

### III. Project Participation

1. Citizenship and community relations
  - a. All members receive training at regular club meetings and county council meetings
  - b. Encourage 4-H families to take part in community improvement
2. Crafts - Classes offered at 4-H Camp
3. Leadership emphasis through
  - a. Local meetings
  - b. 4-H County council
  - c. Junior leadership
4. Livestock
  - a. Dairying - emphasis on judging and selection
  - b. Meat animals  
Management and judging to be stressed  
Sheep shearing school for interested 4-H members
5. Home Improvement  
Emphasis on planning the improvements and care of individuals room
6. Electricity
  - a. offered as individual project
  - b. electric improvement encourage in the home and on the farm
7. Safety
  - a. offered as individual project
  - b. stressed in farm work and homemaking jobs

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

**NEW  
COUNTY  
BEGINS**

DESCRIPTION TARGET

## V. 4-H CLUB WORK

### A. Objectives

1. to help rural youth develop desirable ideals and standards for farming, homemaking, community life, and citizenship
2. to give technical instructions in farming and homemaking
3. to teach farm youth the value of research and scientific information in dealing with farm problems
4. to train in cooperative action
5. to develop habits of healthful living
6. to demonstrate methods to improve practices in farming and homemaking

### B. Methods

#### I. County Council

of  
Governing and planning group made up/all local club officers  
and leaders

#### II. Sponsor the following county-wide activities

1. 4-H Camp - have at least 25 boys attend
2. Conservation Camp - have at least one boy attend
3. State 4-H Short Course
  - a. have at least 5 delegates from county
  - b. urge attendance of all boys interested in judging and demonstration work
4. Exhibits and Displays
  - a. each member to display his project at county fair
  - b. encourage outstanding work to be exhibited at district and state fair
5. Sponsor County Awards in
  - a. Dairy achievement
  - b. Meat animal projects
  - c. Judging teams
  - d. sheep shearing
  - e. Safety
  - f. Electricity



#### IV. COMMUNITY CLUBS

##### A. Situation

1. Had 3 community clubs competing on county level in 1954 - one in sweepstake contest
2. Will have 4 competing on county level in 1955
3. Giles County Chamber of Commerce is sponsor for program in 1955
4. Unincorporated villages may enter contest this year competing only against each other this program also sponsored by local Chamber of Commerce

##### B. Objectives

1. Each club to hold regular monthly meetings
2. Each meeting to provide for an educational, business, and recreational feature for each program
3. Have 4 rural clubs competing in Roanoke Area Contest
4. Have 3 non-rural clubs competing in county contest

##### C. Methods

1. Agents to assist all clubs in developing their programs and obtaining speakers for monthly meetings
2. Agents to attend enough meetings to maintain active interest among members in their clubs
3. Agents to provide guiding material for carrying out a successful program

PLAN OF WORK

FOR AMHERST COUNTY

O. B. ROSS, COUNTY AGENT

1955

5. Visits to be encourage by farmers from one part of the county visiting demonstrators in another part of the county
6. A summer county wide tour
7. Recognize outstanding demonstrators with appropriate certificates

### III. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

#### A. Situation:

1. Commercial orchards declining
2. Price fluctuates with yields - poor crop, good prices, good crop, poor prices as in 1954
3. Costs of pruning, fertilizers, spraying etc. too heavy when production is low
4. In late years orchardists have 1 good crop about every 3 years
5. Labor situation improved in last 2 years

#### B. Objectives

1. See that each orchardists gets the extension spray card service
2. Hold apple grading and packing demonstration in connection with marketing conference if growers want it
3. Get 3 additional farmers producing strawberries, 3 additional farmers producing raspberries, for market in small way
4. A good home garden for every farm family

#### C. Methods

1. Agent to contact all apple growers in early fall in regard to marketing conference and grading and packing demonstration
2. Growers to produce small fruits for market selected by agents
3. Agents to discuss varieties of garden vegetables at community club meetings
4. Hold 4 garden demonstrations on identifying insects and diseases and recommend latest effective control measures

Brief Description of County:

Amherst County lies in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is of very rugged topography which is best suited for the production of cattle, sheep and fruit.

Amherst County was one of the large dark-fired tobacco producing counties in the state, with about 6,000 acres planted yearly. This acreage now ranges between 700 and 800 acres.

