

PLAN OF WORK
SURRY COUNTY
1961

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COUNTY AGENT

The Surry County Extension Program was developed through the aid of the County Board of Agriculture. The following special interest committees were set up by this Board:

1. Agronomy Committee
2. Livestock Committee
3. Forestry Committee

The three special interest committees meet each year with the Agent in setting up goals, objectives, and ways of reaching these goals and objectives.

Agronomy

1. Corn

Corn acreage in Surry County increased for fifteen years from 1940 to 1956. The acreage was 10,372 acres in 1940 and 13,600 acres in 1955. The corn acreage decreased during the years 1956, 1957 and 1958. The acreage increased slightly during 1959 and 1960 to approximately 11,000 acres.

The average yield of corn in Surry County for 1960 was approximately 80 bushels per acre.

Problems

1. Insect Control

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

2. Improper spacing

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters

- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

3. Inadequate Fertilization

Program of Extension Activities

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

4. Inadequate Varieties

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

5. Insufficient Cover Crops

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

6. Improper Storage - Weevil Damage

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

The Agronomy Committee set up an objective of 85 bushels per acre average for 1964. The goal for 1961 is 70 bushels per acre average.

There will be 10 corn demonstrations conducted in Surry County in 1961. These demonstrations will be conducted with the assistance of the Extension Agronomy Department and the T.V.A. These demonstrations will be on fertilization and proper spacing of corn.

Peanuts

The peanut acreage has remained the same in Surry County for the past several years. The 1960 acreage was approximately 9,000 acres.

Yields have increased a great deal in the past several years. The ten year average from 1945 to 1955 was 1,735 pounds per acre. The average yield from 1956 through 1959 was approximately 2,100 pounds per acre.

Problems

1. Controlling subterranean insects.
2. Controlling leafspot and leafhopper.
3. Controlling stem rot.
4. Inadequate fertilization.

Objectives and Goals

1. Increase yields to County average of 2,600 pounds per acre by 1962.
2. Get 80% of farmers to properly dust with sulphur and DDT to control leafspot and leafhopper by 1962.
3. Get 80% of farmers to use Experiment Station recommendations on fertilization and rotation by 1962.

Program of Extension education and teaching methods.

1. Hold fertilizer meeting for farmers and fertilizer dealers. This meeting to be held in February.
2. Inform farm people of Experiment Station recommendations for controlling stem rot. A demonstration will be conducted in March showing new equipment that can be used for controlling stem rot. Extension personnel will show and demonstrate the use of chemicals for controlling grass and weeds in peanuts which is a factor in controlling stem rot.
3. Hold meetings for farmers in regard to insect and disease control.

4. Use mass media demonstrations and educational meetings to get the program before the people.

The agent plans to conduct demonstrations on the control of nematodes on peanuts, also terrachlor for the control of stem rot in peanuts. These demonstrations will be conducted with the cooperation of the Extension Entomology Department.

Pastures

The pasture land in Surry County has increased very little for the past five years. In 1950 Surry County had a total of 2,879 acres in cropland pasture. In 1955 the cropland pasture figure was 4,361. The number of livestock, mostly hogs, has increased approximately 50% in the past five years. The number of beef cattle has increased 100% in the past five years. The acres of pasture has increased only about 45%. These figures show that for farmers to raise livestock on a profitable basis, more pasture is needed.

The Agronomy Committee set a goal of 6,500 acres of cropland pasture for Surry County by 1962.

Problems

1. Lack of proper fertilization

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

2. Lack of supplementary pastures

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

34
72

5

3. Control of Insects

Program of Extension education

- (1) News letters
- (2) News articles

4. Renovating old pastures

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters

Soybeans

The soybean acreage in Surry County has doubled since 1950. In 1950 there were 1,519 acres of soybeans, and in 1955 there were 3,039 acres of soybeans planted in the county. The reason for this increase was due to allotments on peanuts and quotas on corn.

The recommended varieties are passed on to farmers at farm meetings, newsletters and news articles.

The intermediate varieties are more suitable for our type of farming. These varieties mature earlier and the farmers can harvest them at a more convenient time than late varieties.

Livestock

Swine

Swine production has increased approximately 50% in Surry County over the past several years. The grading system has educated farmers on improving the type of hogs for market. Farmers are showing more interest in regards to feeding hogs by confinement on concrete flooring. A few of the smaller farmers are planning on expanding their breeding stock for the purpose of raising feeder pigs to sell in sales and to local farmers.

