

PLAN OF WORK

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE
SHENANDOAH COUNTY

- 1955 -

J. Carl Coiner, County Agent
Janet L. Himelright, Office Secretary

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is rather difficult to compose a Plan of Work for the Shenandoah County for 1955 as certain facts necessary in planning such a program are not now available. Chief among the unsolved problems is the question of: What Extension Personnel will be available in Shenandoah County during the remainder of 1955 to handle the program. Although we have a position of Assistant County Agent in this county, it has not been filled since August 10, 1954, when Mr. Richard C. Beck was called into the Armed Forces. Prior to that time Mr. Beck and the present County Agent, J. Carl Coiner, had built up a full time two man program.

For almost seven months now we have had a two cylinder motor operating on one cylinder. While this motor has been able so far to drag its load along, it has been quite a burdensome task, particularly in view of the fact that additional passengers such as Drought, Farm and Home Development, Social Security, etc. have been added to the load.

Whether it be right or wrong, the County Agent placed the 4-H Club program at the top of his agenda. These young people will be our future citizens of tomorrow, therefore, it was thought to be most important to continue their 4-H Club program. Once this program became de-emphasized or partially disbanded, it would be very difficult to piece its many fragments together again. It is my present plan, therefore, that during 1955 we will keep the 4-H Club program intact, attend and conduct all necessary adult meetings, take care of as many individuals requests as possible, cut-out-of-county trips to a minimum and try to get as much of our other Extension activity completed as it is possible to do so. If and when we get an Assistant County Agent on the job, the fabric will be changed to fit the pattern as it exists at that time.

II. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Shenandoah County is no longer a one man Extension outfit. Her people have been trained to look to the Extension Service for guidance on many problems. This is a county covering some 510 square miles of land area embracing 326,000 acres. Shenandoah County is located in Northern Virginia and is a part of the great Shenandoah Valley. Based on the 1949 Agricultural Census, her land area was divided as follows: 20% in cropland; 21% in open pasture; 24% in woods and other open land with the remaining 33% or about one-third of the land not in farms.

More than one-half of the County's population is now located on farms with approximately 61.4% of the entire land area being divided into farms. Forests and other agricultural resources occupy most of the remaining land area. In general our topography is rolling. Our soil is derived from Limestone, Shale, and Sandstone Rock with these areas being rather clearly defined.

Ours is chiefly a livestock economy with only about one-sixth of the farm income being derived from the sale of crops. In 1949 poultry and poultry products accounted for nearly one-half of the farm revenue. Dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry are all found on most of our farms. Outside of fruit, the cropping system is designed to supply the needs of our poultry and livestock. In certain areas of the county woodland is relied on as a chief source of farm income.

III. MAJOR PROJECTS

Last year we called in some fifteen advisory committees and developed a rather intensive program of work. We were only able to tackle a small fraction of what was planned. We still have these plans and do not propose that they fade into oblivion; however, some will accumulate dust which can be brushed off at later dates.

Our approach this year was somewhat different in nature as we decided to select several major projects and try to concentrate on them during 1955. We boiled it down to three major phases, namely: (A) 4-H Club program; (B) County Pasture Program and (C) The Farm Unit Approach. Other projects will be continued as will be outlined at a later stage of this report.

A. 4-H Club Program

Our county 4-H Club Program was developed at a County 4-H Club Council Planning Meeting which was held in the courtroom at Woodstock, on January 13, 1955.

As far as the boys are concerned we now have 6 Junior 4-H Clubs that meet in the grade schools during the day time. These clubs with their present enrollment of boys are as follows:

Columbia Furnace -- 27	Mt. Hermon -- 18
Fort Valley, Jr. -- 13	Lebanon Church -- 15
Orando ----- 10	St. Luke, Jr. --- 14

The total boys enrollment for the Junior Clubs is 97.

We plan to have most of the work of these clubs including project completion finished by June 1st, when their school lets out. These Junior Clubs together with a girls club at Tom's Brook will be scored about the middle of May, using the following score of points:

1. Completed and turned into the Extension Agent's office by May 21.

Points Given

<u>25</u>	Girls Project Record Books
<u>25</u>	Boys Project Record Books
<u>10</u>	Secretary's Minute Book
<u>10</u>	Reporters Clippings

2. Activities Observed

<u>25</u>	Have 100% of members attending church on Rural Life Sunday
<u>20</u>	Have Organized Program at 2 club meetings.
<u>20</u>	Observe National 4-H Club Week

3. Conducting Meetings

<u>25</u>	According to Proper Parliamentary Procedure
<u>20</u>	Having orderly meetings
<u>20</u>	Having 100% attendance at Club meetings.