The following tables, taken from the 1950 census furnishes very pertinent facts as to the agriculture of the county in 1954.

Table No. 1.

The county has a total land area of 300,600 acres which is divided into some 1,337 different farms. These farm lands are made up of the following approximate acreages:

- 49,992 - acres (or 16%) crop land
- 37,000 - acres (or 12%) pasture, fenced
- 2,347 - acres (or .07%) apples and peaches - commercial production
- 25,000 - acres (or 8%) woods pastured
- 100,453 - acres (or 33%) non-crop land and forest
- 85,808 - acres (or 28%) mountainous and waste lands not suitable for farming and largely owned by the federal government.
- 300,600 - acres

Table No. 2.

	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Other</u>
Number farms in county	580	757
Average size	185	67
Corn crop	3,900	1,800
Hay	7,800	2,400
Fruit - apples and peaches	2,040	307
All farm and orchard products sold	\$1,397,141.00	\$155,720.00

B. Objectives in Crop Production

1. Farm demonstrators maintain yields as was demonstrated to them by single commodity programs
2. Farm demonstrators to keep records as outlined in demonstration
3. Farm demonstrators to study records kept
4. Farm demonstrators to follow as closely as economic conditions will permit the approved practices recommended by the Agricultural Experiment Station as outlined in demonstration

B. Objectives in Livestock Production

1. Farm demonstrators keep registered sires
2. Farm demonstrators keep records as outline in demonstration
3. Farm demonstrators study records kept
4. Farm demonstrators sell cooperatively where such cooperation is to their advantage

B. General Objectives

1. Enroll 50 farmers in the Crops and Livestock Demonstration Program
2. Program sponsored by the Banks of Giles County in cooperation with the Extension Division
3. Banks of Giles County to give a special banquet for the farm families (man and wife, worthy 4-H club member or FFA student) enrolled in the farm and home management program
4. County professional workers assist in the promotion and development of the farm and home management program

C. Methods

1. Members of the agronomy and livestock committees agree to accept responsibility for enrolling farmers in their respective communities
2. Agents and professional workers to enroll farmers thru special visits
3. The Farm and Home Management Program to be the chief topic of discussion at the regular monthly meeting at the 4 community clubs in Giles County - discussion led by extension agents
4. Farm demonstrators to be closely supervised by agents and professional workers

Cash Income From All Farm Products Sold:

510 farmers sell less than \$250.00

332 farmers sell from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00

362 farmers sell from \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00

33 farmers sell over \$10,000.00

MAJOR PROJECTS:

A. AGRONOMY:

1. Pasture program:

(a) Goal:

Establish over-all pasture improvement program to utilize the 23,000 acres now listed as woods pastured.

(b) Method:

Set up Pasture Improvement Committee.  
Cooperate with ASC in getting proper soils tests made and recommend the proper seed and fertilizer mixtures.  
Continue improvement to established pastures.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Conduct one Tour or Pasture Field Day.  
Newspaper articles.  
Establish two or three definite pasture demonstrations in each of the four magisterial districts.  
Use two specialists - Epperson and Shoulders 3 days.

B. LIVESTOCK

1. Feeder Calf Program

(a) Goals:

Spring Beef Calf Sale  
Fall Feeder Calf Sale  
Lower percentage of cattle in sales grading Medium.

THE FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

II. CROPS AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT ON INDIVIDUAL FARMS - A DEMONSTRATION

A. Situation in Regard to Crops

1. The 100 Bushel Corn Club has proven maximum yields to farmers
2. The Pasture Improvement Club has demonstrated the economic uses of good seed, lime and fertilizers
3. The Hay Improvement Program has crowned alfalfa the king of the hay crops in time of drouth
4. Increased yields in both hay and grain crops has resulted in
  - a. a better program in soils management
  - b. greatly reduced the acreage of cultivated crops on hillside land
  - c. given farmers opportunity to practice conservation methods by diverting from soil depleting crops to soil building crops on their fields subject to erosion
  - d. enabled farmers to use tractors and improved machinery resulting in time labor saving and cost of operation
  - e. increased farm income

A. Situation in regard to Livestock

1. The better sires program has been operating for a long time
2. County naturally adapted to bluegrass and livestock farming
3. Livestock farming aids conservation practices
4. Livestock supply the principal source of farm income
  - a. Beef cattle
  - b. Dairy cattle
  - c. Sheep
  - d. Hogs
  - e. Horses

A. General Situation

Farmers feel there is a need for an over all program that will embody the successes they have enjoyed with individual commodity programs

(b) Methods:

Encourage better quality cattle for sale through:  
(1) Educational program on Bangs Disease control;  
(2) Dehorning and castrating demonstrations.  
Encourage more farmers to participate in Feeder Calf Sales.  
Encourage creep feeding of calves for sales if pastures are short.  
Furnish information on grain mixtures for creep feeding.  
Encourage replacement of inferior or grade bulls.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Publicize regulations for feeder calf sale.  
Enlist cooperation of State Division of Markets, Extension Division Specialists and farmers who purchase feeder calves and livestock dealers.

(d) Use 2 Specialists 7 days - K. C. Williamson; Curtis Mast and Harry Love.

2. Purebred Beef Cattle:

(a) Goal:

Assist in holding one purebred District Angus Cattle Sale in County.

(b) Methods:

Encourage the purebred breeders of county to consign to this district sale.  
Encourage beef cattle owners to purchase registered bulls.  
Call meeting of beef cattle producers; invite specialists to meeting and elect manager for sale, and inspection committee for cattle for sale, and committee on arrangements etc.

(c) Use one specialist 3 days - Curtic Mast.

3. Dairy Cattle

(a) Goal:

Establish control program for Bangs Disease in the county.  
Assist in establishing county organization to take advantage of State and Federal program to calfhood vaccinate all females between the ages of 4 and 8 months for Brucellosis.  
Better quality dairy cattle through better breeding.

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION ON GILES COUNTY

Prepared for Giles County Board of Agriculture (1950 Census)

FARMS

Number of Farms	1,070	Cropland	38,704 acres
Land in farms	122,917	acres Woodland on farms	44,072 "
Percent of land in farms	53.9	Pasture land	34,351 "
Average size of farms	115 acres	Other land on farms	5,790 "
Average value per farm including buildings	\$8,243	Average price per acre	\$69.51
3 to 9 acres	145	70 to 99 acres	119
10 to 29 acres	181	100 to 139 acres	123
30 to 49 acres	109	140 to 179 acres	77
50 to 69 acres	111	180 to 219 acres	62
Land in Jefferson National Forest	49,194	acres	

FARM OPERATORS

No. farm operators working off their farms in 1949	590
No. farm operators working off farms 100 days or more	547
No. farm operators residing on farm they operate	1,001
No. farm operators employing labor	200
No. persons employed	311

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTION

Farms reporting horses & mules	638	Animals reported	1,277
Farms reporting cattle & calves	872	Animals reported	10,810
Farms reporting cows & heifers calved	843	Animals reported	5,277
Farms reporting milk cows	747	Animals reported	3,001
Farms reporting whole milk sold	160	Lbs. milk reported	1,912,558
Farms reporting hogs & pigs	714	Animals reported	3,662
Farms reporting sheep & wool	248	Animals reported ewes	5,828
Farms reporting sheep & lambs shorn	242	Animals reported shorn	6,068
		Total Lbs. wool shorn	28,005
Farms reporting chickens sold	222	Number birds sold	7,987
Farms reporting eggs sold	469	No. doz. sold	109,343
Farms reported raising turkeys	40	No. turkeys raised	870

FARMS SPECIFIED FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

Telephones	335	Electricity	872	Electric water pumps	143
Water Heaters	156	Home Freezers	121	Washing machines	740
Hammermills	6	Milking machines	16	Grain combines	10
Upright silos	16	Pick-up balers	15	Trench silos	5
Tractors	139	Garden Tractors	20	Motor trucks	259

