and girls becoming of age to be in 4-H the following Fall. Ask them to talk this over with their parents during the Summer. Distribute leaflets on 4-H, and ask these boys and girls to take them home to their parents. Prepare newspaper articles before the first meeting in Fall to explain 4-H and give meeting dates and places. Keep members informed about 4-H activities throughout the year through radio programs, newspaper articles, circular letters, telephone calls and office visits. Keep the 4-H club program in Page County growing by giving it wide publicity.

Recommendations

That parents and club members be given a clear understanding of the true value of 4-H, and of the advantages and opportunities 4-H offers.

Explain to 4-H members how records should be filled out and also the importance of keeping good records. Show them the value of record completion.

Keep club members interested in their project work through farm and home visits, through letters in connection with their individual project, and through interesting and helpful monthly 4-H meetings.

Point out to parents of farm boys the helpful training their son could get through 4-H

Explain to non-club boys the value of 4-H at every opportunity

Program of Extension Education

During farm and home visits discuss the 4-H program with parents of 4-H members. Point out to these parents and also to parents of non-club members the goals of 4-H. Encourage the parents of club members to help their son in his project work and record keeping. Keep 4-H'ers informed about their project through letters, farm and home visits and through 4-H club meetings. Conduct shows and sales for club members participating in livestock projects. Hold baby beef show in April, lamb show in May and hog show in August. Give publicity to these activities, as well as other 4-H acitivites such as camp, county fair, annual achievement program and county picnics, through radio programs, newspaper articles and circular letters. Visit school classrooms in the Spring to discuss 4-H with boys

4-H CLUB WORK

Situation

In Page County there are 12 4-H clubs with an enrollment of 167 boys. All clubs meet once a month. Ten of these clubs meet in school and two senior groups meet out of school. According to the 1954 census, there are 443 boys 10 to 19 years old on farms and 809 boys living in rural areas classified as non-farm.

The 167 4-H club boys are enrolled in the following projects.

Baby beef, Beef Heifer Beef Steers	Dairy calf and Heifer
Sheep	Brood Sow and Market Hogs
Home Garden	Farm and Home Electric
Poultry--Broilers and Laying Hens	Tractor Maintenance
Rabbits	Forestry
Leadership	Safety
Grain Crops	

Major Goals

The main goal in the 4-H club program is to train boys in project work, to teach them better methods of farming and to help them develop into leaders and good citizens.

Problems

Too many club members drop out

Lack of interest on part of both parents and club members

Records not completed

Poor project work

Too many farm boys that should be in 4-H never join

Program of Extension Education

Put on demonstrations in cooperation with contractors to show the importance of strict sanitation program. Conduct meeting with contractors and supply them with information through letters and farm visits on advantages of increasing size of flocks. Give contractors assistance in planning for a meeting of growers and help them in developing a program for such a meeting. Show the importance of recommended floor space per bird through demonstrations. Also demonstrate sufficient number and proper location of fountains and feeders. Work closely with 4-H members carrying poultry projects to help them conduct demonstrations on good management practices.

BROILERS

Major Goals

Improve management practices as means of controlling disease and lowering production cost

Increase size of individual units

Problems

The lack of sufficient feed and fountain space

Poor ventilation in many buildings

The lack of carrying out good sanitary practices causes heavy losses

The lack of sufficient size of individual flocks

Recommendations

That experiment station recommendations be followed in carrying out vaccination program for disease control.

On farms where labor and other facilities are available, farmers with small flocks consider increasing the size of flock.

Observe flocks often for symptoms of disease. Begin treatment before disease spreads through large part of flock.

Recommendations of Extension poultry and agricultural engineering departments be carried out in regard to installation of ventilation systems.

That poultry houses be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between broods.

That poultry producers make it a practice to keep equipment clean

Each bird be provided .8 to 1 sq. ft. of floor space

That sufficient feeder space be provided for all birds so that all can eat at one time.

That feeders and fountains be located so that birds will not have to travel more than 10 feet for feed and water.

Recommendations

That farmers planning to go in egg production phase of poultry business, start with 1000 or more hens.

That they secure baby chicks or started pullets from high producing strains

That they follow poultry department recommendations in the feeding and management of flocks.