These Junior clubs have also adopted the following objectives:

1. Observe Rural Life Sunday.
2. Observe National 4-H Club Week.
3. Have 100% of members completing projects by May 21st.
4. Stress Honesty in carrying out all phases of 4-H Club work.
5. Each club member have at least one exhibit at the County Fair.
6. Have club well represented at each county 4-H Club event.
7. Have at least 3 members attend the Northern Virginia 4-H Club Camp in August.

In addition to these Junior Clubs we also have ten Senior Clubs which meet once a month at night. These clubs with their present boys enrollment are as follows:

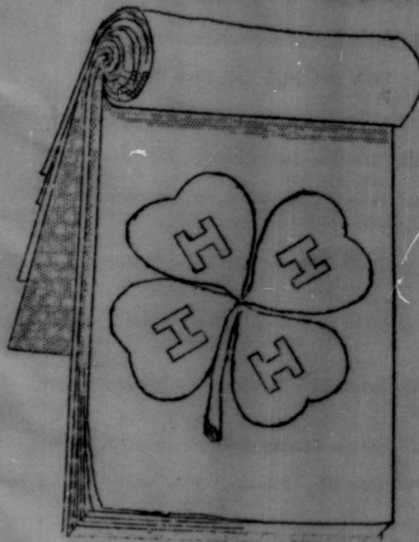
Central -- 5	Hudson Cross Roads -- 8
Fishers Hill -- 12	Meems Valley -- 12
Forestville -- 8	New Market -- 6
Fort Valley, Sr. -- 9	St. Luke-Saumsville -- 17
Jerome -- 15	Wesley Chapel -- 16

The total boys enrollment for the Senior Clubs is 108.

Those attending the Senior 4-H Club Council Meeting of January 13th were divided into four groups where they discussed the subject assigned them for about 40 minutes and then reported it back to the floor for action by the entire group. These committees with their respective chairman were as follows: (1) Objective Committee - Chairman - Doris Lineweaver, St. Luke-Saumsville Club; (2) Best Score Committee - Chairman - Donnie Smith, Meems Valley 4-H Club; (3) Finance Committee - Chairman - Mayre White, New Market 4-H Club and (4) Nominating Committee - Chairman - Doris Elbon, Fishers Hill 4-H Club.

We are including a copy of our 1955 Handbook which will be used in our Senior 4-H Clubs.

1955
SHENANDOAH COUNTY



NAME _____

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The following suggestions of the finance committee were adopted as ways of raising funds:

- (a) Conduct a basketball tournament
- (b) Sponsor a County Share the Fun Program
- (c) Sponsor a food booth at the Shenandoah County Fair
- (d) Assess each Senior Club treasury at the rate of 25 cents per member.

These funds will be raised to pay for use of school buildings, purchase first, second and third year 4-H Club pins, secure a plaque and trophy for the County's Champion Junior and Senior Club and to rent a recreation park for our County 4-H Club picnic.

B. County Pasture Program

An Agronomy Committee meeting was held at the County Agent's office on January 11th, with the following present: W. W. Middleton, Kenneth Brill, C. C. Foltz, G. R. Epperson, G. H. Clark and J. Carl Coiner. The group outlined three projects namely: (1) Conduct Insect Control Demonstrations with Hay -- proper time to apply as suggested is when hay was between 4 to 6 inches high. (2) Increase alfalfa acreage for some time to come. Publicity and demonstrations were suggested as the most appropriate media of approach. (3) Hold a banquet and continue a pasture program for 1955. This patient has been severely bled by three successive droughts, however, we have been able to keep it alive. Last year we had an active pasture committee in each of our six magisterial districts. These committees selected three of the best pastures in each district. We hope to raise the necessary funds and hold a banquet during the later part of March at which time these 18 men will be presented pasture certificates. We would like for them to serve on this years committees to select three good pastures in their respective districts. Pasture demonstrations will also be continued.

C. The Farm Unit Approach

This is not a new project, but rather an anticipated return to an old phase of Extension Work. One reason we have not listed so many projects for 1955 is to give the County Agent more time to make individual farm visits. From previous inquiries we know that our farm people like to see us out in the field more, riding down their road and stopping for an occasional visit. In their contacts it is popular for them to meet the lion in their own arena as they have a better understanding of its exits. They like to talk about their problems on their farms. Farmers also want to see the puzzle of all their farm enterprises fitted together rather than polishing and fingering the individual pieces. We want to make more farm visits in 1955.