SPECIFIED CROPS HARVESTED

Corn	3,331 A.	Harvested for grain	146,014 bu.	Cut for silage	767 tons
Wheat	1,001 A.	Threshed or combined	16,946 bu.		
Oats	127 A.	Threshed or combined	7,432 bu.	For feeding unthreshed	346 A.
Barley	116 A.	Threshed or combined	2,960 bu.		
Rye	33 A.	Threshed or combined	664 bu.		
Buckwheat	9 A.	Threshed or combined	178 bu.		
Scythes cut for hay	14 A.	Clover or Timothy cut for hay	4,550 A.		
Alfalfa cut for hay	1,949	Alfalfa cut for hay	1,466 A.	Lespedeza cut for hay	557 A.
Alfalfa acreage at present	2,600 A.	approximately			
Small grain cut for hay	130 A.	Other hay cut	1,499 A.		
Silage made from grass or hay crops	300 tons				

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY INCOME

No. farms selling cattle & calves	693	Animals sold	4,726	Dollars	\$474,431
No. farms selling hogs & pigs	280	Animals sold	2,653	Dollars	47,366
No. farms selling sheep & lambs	229	Animals sold	2,653	Dollars	97,448
No. farms selling wool	242	Wool sold	28,005	Dollars	13,928
No. farms selling horses & mules	30	Animals sold	38	Dollars	2,685
No. farms selling chickens & eggs	469			Dollars	51,970

(b) Methods:

Encourage home-grown dairy rations.  
Encourage milk producers to build proper barns to enable them to participate in a higher grade market.  
Urge 100% participation in livestock health program.  
Encourage use of only registered bulls.

(c) General educational activities:

Circular letters, newspaper articles etc. giving timely information on dairy production.

(d) Use 2 specialists 2 days for Judging.

4. Sheep:

(a) Goal:

Establish 5 additional flocks in county.  
Improve quality of wool marketed.  
Hold Spring Lamb Sale for Amherst and adjacent counties.  
Sponsor purebred Ram Sale to be held in Lynchburg for the convenience of 17 counties in this area.

(b) Method:

Cooperate with the Livestock specialists in sponsoring sale and secure consignments from State purebred sheep breeders.

(c) General educational activities:

Circularize farmers before sheep shearing time giving information on preparation of wool for market.

Newspaper articles on sheep production and the production of clean wool.

(d) Use 1 specialist 2 days.

C. HORTICULTURE

(a) Goal:

Hold two joint meetings of Amherst-Nelson fruit growers.

Giles County

PRODUCTION OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK  
1880 - 1945

The following table gives the actual production as reported by the U. S. Census of Agriculture and the rank of the county among those of the state.

Trends in Crop Acreage 1

CROP	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1945
Rank	78	82	87	82	77	71	75	84
Corn	10,256	8,207	9,758	11,583	11,610	8,713	7,268	4,978
Rank	37	41	55	48	61	53	61	71
Wheat	8,917	5,852	5,123	4,509	5,022	3,952	2,733	1,867
Rank	45	39	45	64	51	78	39	66
Hay	1,868	4,711	4,332	4,210	7,088	3,965	5,924	6,519
Rank		48	36	29	25	31	21	30
Apples	---	33,404	72,890	74,781	95,632	80,141	66,682	56,309
Rank		36	55	64	50	41	46	34
I. Pota.	---	270	224	286	316	390	300	363

Trends in Livestock Production 2  
(Report is in No. of Animals)

CLASS	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1945
Rank	67	38	51	59	59	59	65	78
Chickens	17,938	33,732	33,265	44,895	57,179	54,636	48,023	48,642
Rank	51	43	48	56	58	59	60	80
Hogs	8,562	7,575	7,944	6,301	6,804	4,831	3,536	2,692
Rank	57	43	46	55	42	45	49	64
Dairy C.	1,922	2,565	3,256	3,339	4,683	3,944	2,708	2,190
Rank	33	27	26	24	22	22	36	49
Beef C.	4,425	4,976	3,900	4,867	5,162	3,768	8,052	7,989
Rank	13	12	11	10	12	11	10	14
Sheep	10,139	11,628	10,282	13,329	8,677	14,199	11,305	8,273

Social and Economic Trends  
1930 - 1945

ITEM	1930	1940	1945
Population: Number Rural	12,804	14,635	16,816
Percent Farm	74.3	51.7	35.8
Rank by % Farm	29th	73rd	79th
Index of Living: Index	5	57	63
Rank	33rd	48th	56th
Average Value Farm Products: Value	\$781	\$653	\$759
Rank	42nd	54th	79th
4-H Club: Number Members	227	292	292
% 10-19 years	2.03	7.30	9.39
Rank	73rd	66th	57th