That they use good sanitation practices as a means of disease control.

Program of Extension Education

Prepare and send to all egg producers information on management and disease control. Cooperate with farm supply stores and see that the managers of these stores have the latest information on feeding and management. Inform all growers as to the recommended practices for disease control through vaccination. Supply building plans to individuals interested in egg production and encourage them, the ones starting in poultry production projects, to conduct demonstrations on good management. Supply information throughout the year on management, feeding and disease control through farm visits, letters, radio programs, etc.

POULTRY

Situation

The 1954 census shows that 54% of the gross farm income was from the sale of poultry and eggs. This consisted of production of hatching eggs, table eggs, broilers and turkeys. Since that time, the production of turkeys has been drastically reduced, possibly as much as 75%. The production of broilers has been reduced slightly. Two of the larger broiler contractors have gone out of business during the last 12 months. However, most of their better growers are now growing for other contractors. There has been a great increase in the numbers of hens kept for production of market eggs. Several units of 1,000 or more hens have been built in the past two years.

Major Goals

Increase number of farms producing flocks of 1,000 or more hens for commercial egg production

That annual production be raised to 200 eggs per hen.

Increase number of commercial laying flocks.

Problems

The size of many flocks, under 500, so small that the owner fails to use best management and feeding practices.

The lack of adequate buildings and equipment for such size flocks

The low production per bird

That farmers needing replacement ewes purchase western ewes for flock replacements and secure rams through near-by sales sponsored by Breed Association.

That farmers with suitable land for keeping flocks of sheep build fences suitable for turning sheep when building new fences or repairing old ones.

That all farmers with flocks of sheep make special effort to seed a few acres of barley or rye early in order to provide good winter and early spring pasture for ewes and lambs.

Program of Extension Education

Work closely with 4-H club members enrolled with farm flock projects to see that each conducts good farm flock management demonstrations. Give publicity to the success of individuals through radio programs and newspaper articles. Hold demonstrations to teach club members approved methods of shearing sheep. Cooperate with agents in near-by counties in holding 4-H lamb shows and sales. Prepare timely information on parasite control and supply to owners of all farm flocks. Assist club members with farm flocks in conducting demonstrations on parasite control. Inform interested farmers where they can secure stock ewes and pure-bred rams. Give publicity to sheep program through meetings and radio programs and newspaper articles. Conduct two demonstrations to show advantages of having small grain pasture for farm flocks.

SHEEP

Situation

Sheep numbers have increased since 1950. The latest reports available report 2250 sheep in the county. These are on about 100 farms. The only sheep on about one-fourth of these farms are owned by 4-H club members. Sheep numbers have increased during recent years partly because sheep have been much more profitable than cattle. It appears that sheep should be on many more Page County farms. However, the losses from dogs is one of the main reasons why more farmers do not have flocks of sheep.

Major Goals

Increase sheep numbers 10%.

Establish flocks on six additional farms.

Assist farmers in marketing of wool clip.

Work closely with 4-H club members having sheep projects in helping them to demonstrate good management practices in caring for their flocks.

Problems

Losses from dogs and parasites

The lack of adequate fencing on many farms

The need for local source of supply for stock ewes and rams

The failure of flock owners to provide top-quality winter pasture for flocks

Recommendations

That farmers cooperate with law-enforcement officers and plan to secure better control of stray dogs.

farmers who have indicated they are interested in converting to A-grade milk business and discuss with them individual problems that they might encounter in such an endeavor. Secure services of specialists when needed to discuss these problems with individuals. Visit all grade A dairy farms and discuss with operators the forage and feed programs. Give publicity to artificial breeding program through letters, meetings and farm visits. Conduct demonstrations in keeping production records. Use these demonstrations as a matter of teaching other individuals. Hold county-wide meeting for dairymen to discuss disease control problems, feeding and management of herds and year-round forage program.

Increase average production by 500 pounds per cow.

Establish system of keeping production records on two additional farms.

Problems

Low production per cow

The lack of adequate supplies of good forages, pasture, hay and silage

The high cost of building and equipment to farmers starting in A-grade milk production

Recommendations

That every dairy farmer develop for his own farm a better year-round forage program consisting of supplemental pastures, improved permanent pastures, providing for better quality hay for silage.

