ | |
14. Does the 4-H council ever participate in parades with
- a. Floats _____ b. Fair exhibits _____
15. How would you rate the attendance?
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| a. Excellent _____ | c. Fair _____ |
| b. Good _____ | d. Poor _____ |

16. If you checked Fair or Poor in the preceding question, would you say that one or more of the following items contributed to such attendance?

- a. Parents would not permit children to attend for certain reasons _____
- b. Club members knew little about the organization _____
- c. Lack of transportation _____
- d. Weak leadership _____
(4-H Club Leader)
- e. Forgot about meeting dates _____
- f. Lack of interest _____

17. To what extent are the 4-H club leaders used in the county 4-H council organization?

- a. Just attend _____
- b. Assist in the planning _____
- c. Assist in training 4-H club members _____
- d. Delegated certain responsibilities _____
- e. Provide transportation only _____
- f. Advise club members _____

18. List one or more items that you think the county 4-H council organization contributed to the overall 4-H program in the county:

19. What do you consider to be some of the main weaknesses of the county 4-H council organization?

20. List the method or methods you use to evaluate the results of the county 4-H council organization:

