

AUGUST

Fruit Growers Meeting  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Extension Conference  
Farm and Home Development  
Program  
Checking Pastures

Determination of Electric  
Winners  
County-wide Picnic  
Grooming and fitting of animals  
for Fall Show  
Letter - suggestion on entering  
project in fair

SEPTEMBER

Feeder Calf Sale  
Farm and Home Development  
Program  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Fruit Growers Meeting  
Complete pasture checking  
Be prepared to meet any  
emergencies

Electric Congress  
Achievement Day  
Prepare for Lynchburg Farm Show  
Organize new clubs in schools  
Letter - pasture and fall seeding  
suggestions

OCTOBER

Fruit Growers Meeting  
Farm and Home Development  
Program  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Check Corn  
Feeder Calf Sale

Lynchburg Farm Show  
Collections of records and reports  
County Council Meeting  
Letters - leadership outline

NOVEMBER

Annual Corn and Pasture  
Meeting  
Fruit Growers Meeting  
Farm and Home Development  
Program  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Annual Report

National 4-H Achievement Day  
Annual Report  
Letter - leadership outline

VIII. CALENDAR OF WORK

Adult

MARCH

Fruit Growers Meeting  
Marketing Meeting  
Two Purebred Hereford Sales  
(Nelson farmer consigning)  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Forestry Demonstration  
Work with Master Farm Family  
Farm and Home Development Program

4-H Club

Enrollment due in state office  
Training of judging teams for  
District Contest  
Observance of National 4-H Week  
Score Sears Pig project  
Letters - swine, certified seed,  
Feed suggestions

APRIL

Fruit Growers Meeting  
Launch Corn and Pasture Program  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Spring Feeder Calf Sale  
Farm and Home Development  
Program

Announcement of Short Course,  
4-H Camp and Conservation Camp  
District Judging Contest  
Plan for Rural Life Sunday Service  
Letter - garden suggestion

MAY

Fruit Growers Meeting  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Work with wool growers  
Farm and Home Development  
Program

Rural Life Sunday  
Applications for 4-H Camp. State  
Short Course and Conservation Camp  
Completion of safety records  
Letter - poultry suggestions

JUNE

Farm Tour  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Wool Pool  
Fruit Growers Meeting  
Calfhood Vaccination  
Farm and Home Development  
Program

State 4-H Short Course  
Relocating Sears Pig Chain  
Recognition of winners in Sears  
Pig Chain  
Tour of Middleburg Experiment  
Station  
Letter - field crop suggestion

JULY

Institute of Rural Affairs  
Fruit Growers Meeting  
Soil Conservation District Mtg.  
Farm and Home Development  
Program

Holiday Lake 4-H Camp  
All Star Conference  
Electric Project classes  
Conservation Camp  
Letters - poultry, dairy, swine  
and garden suggestions

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H. Improved sheep project.

Methods

1. Education in elementary veterinary practice and pregnancy development and lambing.
2. Feed and housing management adaptations.

I. Increase interest in Forestry project.

Methods

1. Education in land uses.
2. Selection of desirable species.
3. Proper planting and management practices.

V. 4-H Phase of Farm and Home Development

- A. Encourage 4-H members to strive for total farm and home goals by using their projects as part of the overall program.
- B. Development of mutual interest between parent and 4-H member as related to farm and home development.

Method

1. Explain progressive goal and use of return from goal.

VI. Out of county events members will participate in.

- A. District Judging Contest.
- B. State 4-H Short Course.
- C. Holiday Lake 4-H Camp
- D. Conservation Camp.
- E. State Electric Congress
- F. Lynchburg Farm Show.

VII. Farm and Home Development

The approach to this program is entirely new to the extension agents in Nelson County and the program itself is entirely new to the farmers and their families. Due to this fact and due to the very short time and little training that has been given this program here in the county, it is very difficult to plan now just how it will be carried out.

The goal for Nelson County is to set up 5 families under this program here in 1955.

The method to be used is not definitely determined at this time. It looks now as if it will have to be done on what is called a missionary basis. We will endeavor through close observation to find these families and then through personal contact make every effort to get them to think about some practices, ways and changes which will be profitable for them.

6. Judging practice as part of livestock judging team.
7. Elementary veterinary principals.
8. Visits by extension agents and leaders.

