

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF CIVIL AND DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

TO: County Civil Defense Directors or Other County Leaders

The Civil Defense Director of your State has advised us to mail you advance materials of the OCDM Rural Civil Defense Program. These materials will reach you about December 1.

A mailing of program kits will follow in about six weeks. The purpose of the first mailing is to give you advance information on the program so you may organize and train for use of the final kits. Feel free to reproduce this material as you like. It may be revised by you or your local speaker to better fit his local conditions or mode of presentation.

Of special importance, we feel, is the organization of your county and local leaders to assist you. A method for this is explained in the enclosed summary and in texts included in the advance materials.

We wish you every success in your use of the program.

Sincerely,



W. L. Shaffer, Director
Rural Activities Office

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF
OCDM RURAL CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM

Concept

1. You should receive about December 1 the advance materials for use in training leaders in the Rural Civil Defense information program. Similar final materials for informing families will arrive about January 25, 1960.
2. Most farm organizations normally have meetings in the wintertime to discuss topics of current interest. This information program is designed to fit into this pattern.
3. This program has two main objectives:
 - a. to inform rural families (farm and non-farm) about the radiation threat and defenses to it; and
 - b. to induce them to build family fallout shelters and take measures to protect their livestock.
4. It is an opportunity for you to gain the understanding and support of the rural communities in your County Civil Defense Program.

Support

5. The various national farm organizations (Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmers Union, etc.) support this program and will recommend to members of local groups that they incorporate this program in their normal winter discussion group meetings.
6. The American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities has endorsed this kind of program.
7. The Rural Committees of the National Association of State and Territorial Civil Defense Directors and the U. S. Civil Defense Council support this program, as well as the National Association of County Officials.

How to Organize

8. We suggest that you first form a committee composed of rural leaders to support you and to help you carry out this program. From this group you can get leaders to learn the material and present it to the public, as well as to their own organizations.

9. Most State Directors of Civil Defense will form State-level committees composed of comparable types of rural people.

Training of your Leaders

10. Most State Civil Defense Directors will attempt to get each State Land-Grant College Extension Service to set up a one- or two-day training session for rural leaders, using the materials in this kit. County extension personnel should be used insofar as feasible, and you should recruit other rural leaders (government or non-government) to attend these training sessions as they are scheduled.
11. If the Extension Service of the State Land-Grant College in your State does not set up a training session, then it will be up to the County Director or Rural Leader to train his own leaders by using the material in this kit. Many high school physics teachers have radiological instruments supplied by OCDM and many Soil Conservation Agents have received training in radiological defense; these kinds of specialists should be induced to act as instructors for the training of other leaders.

Scheduling the Meetings

12. This program proposes four meetings of approximately two hours each. After your leaders are trained, you should begin this information program about February 1, 1960.
13. The topics for discussion are as follows:
 - First Meeting -- What are the radiation problems and available defenses?
 - Second Meeting -Shelters.
 - Third Meeting - Radiation effect on livestock, crops, and soil.
 - Fourth Meeting- Family-community civil defense cooperation.
14. The purpose of the last discussion meeting is to help County Civil Defense obtain understanding and support of rural people.
15. For use with other groups, service clubs, etc., the program can be shortened by omitting any of the above sessions to meet the particular interest of the group involved.

Revisions

16. Please forward any sample questions, comments, or corrections which you feel the material requires to the Rural Activities Office, OCDM, Battle Creek, Michigan, if possible, by December 9, 1959.

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Thanks

The Civil Defense Museum