That farmers keep production records and use the information as a means of selecting heifer replacements.

That all dairymen use services of Artificial Breeding Association.

That farmers with suitable land and other facilities for production of A-grade milk consider the possibility of going into A-grade dairying.

That dairymen keep more accurate production records and use the information as a means of selecting herd replacements and for culling herds.

That all heifer replacements be vaccinated for the prevention of bangs disease.

That all dairymen with suitable land seed sudan or millet for supplemental summer pastures and small grains for fall and winter pasture.

Program of Extension Education

Prepare information on year-round forage program and supply this to all dairymen through letters, meetings and farm and office visits. Visit

DAIRYING

Situation

Latest reports show there are 3500 dairy cows in Page County. There are 25 A-grade dairies. The number of A-grade dairies has remained about the same for the past two or three years. However, some of the farmers with the smallest number of cows have quit the dairy business and others have started in with larger numbers. As a result, there has been some 10 to 15% increase in the number of cows in grade A dairies during the past two or three years. It is estimated that the annual production per cow is about 4500 to 5000 pounds. However, there are individual herds that are averaging around 10,000 pounds per cow. Because of the nearness to Washington, it is believed there would be a suitable market for addition farmers to go into the A-grade milk production. Farmers in this area have advantages on farmers nearer to Washington because of more adequate supply of labor for lower cost and the high cost of labor is causing many dairymen in counties nearer Washington to disperse of their herds. Because of this situation, the future of dairying appears to be good for this immediate county. Most of the producers of A-grade milk are using the services of the Artificial Breeding Association.

Major Goals

Increase number of dairy cows to 4,000 head

Increase number of farmers producing A-grade milk to 30.

Program of Extension Education

Supply all farmers information on the beef cattle program through meetings, newspaper articles, radio programs, circular letters, farm and office visits and demonstrations. Supply all farmers with latest information on the importance of using stilbestrol. Conduct four demonstrations to show farmers how to use implants. Work with two farmers in setting up demonstrations and selecting, fast-growing, good-type heifers for replacements. Arrange with four farmers to conduct demonstrations on use of back-rubbers as a means of controlling flies. Stress the importance of culling herds to groups of beef cattle farmers and to individuals at every opportunity. Arrange with farmers to conduct demonstrations in Fall for spraying for control of lice and for treating of young cattle for internal parasites. Cooperate with feeder calf sales committee in making plans for conducting annual feeder calf sale. Strive to get all consignors to sale to carry out recommendations in the management of their herds in regard to parasite control, culling herds and selecting heifers and bulls for breeding. Conduct demonstrations with 4-H members carrying baby beef projects to assist the club members in selecting good-type animals and in fattening and caring for animals. Work closely with club members to see that they demonstrate such things as parasite control and the feeding of a balanced ration.

Problems

The lack of knowledge of individual farmers as to the advantage of using stilbestrol implants. Prejudices of some farmers about this material because of some undesirable effects they have observed from its use.

Individual farmers keeping low-producing, un-productive cows year after year.

Losses from internal and external parasites

Low quality, inferior heifers being kept for herd replacements

The lack of uniformity in size and age of calf crop

Inferior, slow-growing herd sires being used.

Recommendations

That all farmers treat steers that are going on pasture with stilbestrol implants in accordance with animal husbandry department's recommendations.

The owners of beef cow herds cull herd annually removing cows not producing calves, cows losing calves, and cows producing low-quality calves.

That farmers treat cattle for flies through use of sprays and backrubbers.

That all farmers spray entire herds during the Fall.

That all farmers treat calves for internal parasites after they are weaned.

That farmers select fast-growing, early, good-type heifers for herd replacements.

That farmers remove bulls from cow herds by August 1st.

That they select good-type, fast-growing bulls

That all heifers being kept for herd replacements be vaccinated for bangs disease.

That all farmers fattening cattle give them stilbestrol implants or supply it through protein supplement.

