

1. Revise system of scoring competition between clubs, with enrollment and completions having high rating, used to determine county banner winner. (January)
2. Interest each club in entering the county talent contest and enter county winners in district contest. (March)
3. Raise funds to finance one IFYE delegate and arrange to act as host to two delegates to be received in return. (February - March)
4. Enter three calves in the baby beef show and sale. (April)

5. Continued use of unwise cutting practices.
6. Lack of markets for particular products, especially low-grade hardwoods.

D. Extension program of education

1. Conduct an educational program to acquaint landowners with opportunities that are available through proper management.
2. Set up two woodland mangement demonstrations. (Aug.)
3. Conduct forestry tour to show what can be expected through carrying out particular practices. (Sept.)

IX. 4-H Club Work

A. Situation

1. Enrollment is low in proportion to children of club age available.
2. Participation in more activities needed.

B. Goals for 1959

1. Increase enrollment to 75 members.
2. Maintain interest and enrollment until assistance from club agent is available.

C. Problems

1. Assistant Agent not available to assume some of the responsibility of the club program.
2. Organization out of school makes enrollment more difficult.
3. Transportation to and from meetings requires more cooperation on part of parents.

D. Extension program of education

5. Cooperate with The Petersburg Feeder Calf Producers Association and arrange for farmers to sell their calves through this organization.

VIII. Forestry

A. Situation

1. About 72% of the total land area is forested with some form of growth.
2. Nearly 30% of the forest land area is held by companies and individuals for forest product purposes.
3. Considerable emphasis has been placed on tree planting in recent years, with over one million trees planted annually.
4. The estimated annual growth per acre is 200 board feet, while the potential annual growth is 500 board feet, with proper management.

B. Goals for 1959

1. Increase the annual growth per acre to 225 board feet per acre.
2. Provide for the establishment of a desirable stand of trees, when cutting is made, through such means as scarifying, deadening, leaving seed trees or planting, on thirty farms.
3. Organize a County Forestry Club.

C. Problems

1. Lack of capital on part of farmers.
2. Long time investment before cash returns.
3. Lack of confidence as to future market and price of product.
4. Lack of know-how as to what should be done and how to do it on individual acres.

3. Supply suggestions for establishing and maintaining lawns, prepared by the agent, to those requesting this.
4. Use lawns already established under the agents supervision as demonstrations of what may be done.

VII. Livestock

A. Situation

1. While there is no great change in the livestock situation in recent years, the number of beef cattle and beef cattle producers is gradually increasing.
2. More small flocks of sheep are appearing.
3. Some dairy farmers go out of business most every year and others go in, which keeps the number of cows and the number of farms about the same.
4. Hog production has been slightly increased during the past two years.

B. Goal for 1959

1. Establish a Livestock Committee and develop a program of work in connection with livestock production.

C. Problems

1. Disease
2. Housing
3. Management

D. Extension program of education

1. Recommend methods of preventing diseases and parasites.
2. Answer all calls to diagnose diseases.
3. Teach individuals how to vaccinate their own animals.
4. Arrange for a professional sheep shearing team to come to the county if this service is requested.

3. Do the engineering required for grading locations, assist in laying out building and provide some supervision in construction.

VI. Landscaping

A. Situation

1. Grounds around our office building have been graded, drive ways and parking area laid out and lawn seeded.
2. No trees or shrubs have been planted.
3. The agent may expect a number of requests for assistance in landscaping which may be divided into two groups.
 - a. Those desiring to renovate old lawns and relocate driveways and shrubs.
 - b. New builders who desire to establish driveways, lawns and plantings.

B. 1959 Goals

1. Collect locally and plant shrubs and trees around office building.
2. Either secure the required information and assistance for those requesting service or do the job for them.

C. Problems

1. Available information, especially in connection with lawns, is prepared for the state and is not always best for a particular county.
2. Specialists and other trained personnel not available at the time needed.

D. Extension program of action

1. Collect the material and supervise jail labor in planting trees and shrubs around office building.
2. Assist in preparing landscape plans when requested.

3. Secure the cooperation of two farmers in the production of certified Va. 56-R peanuts as a source of pure seed for other producers in the county.
4. Encourage farmers to lime and fertilize their peanut fields in keeping with soil analysis reports. (Feb. - May)
5. Encourage better cultural practices through circulars, news articles, radio and television programs. (Feb.-May)

V. Farm Buildings

A. Situation

1. Livestock numbers, especially beef cattle, have increased on many farms, creating a need for feed storage and shelter.
2. Interest is developing in the construction of hog farrowing and market hog feeding houses.
3. Poultry production, especially in laying flocks, is rapidly expanding.