B. Stimulate interest in domestic poultry projects.

Methods

1. Adjust poultry diversification to domestic needs.
2. Provide feeding and housing recommendations.
3. Encourage mutual interest between parent and members.
4. Teach practical veterinary principals.
5. Training for a poultry judging team.
6. Visits by extension agent and leader.

C. Development of more interest in Dairy industry.

Methods

1. Have dairy animal judging practice.
2. Field visits of dairies where better management is practiced.
3. Familiarization and education in D.H.I.A.
4. Education in in veterinary and general principals.
5. Visits by extension agent and leader.

D. Improve beef projects.

Methods

1. Feed recommendations utilizing home grown feed.
2. Livestock grading demonstration.
3. Management in show feeding and fitting.
4. Judging practice.
5. Visits by leaders and extension agents.

E. Field Crop improvement.

Methods

1. Better adoption of recommended and certified seeds.
2. Education in fertilization and recommendations.
3. Schedule of cultural and management practices.
4. Soil sampling and analysis interpretations.
5. Visits by extension agents and leaders.

F. More efficient utilization of electricity.

Methods

1. Instructional and demonstrational meetings held during summer and conducted by power supplier.
2. Wide use of instructive literature.

G. Emphasis on safety on the farm and in the home.

Methods

1. Wide use of poster literature and bulletins.
2. Monthly demonstrations in club meetings.

4-H CLUB WORK

III. Goals

- A. Have 16 organized 4-H Clubs.
- B. Maintain an enrollment of 250 boys who will carry a total of 325 projects.
- C. Hold monthly meetings with each club.

Methods

- 1. Through cooperation with local school officials.
- 2. The meetings will be held during school hours.
- 3. Leaders will assist when available in conducting meetings.

- D. Secure leaders for each club.

Methods

- 1. Have leaders selected by club members.
- 2. Give leaders an outline of assistance desired.
- 3. Recognize leaders with publicity media available.

- E. Teacher-Sponsor

Method

- 1. Explain necessity to school officials and ask that teacher-sponsor be appointed or detailed to form relation band between school and club.

- F. County Council Administration

Method

- 1. Have two meetings during the year. The first will be organizational and the second for the purpose of carrying out the necessary function.
- 2. Each council member assist five non-council member with project work and records.

IV. Project Goals

- A. Development of more efficient swine projects

Method

- 1. Sponsorship of Sears-Pig Project.
- 2. Encourage the home production of feeds.
- 3. Give instruction and literature in pens and houses.
- 4. Provide feed recommendations utilizing home grown feeds as much as possible.
- 5. Have field tour of better management practices.

- (a) Emphasize the importance of raising sheep for those farmers who are not now doing so.
  - (b) Give all necessary information about the four-times-a-year treatment schedule and pasture rotation to control internal parasites.
  - (c) Give comparative figures showing the advantage of the early lamb market over the late lamb market.
  - (d) Stress good winter feeding with winter pasture and at least one acre of alfalfa for each 25 sheep.
  - (e) The importance of using good purebred rams.
- (2) Stress early docking and castrating, before lambs are a week old.
  - (3) Creep feed lambs for fast gains and early market.
  - (4) Stress the importance of spraying or dipping to control lice and ticks.

## 5. Poultry

### a. Situation

The poultry population of Nelson County is made up mainly of home flocks, average about 50 birds per flock. The revenue in actual dollars and cents does not amount up very greatly, but the amount of food that is furnished to the families from the home flocks in the way of meat and eggs is of an inestimable value. Due to the above situation, many flocks of poultry suffer greatly from a little attention, which would make the birds more comfortable and there by furnish even more revenue to the owners.

The committee advocates that several steps be taken to encourage the poultry raisers to proper breeding by:

- (1) Breeding for egg production or meat production according to the purposed use for and market situation.
- (2) All baby chicks be purchased at the proper time for the laying flocks - preferably March 15, for the larger breeds and April 1, for the smaller breeds.
- (3) Stress the importance of proper housing, feeding, management and selling.
  - (a) This work be carried out by demonstrations conducted by flock owners in strategic points of the county.
  - (b) A vaccination program be advocated and demonstrations held for this purpose.

b. Demonstrations are to be conducted as follows:

- (1) Carry on result demonstrations - pruning young trees (two demonstrations).
- (2) Chemical thinning (apples and peaches).
- (3) Systox.
- (4) Mouse control.

4. Livestock

The livestock committee reviewed some information which showed that on January 1, 1953, there were on hand in Nelson County - cattle (all types) 11,700 head, hogs - 3,400, sheep - 1,200. The sale value of these three types of livestock on January 1, 1953 was \$442,662. Knowing that the quality of livestock needs to be improved in the county, the committee made the following recommendations:

a. Cattle

- (1) Livestock school be held in the very early winter, preferably in December. At this school a list of topics to be discussed.
  - (a) analyze calf sales.
  - (b) stress the importance of ridding cattle of lice, discuss the use of phenothiazine at weaning time.
  - (c) demonstrate the prifit that can be received by using good type purebred sires.
- (2) Organize county trip to Field Day at Front Royal.
- (3) Stress the importance of testing of the herd and vaccination of calves to control brucellosis under state program.
- (4) Livestock tour be held in connection with the Farm Tour.

b. Swine

- (1) In connection with the livestock school for cattle the one for swine include:
  - (a) the importance of ladino clover pasture for swine.
  - (b) the use of meat type hogs and the use of good purebred sires.
  - (c) the use of pig brooders.
- (2) Promote the use of sodium fluoride for worming pigs.
- (3) Encourage the use of vaccines and modified virus for cholera treatment instead of live virus.

c. Sheep

- (1) The above livestock school to include topics for sheep as follows:

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1955 MONTHLY PROGRAM FOR

NELSON COUNTY FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

- March 17 - How to Improve Yield and Finish of Apples - Dr. P. D. Peterson, Stauffer Chemical Company.  
Early sprays for Apples and Peaches - A. H. Teske  
(1) My Experience with 2,5,3 - John Morton  
(2) My results from early spray - A. T. Davidson  
Timely Suggestions - John F. Watson, Staunton, Va.
- April 21 - What is required of Fruit Growers under the new Social Security Law - Dinwiddie, Social Security Adm. Lynchburg  
Chemical Thinning of Apples and Peaches - Frank Horsfall, V.P.I.  
Timely Pointers on spraying - A. H. Teske  
Movie - Russell Kittle, Cal Spray Chemical Co.
- May 19 - The Insect Situation - M. L. Bobb, Piedmont Lab., Charlottesville  
Peach Prosperity - Panel - John Watson, Staunton  
(1) Local Situation - Sam Bethel  
(2) Fruit Development - Jim Harvey  
(3) Moisture Situation - S. E. Saunders  
The Relation of Blooming date of apples and maturity - Howard A. Rollins - Winchester Laboratory
- June 16 - Apple Crop Outlook - John F. Watson, Staunton  
Marketing Peaches - Pete Henderson, Economist V.P.I.  
Precooling Peaches -
- July 21 - Nelson-Amherst Fruit Growers Summer Meeting - Lovingson  
Orchard Tour and Speaking program
- August 25 - Stop-drop-spray - Past & Present - George Mattus, V.P.I.  
Moderator.  
My Experience with 24D - Sam Bethel  
My Experience with Napehalene acolis Acid - A. R. Seaman  
Crop Outlook & Condition - Fred Burrus,
- September 15 - Handling the Apple Crop From Tree to Market - Fred R. Dreiling  
The Processing Situation - W. W. Hunt, National Fruit Producing Company, Winchester.
- October 20 - Fall Fertilization of Apples and Peaches - A. H. Teske  
Results of Different Spray Programs - A. B. Groves, Winchester.
- November 24 - Mouse Control - Frank Horsfall  
Results with Endrin - John Morton and A. R. Seaman
- December 22 - New Development to Spray Materials - A. H. Teske  
Pruning apples and peaches in 1956 - A. H. Teske and Phillips - Piedmont Field Lab., Charlottesville

that the committee urges that through demonstrations and publicity that the proper way to harvest forest products and the proper way to reforestation be brought to the attention of our county people, through personal contacts, letters, newspaper articles, and any other way possible to get the word across.

- (b) A demonstration is being planned to give proper way to mark timber for harvesting and to inspect comparatively new plantings of pine seedlings.

## 2. Dairy

### a. Recommendations

- (1) Breeding
  - (a) breed for fall production.
  - (b) breed to best sires possible.
- (2) Feeding
  - (a) develop good pastures.
  - (b) promote good managing of pastures.
  - (c) promote greater use of forage preservation.
  - (d) promote farm grown grain to provide.
- (3) Herd Health
  - (a) to promote the adoption of brucellosis control through the state brucellosis program and calftubercle vaccination.
  - (b) promote the adoption of the best managed milking procedures to control the incidence of mastitis.
  - (c) promote greater production in fluid channels.

