

DAIRY PRODUCTION - PROJECT I

- Subject: Cooperative Cow Testing Association
(Reference - "Five-Year Program" - pages 28 to 30)
- Object: The organization of local cooperative associations of dairy farmers for the purpose of employing a tester who shall keep "records of production" on their dairy herds, for the period of at least one year.
- Cooperation: Extension agents, local dairy organizations, and individual dairy farmers.
- Requirements: 1. At least 20 farmers with herds averaging at least 15 cows each, all within a radius of 25 miles.
2. A definite plan of organization with a contract membership form.
(See Extension Bulletin No. 92 for suggestions)
- Procedure: 1. The County Agent will send circular letters and Extension Bulletin No. 92 to a list of all prospective members of the association to be organized.
2. The County Agent will determine from among the leading dairy farmers the desire for such an association.
3. If there are sufficient prospective members in the territory as well as a demand for the project, the County Agent will request help from the Dairy Extension Office. A thorough canvas will then be made of the dairy farmers, and also a complete "sign-up" for the association.
4. When sufficient membership contracts have been secured a meeting will be called of all members and the organization completed.
5. See Bulletin No. 92, pages 25 to 29 for details of organization plans.

The Dairy Extension Office:

1. Will assist in the "sign-up" canvas of the dairy farmers.
2. Assist in perfecting the organization.
3. Assist in selecting the cow tester.
4. Assist in supervising the work of the tester - see Project II.

DAIRY PRODUCTION - PROJECT II

Subject: Supervision of Cow Testing Association Work.

Need of Project: The need of setting forth this as a definite project is to clarify the responsibilities of the Extension Service to the Cow Testing Associations.

The County Agent:

1. The organization and operation of a cow testing association in your county is and should be one of your own extension projects and not just something that happens to be in your county.
2. If this project is your project, then the success or failure of it rests with you, assisted by the Dairy Extension Office.

The Success of a Cow Testing Association

Depends on:

1. The efficiency of the tester employed.
 - a. The County Agent should at all times know whether or not the tester is rendering efficient service. The project is yours, the members are your cooperators, so why not keep up with both?
 - b. If the tester needs subject matter instruction, request help from the Dairy Extension Office.
 - c. More often, however, the failure of a tester is due to carelessness or indifference. If you cannot inspire him to better service, he should then be replaced by one better qualified for the job.
2. Publicity of the results in your C. T. A.
 - a. Each month the testers are required to make up a monthly report. A copy of such reports will be furnished you either by the tester or the Dairy Extension Office. Such material will furnish data for a regular news article.
 - b. Every association should endeavor to have a printed annual report. The work of getting up such a report will require the combined efforts of the County Agent, Cow Tester, Members, and the Dairy Extension Office.
3. New Members.

In certain counties a C. T. A. is started with a minimum number of members, thus not allowing the tester a full month's work, which, of course, is no encouragement for him to do his best work. When such conditions prevail the county agent should feel the responsibility of securing new members for the association and efforts to fill the association should continue until the association has a full month's work (26 days). When there occurs a loss of members during the year, the membership should be built up for the same reason as above mentioned.

DAIRY PRODUCTION - PROJECT III.

- Subject: Better Dairy Sires
(Reference - "Five-Year-Program"
pages 28 to 30).
- Object: To improve the dairy cattle in Virginia by
the use of purebred dairy sires to replace
"scrub" sires and by the use of better dairy
sires where inferior sires are now used.
- Procedure: The plan of this project will be based on the
"Better Sires Project for 1926" as conducted
jointly by the V. P. I. Dairy Extension Office
and Animal Husbandry Extension Department.
- Methods: The use of better dairy sires will be encouraged
through - publicity, better bull campaigns,
personal solicitation of scrub sire owners,
sales of purebred dairy bulls, etc.

The County Agent: For best results the County Agent should plan
for some definite work with this project. If
an intensive campaign is desired it will be
necessary to make plans several months in
advance. Ask for assistance from the Dairy
Extension Office as well as other cooperating
agencies, as soon as you decide on your plan
of work.

The Dairy Ex-
tension Office:

Will assist the County Agent in planning his
work for this project.

Will assist during any intensive campaign for
promoting the project.

Will furnish publicity.

Will aid in selecting purebred dairy bulls.

Let us know your plans for this project as soon as you can. We will try
to be of service to you during 1926.