BEEF CATTLE

Situation

Latest reports show that in January, 1958 there were 16,300 head of cattle in Page County. This is an increase from 9,000 in 1940. This includes 3500 milk cows. Most of the remaining 12,800 head are beef cattle, made up of approximately 6,000 beef cows, some 4,000 steers, yearlings and two-year olds. Steer cattle numbers have increased fairly rapidly during the last two or three years. Beef cow numbers have made a very slight increase. It is estimated that Page County farmers' beef cow herds produce about 80% of a calf crop. Some of these cattle are kept on until two years of age and fattened on the farm where produced; others are kept one year and fattened as yearlings and many are sold as feeders when they are weaned. All herds in the county were tested last year for bangs disease. Page County is now a modified, certified area. Records show that a high percentage of heifer replacements are vaccinated annually for bangs.

Major Goals

That 75% of the steers being grazed in Page County during 1959 be given a stilbestrol implant

That farms with beef cow herds raise until weaning age 85 calves per 100 cows wintered, average of 400 pounds.

Vaccinate 80% of heifers being kept for herd replacements

Increase number of fat cattle being fed on pasture and market during late summer months.

Improve marketing facilities by assisting farmers in cooperative marketing of feeder cattle through sponsored sales.

Arrange for three demonstrations on spraying corn for weed control. Establish demonstrations on four farms of growing corn in one-year rotation. Supply the managers of farm supply stores information on the needs and recommended varieties of corn and kinds of fertilizer. Give publicity through radio and newspaper articles as to the importance of corn as a cash crop.

Major Goals

Increase corn acreage 10%.

Maintain present average yields.

Problems

Many farms are using land that is suitable for corn for less profitable crops.

The lack of adequate corn silage for wintering livestock on some farms.

The failure of farmers to use sufficient plant food and to plant crop thick enough to get high yields.

Shortage of corn on some farms for fattening of livestock, hogs and cattle.

Recommendations

That farmers with suitable land establish corn in a one-year rotation.

That others shorten rotations so as to grow corn every two or three years if land is suitable for such use.

That corn be planted thick enough to give stands of from 14,000 to 18,000 stalks per acre. That farmers fertilize their corn with from 600 to 800 pounds per acre of a 10-10-10 fertilizer.

That they use chemicals as a means of weed control on fields heavily infested with weeds.

Program of Extension Education

Supply all farmers with latest information on corn production. Supply through meetings, circular letters, farm and office visits the importance of adequate plant food for thick stands in getting high yields.

information through radio programs and newspaper articles on the advantages of using the ACP allotments for top-dressing and seeding permanent pastures. Arrange with individual farmers to conduct demonstrations on managed grazing of alfalfa. Supply all dairymen information through letters and farm and office visits, newspaper articles and radio programs on seeding, growing and need for supplemental pastures for their dairy herds. Conduct four demonstrations on supplemental pastures using sudan grass or pearl millet. Keep the managers of local farm supply stores informed on agronomy program so that they can have the necessary supplies farmers need to carry out the recommended practices, at the time that they are needed.

Corn

Situation

Reports show that in 1929 Page County farmers produced 10,492 acres of corn and harvested 256,000 bushels or 24.4 bushels per acre. In 1958 Page County farmers grew 5,000 acres of corn and produced 303,000 bushels or 61 bushels per acre. It is believed that there should be a slight increase in corn production as corn is now our most profitable grain crop. This can be accomplished by growing corn in a shorter rotation, especially one-year rotation on good level corn land.

Problems

The failure of farmers to fertilize and lime their permanent pastures and the lack of carrying out weed control practices such as spraying and mowing.

High cost of maintenance on permanent pastures.

Shortage of adequate pastures during mid and late summer. Surplus of pastures during May and June.

Loss of stands of ladino and orchard grass because of disease, drought and insects.

Recommendations

That all farmers understand the importance of a good year-round forage program and that all dairymen with suitable land provide supplemental pastures such as sudan or millet; small grain for Fall and early Spring grazing and alfalfa for mid and late Summer grazing.

That all farmers understand that ACP funds are available for pasture improvement and seeding.

That each farmer fertilize from 20 to 25% of his permanent pasture each year.

That weed control practices, such as mowing and the use of chemicals, be used when weeds become a problem in permanent pastures.

That alfalfa acreage be increased on farms where there is suitable land to enable dairymen and other farmers with large numbers of livestock to graze alfalfa in third and fourth cuttings, in place of making hay in years when needed.