## 3. Fruit

Many new sprays are being advocated in controlling insects, diseases and thinning for both apples and peaches.

Pruning still remains a big problem in producing both apples and peaches.

Marketing of our fruit is most important. The outlook is for a lighter crop in 1955.

With these thoughts in mind the fruit committee face the problem from two angles.

- a. A monthly program of meetings was prepared (copy attached)

- (c) Determining the yield of corn will be carried out by the committees designated by the agronomy committee.
  - (d) The announcement of winners in the corn and pasture contests and the crowning of the "Kings" will take place on November 8.
- (2) Farm Tour
- (a) Because the farm tour held in the last few years has been so well attended, meant so much to the people of the county and showed such splendid cooperation between the agricultural agencies working in the county the agronomy committee asked that this tour be held again this year.
  - (b) It will be held some time in June and will be given all publicity possible through news articles, personal contact and letters.
- (3) Alfalfa production
- (a) The recent droughts have proven to the people of Nelson County the dependability of alfalfa as a source of livestock feed. Seeds of all kind except alfalfa will be scarce and higher priced this year. For the above reasons it is paramount that all publicity, all work possible to promote the seeding of more alfalfa and the fertilization of the old stands be carried out in every way.
- (4) Long Time Rotation
- (a) The agronomy committee unanimously thinks and knows that the most helpful practice for our crop land is to keep growing profitable crops on the land at all times. In the rotation, legumes and grasses are very much needed to keep the land covered at all times. There are many acres of crop land in Nelson County left idle each year and for this reason the committee urges that proper grasses and legumes be sowed in these rotations.
- (5) Forestry
- (a) The products from our forest land mean so much to our county from a financial standpoint

information in regard to all of the commodities applicable to the county, each commodity committee worked out a set of recommendations for 1955. The committees are - agronomy, dairy, fruit, livestock, poultry and 4-H Club work.

Some of the things which faced the committees in making their determination was low crop yield, too little attention being paid to disease and parasite control and that many people were unconcious of the great potentialities which are undeveloped in Nelson County.

#### B. Project Work

##### 1. Agronomy

After going over the whole field of agronomy work, the committee submitted the following recommendations.

##### a. Recommendations

- (1) Continue 100 bu. Corn Club.
- (2) Continue County Pasture Contest.
- (3) Conduct farm tour.
- (4) Promote alfalfa production as dependable source of feed for livestock.
- (5) Promote through demonstrations and publicity, long-time rotation to keep growing crops on the land at all times during the rotation.
- (6) Promote through demonstrations and publicity the proper way to harvest forest products, and reforestation.

##### b. Procedure and Situation

- (1) 100 bu. Corn Club and Pasture Contest
  - (a) All farmers will be encouraged to join the Corn Club and Pasture Contest through the use of circular letters, individual contact by members of the agronomy committee, news articles, television, etc.
  - (b) Information will be furnished these demonstrators through personal contact, extension personnel, agronomy committee members, letters, bulletins and telephone calls.

## I. COUNTY SITUATION

The topography of Nelson County is rugged. The water courses are made up of two rivers, the Rockfish and Tye emptying into the James, which bounds the east side of the county. There are also many small streams flowing into these two rivers. Our county is made up generally of hollows and ridges and extends to the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, all on the west side of the county.

Our county is ideally located for sheep and dairy production, although beef cattle head the number of livestock. Our crops in their order of importance are - apples, peaches, hay, corn, tobacco, and wheat. The forest products in Nelson County equal from a financial standpoint, more than half of all the other products combined.

Nelson County is a rural county and the last census giving us the population of 14,042.

The trend of our population is on the decrease, due to the fact that so many families are moving out of the hollows and the mountainous section and those that are locating in the more favored sections are made up of those little small families.

Nelson County is a county which the people in it make changes very slowly and the present out look now is that the agricultural production will be about the same that it has for several years.

## II. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

### A. County Board of Agriculture

The extension Plan of Work for 1955 was developed by holding a meeting of the County Board of Agriculture. After hearing general

PLAN OF WORK

NELSON COUNTY

1955

John B. Whitehead, County Agent  
Lovingston, Virginia

Robert R. Wesson, Assistant County Agent  
Headquarters: Buckingham, Virginia