- 1 Trends in Crop Acreage taken from U. S. Census Data
- 2 Trends in Livestock Production taken from U. S. Census Data
- 3 1920 and 1940 Population taken from U. S. Census Data
- 4 Estimates are an average of the projected populations of each area based on the cumulative births from 1940 to 1945, and the school census of 1945.
- 5 Bureau of Agricultural Economics & U. S. Census Data. The Index of Living is based on the percentage of farms with electricity, telephones, automobiles, and the average value of products sold or traded.
- 6 U. S. Census Data. Value figures adjusted (1910 - 14 = 100 used as base)
- 7 State & County Department

Prepared by the Rural Sociology Extension Office, V.I., Blacksburg, Virginia.

(b) Methods:

Attempt to locate and enlist small time farmers to cooperate with fruit growers during apple harvest.

(c) General educational activities

Keep fruit growers posted as to the successive sprays etc. through newspaper articles and broadcasting periodic notices.

(d) Use 6 specialists 2 days.

Use 2 experiment station men 2 days.

D. FORESTRY

(a) Goal:

Encourage reforestation of cut-over woodlands. Sponsor 5 reforestation demonstrations in county. Conduct one fence-post-treatment demonstration.

(b) Methods:

Reforestation demonstrations in planting seedlings and thinning undesirable trees.

(c) General educational activities:

Educate farmers with fact that timber cruisers are available from the Forest Service and Extension Division.

Newspaper articles on good forestry practices.

(d) Use 3 specialists 4 days.

E. 4-H CLUB WORK

(a) Goal:

Cooperate with Home Demonstration Agent and Assistant Agent of county in promoting 4-H Club Work in the county.

Attempt to increase enrollment and project completions.

## I. FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

The land area of Giles County is 356 square miles, or 227,840 acres. About one-half of the land area is forested. The county has a waterarea of 7 square miles. Temperatures average 38° in January, 75° in July. The average rainfall is approximately 39 inches. Altitude above sea level varies 1,470 feet where New River leaves the county to 4,348 feet on Bald Knob near Mt. Lake.

Climate, soils, and topography combine to make the county well adapted to livestock farming. Along New River and the streams that flow into it, are found rich limestone soils that produce excellent crops and an abundance of hay and pastures for livestock feeding and grazing.

Beef cattle provide the principal source of farm income. Dairy cattle, sheep, and hogs also contribute. Three fourths of all farms are now part-time or residential, and two thirds in 1950 reported more income from other sources than from the sales of farm products. Less than 10% of the farmers depend entirely on agriculture for a living. About ninety per cent of the 1,070 farms have one or more members of the family working in local industrial plants at high wages.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO AGRICULTURE

1. Giles County Board of Agriculture	48 members
2. Giles County Farm Bureau	83 "
Giles Farm Bureau Cooperative	425 "
3. Giles County Wool Pool	220 "
4. Giles County Feeder Calf Producers	32 "
5. Eland-Giles Hereford Breeder's Association	11 " Giles Co.
6. Giles County Chamber of Commerce	300 "
7. Banks of Giles County	3 Banks

The agent prepared some valuable economic data on the back of a livestock and crops sheet prepared by the Rural Sociology Extension Office of V. P. I. for use by County Board of Agriculture in formulating a plan of work. A copy is attached.

(b) Method: (c)

Assist with 4-H Club meetings and visit 4-H Club members as often as possible.

(c) General Educational Activities

Give publicity to any special 4-H club activity, through newspaper articles.

Have as many club members as possible participate in shows, judging teams etc.

F. MISCELLANEOUS (c)

(a) Goal: (c)

Work up at least 6 Farm and Home Development Programs.

Control insect pests, fungus diseases etc.

Assist local Jacee organization in sponsoring Pulpwood Festival to be held one week in April.

(b) Methods:

Working with Home Agent, visit farm families, analyze present farm and home operations and formulate improved program to be carried out over a period of about 5 years.

Publish as much information as is available on insect and disease control.

(c) General educational activities.

Give Farm and Home Development programs as much publicity as possible through newspapers, and personal contacts from other families.

Use newspapers as much as possible for insect and disease control.

Give Festival as much publicity as possible ahead of time and work with Jacees during the week of actual Festival in April.