That winter pastures be provided through mixtures of small grains seeded early.

Program of Extension Education

Prepare and send to all farmers early in the year information on year-round forage program. Stress the importance of high quality pasture, hay and silage. Discuss with farmers at meetings and supply

Program of Extension Education

Supply all farmers with information on methods of weed control through letters, meetings and news articles. Conduct demonstrations on weed control.

Keep all alfalfa growers informed on methods of controlling alfalfa weevil. Send letters to each grower giving information on the use of heptachlor in granulated form or in fertilizer. Prepare newspaper articles on this subject. Prepare and send to all farmers information through letters, radio programs and newspaper articles, on spraying for control of weevil.

Supply all persons who have applied for assistance in seeding alfalfa through the ACP program suggestions for seeding and information on varieties recommended.

Stress the importance of selecting well-drained soils and the use of adequate fertilizer. During the Summer, prepare newspaper articles on seeding and fertilization of alfalfa. Establish demonstrations to show the advantages of grazing under good management. Conduct demonstrations on the use of alfalfa silage. Give publicity to the results of these demonstrations.

Pastures

Major Goals

Farmers use 50% of the county ACP allotment for top-dressing and seeding of permanent pastures.

Have demonstrations on at least one-half of the grade A dairy farms in the county using sudan and/or pearl millet for supplemental summer pasture.

Problems

Low yield due to diseases and insect damage

Losses of stands by weed infestation

High cost of seeding and maintenance

The failure of farmers to realize the value of high quality hay as a livestock feed and failure to realize that alfalfa stands can be grazed if managed properly and that alfalfa makes excellent silage.

The difficulty in establishing and maintaining stands because of poor seed bed preparation, seeding on unsuitable land and lack of sufficient plant food.

Recommendations

Follow Extension Service recommendations on disease control.

Follow Extension recommendations on spraying or treating fields for the control of weevil and other insects. Treat all fields with heptachlor for insect control either by spraying or through use of insecticides in granulated form or in fertilizer.

That farmers follow recommended system of weed control through spraying when infestation is heavy enough to justify.

That farmers use ACP funds both for seeding and for top-dressing old stands of alfalfa. Seed only on well-drained suitable soils. Follow Extension recommendations as to seed bed preparation, varieties, fertilization and other seeding practices.

That farmers use first crop for silage when weather is unfavorable for producing high quality hay. Also that third and fourth crops be grazed rather than used for hay when needed for pasture.

That dairy farmers consider using mechanical driers in order to improve quality of hay produced.

That all fields with good stands be top-dressed each Winter with a fertilizer containing borax.

AGRONOMY

Situation

The last census report shows that in 1955 crops were harvested from 24,000 acres and 50,000 acres were used for pasture. Crops were harvested from 23% of the farm land. Twenty-two percent was in permanent pasture and 16% cropland pasture. In the last 15 years, there has been a great deal of change in land use. Approximately 8,000 acres has been taken out of crop rotation and established in permanent pasture. Wheat acreage has been reduced some two-thirds. Corn acreage has been reduced about 25%. There has been a great increase in acreage devoted to barley and permanent hays, especially alfalfa. Alfalfa acreage has been increased at the rate of some 300 to 400 acres per year. As a result of these changes, a much better land use program is now established on the majority of the farms. The use of commercial fertilizer is gradually increasing. Farmers are striving to make more improvements by using latest information on control of diseases, insects and through the use of improved strains. A high percentage of the ACP funds is used each year to improve permanent pastures.

Alfalfa

Major Goals

Increase alfalfa acreage 10%

Improve quality of alfalfa hay

Make multi-purpose use of alfalfa as silage, hay or grazing

Committee	Members	Members
Dairy Committee	Melvin Miller	Kauffman Long
	Nelson Long	Ernest Long
	Richard Long	Woodrow Foltz
	Walter Yancey	Maurice Sours
Poultry Committee	Elbert Shuler	Randolph Sours
	Ray Cubbage	Wilson Kite
	Ray Marshall	C. H. Price
	Frank Keyser	Kenneth Strickler
	Roger Parish	Roscoe Baker
	John Bushey	
Livestock Committee	Paul Shuler	C. D. Price
	C. B. Lamb	David Varner
	Max Foltz	J. A. Miller
	Lynn Keyser	Henry Gander
	Elbert Shuler	John Shuler
	Webb Hudson	Fred Atwood
	J. E. Gander	Walter Koontz
	J. M. Grove	O. O. Baker
Agronomy Committee	T. E. Burner	Mohler Foltz
	Lynn Keyser	H. K. Modisett
	John A. Miller	Paul Shuler
	W. N. Comer	L. C. Huffman
	Kermit Kibler	C. B. Lamb
	Harry Long	M. C. Griffith