B. 1959 Goals

1. Determine needs and requirements of interested farmers.
2. Offer the plans service rendered by Agricultural Engineering Department and that of the County Agent.

C. Problems

1. Plans not available to meet many requirements.
2. Most structures now being built are pole type and farmers or most carpenters are not experienced in this type structure.

D. Extension program of action

1. Secure plans where available from the Agricultural Engineering Department
2. Draw plans and work out bills of material where necessary.

5. Stress the production of quality tobacco, disease and nematode control through news items, circulars and television and radio programs. (Jan. through June)

IV. Peanuts

A. Situation

1. The average yield of peanuts varies up and down, according to the season, with a gradual upward trend. The average yield is low in comparison to larger producing counties in the state.
2. Previous to the past two years, little had ever been done to improve yields.
3. It has been the custom for farmers to apply lime on peanuts year after year, regardless of needs as indicated by soil tests.
4. Before this year, there has never been an adequate source of improved variety of certified seed available.

B. 1959 Goal

1. Increase the average yield of peanuts to 1450 pounds per acre.

C. Problems

1. Improper liming and fertilization
2. Improper cultivation
3. Weed, disease and insect control

D. Extension program of education

1. Hold educational meeting for growers. (February)
 - a. Give special attention to nematode control.
2. Work with Agronomy Committee in setting up three plowing and cultivating demonstrations, designed to control stem rot. (March - May)

B. 1959 Goals

1. Maintain production at a high level with emphasis on quality.
2. Check the spread of blackshank by crop rotation and control losses by use of recommended resistant varieties on infested fields.
3. Control root knot nematodes by use of Ky. 31 fescue in rotation.
4. Encourage production of better quality tobacco by use of recommended varieties and proper fertilization.

C. Problems

1. Losses on account of disease and nematodes
2. Poor quality tobacco
3. Improper use of varieties

D. Extension program of education

1. Furnish varietal recommendations to growers. (January)
2. Encourage the production of better quality tobacco through soil sampling and specific fertilizer and lime recommendations. (January - February)
 - a. Prepare and furnish growers with recommendations designed to encourage larger yields of better quality tobacco. These to be delivered along with reports on soil samples. (Jan. - June)
3. Encourage the use of blackshank resistant varieties on infested fields on farms where rotations cannot be used and discourage the use of resistant varieties on non infested fields in the hope of avoiding blackshank. (January through May)
4. Advise growers to seed Ky. 31 fescue on tobacco land in the fall to leave for one or two years in the rotation to reduce nematode population.

B. 1959 Goal

1. Increase average yield per acre to 50 bushels.

C. Problems

1. Planting non-adopted varieties
2. Improper fertilization
3. Improper spacing
4. Improper cultivation (cultivating too deep)

D. Extension program of education

1. Provide farmers and seedsmen with a list of recommended varieties (January - February)
2. Set up three result demonstrations in which the recommended amount and analysis of fertilizer will be used. (April)
3. Cooperate with the Agronomy Committee in establishing two result demonstrations in proper and improper cultivation. (May)
4. Publicize recommended varieties, fertilization, spacing and cultivation through dealers, the press, circulars and radio and television programs. (Feb., March, April)
5. Hold field meeting at demonstrations. (July-August)

III. Flue-cured tobacco

A. Situation

1. Flue-cured tobacco is our most important cash crop and is being grown on about two-thirds of our farms.
2. Blackshank is spreading to farms throughout the county with one or more fields infected on about one-third of the farms.
3. The average yield per acre in the county is at a high level, compared to other producing counties in the state.

5. Encourage the seeding of Ky. 31 fescue in a rotation on 10% of flue-cured tobacco fields, which may be used for pasture.

C. Problems

1. Inadequate fertilization
2. No provisions for rotational grazing
3. Neglect of insect control measures
4. Lack of sufficient open land

D. Extension program of education

1. It is reasonable to assume, that in view of work already done, that most farmers know how to establish first class pastures. Therefore, the greatest need appears to be to increase acreage and in care and management of pastures already established.
2. Encourage adequate pasture fertilization by establishing three pasture fertilizer demonstrations. (Feb. - March)
3. Establish three rotational grazing demonstrations. (May)
4. Set up three demonstrations in alfalfa weevil control by use of granular form of heptachlar. (Feb. - March)
5. Set up three supplementary pasture demonstrations with the use of sweet sudan grass and pearl millet, seeded on various dates to extend grazing period. (May-June)
6. Develop a crop rotation system on four farms designed for more intensive use of available land, to provide more pasture and forage crops. (July - August)
7. Publicize methods of providing more pasture and forage crops through news items, circulars, field meetings, tours, television and radio programs.