Problems

1. Need for desirable breeding stock.
2. Ineffective parasite control.
3. Inefficient feeding practices.
4. Disease control.
5. Not enough farmers using farrowing houses.

Objectives

1. An average of 8 pigs per litter weaned.
2. Get 75% of farmers to use a desirable meat type boar by 1962.
3. Increase the number of farrowing houses through new construction.
4. Improve feeding practices.
5. Control of external and internal parasites.

Extension education and teaching methods

1. To hold swine meetings for farmers. This meeting to be held in March. The meeting will be conducted by J. H. Carter, Extension Swine Specialist, and Dr. Farley, State Veterinarian from Ivor.
2. Demonstrations showing good management practices.
3. Use mass media by means of news articles and news letters publicizing the need for desirable breeding stock, parasite control and importance of farrowing houses.

Beef Cattle

Beef cattle has increased a great deal in Surry County for the past several years.

There were approximately 800 herd of beef cattle in

Surry County in 1950. There are approximately 3,000 head in the county at the present time.

Educational practices will be continued in 1961 in regards to beef cattle management. These educational activities will be discussed at farm meetings, through news articles and personal visits by the Agent. The Agent feels that more permanent pasture is needed as the pasture acreage has not increased in proportion with the increase in beef cattle. Publicity will be given to this at farmers meetings, in news articles and news letters.

Forestry

Surry County has approximately 61% of it's total farm area in woodland. Farmers do not seem to be interested in the care of their woodland in regards to thinning, killing of hardwood and planting of pine seedlings. In 1955 forest products supplied only 2.3% of the total value of farm products sold. That figure has not increased to over 3.5% since 1955.

The Agent, with the assistance of the Extension Forestryman and the District Forester, has visited a number of farmers in Surry County. The purpose of these visits was to work with farmers on their forestry problems.

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) Demonstrations and tours

Farm and Home Development

The Agent, with the Home Agent, is working with four families on the Farm and Home Development Program. The Agent is working with two farmers on the farm program along with the four

families that both agents are working with.

The Agent is working with these farmers on their crop and livestock programs and other things in regard to farming that will increase their income and save labor.

The Agent and Home Agent plan to include two more farm families in the program in 1961.

Extension 4-H Program

A. Organization of Clubs in the County

- 1. Where possible, secure leaders for each club.
- 2. Train officers in their duties and responsibility in conducting meetings.
- 3. The 1961 4-H enrollment goal will be 85 active members.

B. Project Work

- 1. The Agent will work with each member in selecting projects most suitable for his needs.
- 2. Encourage each member to complete his project and complete records on the project.
- 3. Encourage cooperation and assistance of parents with members on this project work.
- 4. Visit 4-H members and assist them with their projects and record books.
- 5. Monthly meetings will be held in the school by each club for the months during the school session.
- 6. Schedules will be set up as to the time and place of club meetings by the Agents and principal at the beginning of each school year.

C. Have regular meeting of the County Council for advancing 4-H club work in the county.

D. Set goal of completion at 80%.

E. Use all available contests on county, district and state levels.

Calendar of Work for 1961

January -

Hold Special Interest Committee meetings.

February -

Hold county-wide Agronomy meeting for farmers on combine harvesting and drying of peanuts, assisted by Extension Agricultural Engineers. Urge farmers to take soil samples.

March -

Hold county-wide farmers meeting on swine management and parasite and disease control, assisted by Extension Livestock Specialist and State Veterinarian.

April -

Work with sheep producers in regards to lamb sales. Make arrangements for sheep producers to get their sheep sheared. Work on Farm and Home Development Program. Assist in judging records with 4-H club department.

May -

Work with farmers who will be conducting demonstrations on corn and peanuts for 1961, assisted by Extension Specialist.

June -

Work with 4-H Club members in regards to Short Course. Attend 4-H Camp with club members, agents and leaders from Surry, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Nansemond counties.

July -

Work with Farm and Home Development families. Institute of Rural Affairs.

34
72

August -

Annual Agent's Conference

September -

Work with school principal and teachers in setting up 4-H Club meetings for 1961-1962. Make arrangements for tours of corn and peanut demonstrations.

October -

Collect data on results of crop demonstrations in the county to publicize through news articles and meetings.

Annual Surry County Picnic.

November -

Annual Report

December -

Make arrangements for Special Interest Committee meetings and farm meetings to be held in January and February.