Page County if located in the Shenandoah Valley; it is bounded on the West by the Massanutten range and on the East by the Blue Ridge range. The total land area is 202,240 acres, fifty and one-half percent of which is in farms. In 1954, the farm land was devoted to these uses: 29,800 acres were in woodland, 40,500 were used for pasture. Crops were harvested from 25,000 acres.

The county population in 1950 was 15,152 of which 30.2% lived on farms. There were 1185 farms with an average size of 82.2 acres per farm. A large percentage of the farms are operated entirely with family labor. There are 683 farms containing less than fifty acres. Six hundred had income from non-farm sources greater than their farm income. Probably as much as ninety-percent of the gross farm income is from the sale of livestock and poultry products. Low farm income is the major farm problem. With over half of the farms under fifty acres in size, this problem can be solved only through more intensive type of farming and/or through employment off the farm. Broiler, turkeys and laying flocks of poultry offer the best opportunity to increase farm income on farms of this group. Of the farms over fifty acres, increased dairying and/or poultry probably offers the best way to increase income on the farm.

For the past several years agricultural extension program in Page County has been developed by discussing the problems with local people. Special interest committees meet annually to help determine the annual plan of work.

Listed below are committees that assisted in developing the Extension Program:

July

Prepare and furnish to all beef cattle farmers information on culling herds, selecting heifer replacements and calfhood vaccination programs.

Hold two beef herd culling demonstrations.

Prepare and send to all farmers interested in growing alfalfa up to date information.

Give publicity through newspaper articles and radio programs on alfalfa.

Conduct two alfalfa grazing demonstrations.

July and August

Plan for feeder calf sale.

August

Prepare news articles on silage.

October

Assist in conducting feeder calf sale.

Conduct demonstrations in control of external and internal parasites in beef cattle.

December

Hold 4-H achievement program.

December and January

Arrange for weed control demonstrations in alfalfa.

April

Prepare information on alfalfa weevil and keep all growers informed through farm visits, newspaper articles and circular letters.

Prepare information on corn production. Send to all farmers through letters and newspaper articles.

Establish corn demonstrations in one-year rotations.

Supply all farmers information on the advantages of using stilbestrol implants.

Supply farmers information on fly control.

Establish demonstrations in use of backrubbers.

Supply all sheep growers information on parasite control.

Conduct sheep shearing schools.

Hold baby beef show.

May

Hold tour to observe good forage program demonstrations.

Cooperate with hatchery in holding poultry meeting to inform producers best management practices for growing pullets.

Establish sudan or millet supplemental pasture demonstrations.

Start 4-H sheep projects.

June

Assist farmers in marketing of wool

Assist farmers in securing replacement ewes.

January and February

Give publicity to pasture improvement program.

February

Prepare letters and information on year-round forage program. Send this material along with printed publications to dairymen and beef cattle farmers.

February and March

Conduct demonstrations on alfalfa weevil control using chemicals in fertilizer and in granulated forms.

March

Enroll three dairy farms in "Weigh-A-Day-A-Month" dairying.

Hold annual meeting of Feeder Calf Association and plan for 1959 sale.

Prepare circular letters to send to all farmers giving information on agronomy practices.

Prepare and supply to farmers information on corn.

Organize 4-H tractor club and hold tractor maintenance classes.

Prepare and send to all farmers interested in growing alfalfa up to date information.

Supply members of agronomy committee and managers of farm supply stores information on varieties of corn and fertilizer recommendations.

Conduct demonstrations to show farmers how to use stilbestrol implants.

March and April

Train 4-H judging team in livestock.

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PLAN OF WORK

1959

PAGE COUNTY

G. B. Allison
County Agent