II. Corn

A. Situation

1. Corn is produced on practically every farm in the county, with the total acreage decreasing and the average yield increasing.

A Forestry Committee was organized last fall. A forestry program was developed.

A Livestock Committee will be organized this year with a program developed in this field.

ACTIVITIES

I. Pasture and Forage Crops

A. Situation

1. There is not a sufficient acreage of improved pasture in the county to properly maintain the present livestock numbers.
2. It is recognized that pasture is our cheapest source of feed.
3. An intensive campaign in pasture improvement has been conducted in the county in recent years.
4. Damage caused by alfalfa weevil has caused some change to red clover and orchard grass for a hay supply.
5. Expenditures for feed requirements has represented an important item of farm expense. However, due to an excellent season last year and to more careful planning, feed supplies were greatly improved.

B. 1959 Goals

1. Increase improved pasture to 10,500 acres.
2. Increase alfalfa to 800 acres.
 - a. Controll weevil on established acreage.
3. Encourage wider use of red clover and orchard grass as a hay crop in the county.
4. Establish supplementary pasture of sweet sudan grass or pearl millet on 35 per cent of the dairy and livestock farms.

According to the last census report, there were 1636 farms in the county, comprising 58.8% of the land area, the average size of which was 116.7 acres.

Agriculture is the county's leading industry. Flue-cured tobacco is the chief source of income while peanuts rank second. Dairy products, hogs, cattle and poultry supply a very considerable income on many farms. Lumber and pulpwood are important in the county's economy.

CHANGES INFLUENCING PLANS

Poultry production, in the form of laying flocks, is increasing rapidly in the county. Six houses were constructed last year providing space for 1200 to 1500 hens each and two more are under construction now with at least one more planned.

There is more interest in forest improvement practices, especially in planting seedlings on open land and cut over areas.

There is keen interest in new crop varieties, especially peanuts, soybeans and tobacco.

Blackshank in tobacco is causing serious damage on many farms in the county and nematode conditions more prevalent.

Small inefficient farms are either going out of operation or being consolidated with larger units through purchase or rental agreements.

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

A program planning meeting was held two years ago with a representative of the Board of Supervisors, farm organizations, L-H Club leaders and farmers interested in the county's welfare and community activities in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to determine how far our farmers had advanced in their operations as compared to farmers in other counties and to determine the problems and needs of our people.

An agronomy committee was organized and strengthened last year by adding two more members. A county agronomy program was developed and has been revised to meet changing conditions.

GENERAL SITUATION

Dinwiddie County lies southwest and adjacent to the city of Petersburg. About one-third of the county is in the upper Tidewater Section and the other two-thirds is in the Piedmont Plateau. The dividing line between these two areas, while not too clearly defined, follows a general north-south direction. The Appomattox River forms a part of the northern boundary and the Nottoway River, the southwest boundary.

To a casual observer, the agricultural development of the county may not be impressive. Good farms are next door to poor farms; large farms are mixed with small ones; practically all farms are partly forested and large private ownership of forest land is scattered over the county in relatively small tracts. In addition to this is the fact that most of the agricultural development is based on crop farming which does not require large attractive outbuildings and pasture lands that go along with livestock farming.

The topography is generally level or slightly rolling with very small variations in elevation, which range from about 50 feet above sea level in the east to around 400 feet in the west. About 90% of the area drains into the Nottoway River and the remainder into the Appomattox. Swampy areas are found in the eastern part of the county, otherwise it is well drained and the surface relief is favorable for crop production.

The loam and clay soils of the Piedmont, the sandy soils of the Coastal Plains and mixtures of these are found in the county. The light, well-drained soils are preferred for the important flue-cured tobacco and peanut crops. There is much of this soil in the county. Much of the forested land is as valuable for agricultural use as the land now being farmed. The addition of lime, fertilizer and organic matter is a requirement for profitable production. The Piedmont soils require more lime and less potash than the sandy Coastal Plain soils.

Forestry is the most extensive land use, covering almost 75% of the 507 square miles of land area. About 40% of the forest land is owned by companies and individuals for forest production purposes only.