A new cover entitled Farm and Home Development has been placed around the old book of "Science on the March!" We will dress up this new baby and endeavor to get three farms in our county to adopt it. Our Home Demonstration Agent will provide the garments while the County Agent will build the crib. If this venture succeeds, we, as its paternal and maternal godfathers will look for other families who may be interested in infant adoption. Some day our baby may grow into a practical and effective media of Extension approach.

IV. COMMODITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

So far this year we have had several other planning committee meetings. These were as follows:

(A) Artificial Breeding Association Committee

This committee met in the County Agent's office and made plans of the annual meeting of Shenco Breeders' Inc. which was held on January 25th. Objects of the association are: (1) Secure more members (2) Continue classes for artificially sired heifers at the Shenandoah County Fair (3) Produce dairy heifers that will make suitable replacements and raise the average level of milk production in the herd. Publicity and performance are the two keys that will be used to unlock the door of progress along these lines.

(B) Shenandoah - Page D.H.I.A.

This association has been through a few ruts in recent months but we now have a new supervisor and hope to travel a smoother road. Last year 22 herds were enrolled in the association that contained 789 cows. During the past few months we have lost several herds. In 1955 the association plans to (1) Secure several additional herds to bring us back to a full time association. (2) Keep moving toward our goal of an average of 10,000 pounds of $\frac{1}{2}$ milk per cow. Our average last year was 8900 pounds or an increase 590 pounds of milk per cow over our 1950 yield of 7310 pounds. (3) Each herd will serve as a demonstration for better dairying. (4) A record analysis meeting was also conducted for members of the association.

(C) Poultry Planning Committee

A poultry planning committee consisting of Kenneth Brill, Raymond Rudy, Marvin Renalds and Denver Bragg met at the County Agent's office on February 10th. Their chief objective for 1955 is to change and improve the nature of the Poultry Exhibits at our Shenandoah County Fair. Different classes will be added and more effort will be made to obtain exhibitors prior to fair week.

(D) Horticultural Committee

A fruit growers planning committee consisting of J. Ray Miller,

Stacey Tavenner, R. J. Rea, William Holtzman and J. Carl Coiner, met at the County Agent's office on February 7th. Plans were made to hold an area fruitgrowers school at Mt. Jackson, on March 2nd. The program was outlined and the County Agent will contact speakers and make the other general arrangements.

V. OBJECTIVES OUTLINED

We have listed in a general way, some of the activities which we plan to undertake during 1955. Our objectives may be listed as follows:

1. Continue newspapers and radio as a media of approach.
2. Make as many individual farm visits as possible.
3. Conduct 4-H Program among 6 Junior and 10 Senior 4-H Clubs.
4. Work with County All Star Chapter and encourage club leadership
5. Assist with the Shenandoah-Page D.H.I.A. Program
6. Encourage greater membership and participating in Shenoc Breeders' Inc.
7. Assist Fruit Growers with their annual school at Mt. Jackson
8. Aid in conducting and improving the Shenandoah County Fair
9. Work with at least three families in the Farm and Home Development Program
10. Assist various cooperatives and lending agencies.
11. Work with fertilizer and machinery dealers in getting farmers to adopt and use recommended practices.
12. Assist farmers with their marketing problems whenever possible.
13. Conduct several Insect Control Demonstrations on forage crops in March.
14. Continue Pasture Improvement Program for 1955.
15. Advocate control of groundhogs, rats and mice.
16. Stress the value of alfalfa and get more acreage seeded.
17. Assist with 4-H Club Camp and improving camp facilities.
18. Cooperate with other groups and agencies in promoting worthwhile programs.
19. Recommend installation of irrigation facilities wherever practical.
20. Renew previous goals and activities when sufficient help becomes available using our 1954 Plan of Work as a basis for further activity.

VI. CONCLUSION

We realize that this years Plan of Work is rather sketchy but hope it will give some idea of what we seek to accomplish. In setting up a program of this nature, it is impossible to anticipate what response and action will be needed to meet the day by day requests of our patrons.

During the year we always attempt to work there individual requests into our program because we feel that these people are individually presenting the problem about which they are most concerned. Any Extension Program must be flexible in nature so as to be in a position to cope with new problems and changing demands.