

SOIL CONSERVATION activities will include, in cooperation with the Piedmont Soil Conservation District, some tours which are yet unplanned. A special problem here in the county, known as the Buffalo Creek Watershed, will require some attention. Application has been made to the State Soil Conservation Committee for approval with priority for benefits under Public Law 566. If approval is secured, considerable time may be required. The details involved are not now known, but the agent is committed to give complete cooperation.

THE FIVE COUNTY FAIR will require at least two weeks of time in September. The agent in cooperation with other county agents will make premium list and plans in April for this event.

ORGANIZATIONS such as the Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, Production Credit Association, Farm and Home Administration, Dark Tobacco Growers' Marketing Association, and others are to receive the cooperation of the agent. A special problem will be a complete study of the Farnville tobacco market by the Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee, of which the agent is a member.

Many details in this plan are to be completed. Some will require cooperation of specialists, such as: livestock, dairying, poultry, agronomist, insect and disease control personnel.

A large percentage of members are too young to compete in the district or state contests. However, an ineligible dairy judging team will participate in April's District Contest.

Individual projects will include dairy calf or heifer, breeding pig, fat pig, garden, forestry, poultry, beef calf.

The county 4-H Council will hold four meetings, one at least in each quarter, to plan club activities and events such as Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Club Week, Achievement Day Program, exhibit at Five County Fair, and other activities. Plans for Achievement Day include recognition and awards for outstanding club work for members and leaders.

Leaders of active clubs are to receive a year's subscription to the National 4-H Club News.

During the club year interest is to be increased by more home and farm visits.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

FRUIT GROWERS, though small in number are to be assisted with holding their once-a-year fruit-growers' school, in the winter. Field meetings are scheduled for early summer and around November 1st, -- summer meeting to emphasize orchard management for quality, the fall meeting to suggest care of trees and fertilization. The fruit growers' school will bring growers to date on insect and disease control by spraying, and other management problems.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK SITUATION

Prince Edward County has 1125 pupils in school from 4th grade to 12th. Of this number 89 boys and 127 girls are enrolled as club members at present. Club meetings are generally held in the schools during school hours. There are a total of 12 clubs, one of which is a club of senior members.

The chief problem is lack of leadership. This is responsible for small enrollment, lack of interest in project work, and lack of interest in contest programs. These problems are to be worked on during the year.

Clubs have special interest project, and individuals have projects.

Clubs will hold monthly meetings except a few will miss summer meetings. "Better Grooming" is the special interest project. Senior members are especially interested in the Farm and Home Electric Program. There will be a few members enrolled at large.

The agent hopes to interest community leaders in the work. There is expected to be members attending special electric-project instruction at a central point during the early summer.

Each club with eligible members will have representatives at 4-H Camp. At least two members are expected to attend the state short course.

D.H.I.A. membership will be increased as the membership is available.

An effort will be made to get three or more herds on the Weigh-A-Day-A-Month program. To encourage better breeding the radio and newspapers will be used to give news of performance of herds and animals.

It is hoped to increase the number selling milk and cream.

A field meeting for cattle producers is to be held in early August to point out breeding accomplishments, management and pasture development. Producers are to be encouraged to market cooperatively and by grade. To do this, sales of producers in calf and steer sales will be given publicity by personal contact, newspaper and radio. To get improvement in breeding the agent will hold about three small group meetings in the field during the late summer. Before then, a considerable number will be visited. Calves from proven bulls will be available, and the agent expects to use them for illustrations.

Sheep producers will market wool crop cooperatively. Sale of lambs by grade will be publicized, to encourage docking and castrating, and creep feeding.

#### POULTRY

Poultry work plans are incomplete, but with the assistance of the specialist some work will be included in the year's operation.

used to get the information to producers. Farm supply merchants are being advised often on our recommendations. Three field meetings are to be held on forage production work; merchants as well as farmers will be invited.

The lack of good pastures is a big problem in the set-up of many livestock men and some dairy men. Attention will be directed to pasture demonstrations; and, if possible, a field tour is to be arranged. The committee will assist with completion of these plans.

Pasture top dressing is to be promoted by letter. News articles, radio and personal visits will also be used. It is pointed out that A.S.C. funds are important for this work.

#### LIVESTOCK AND DAIRYING

Income from livestock and livestock products in 1955 amounted to near a million and a quarter dollars and represented about 45% of the total income from agriculture.

Dairy cattle numbered about 3800, and beef cattle about 2500, at the last report. Sheep numbers are small -- 200 or less. Hog numbers are about 4500 and are about normal. Dairy and beef cattle are increasing gradually.

Beef cattle producers are farther behind in breeding, feeding and management than any other group of livestock producers.

The forage crop and pasture work will apply to livestock men as described in that section.

### CORN AND SMALL GRAINS

The biggest problem with small grains and corn is low yields from lack of proper fertilization. However, these crops are fertilized probably better than others. Some of the new corn hybrids will be demonstrated. However, due to scarcity of seed oats and barley, demonstrations with these will be omitted. A list of all recommended varieties of crops has gone out in January to all farmers on the list. Merchants and fertilizer dealers are supplied lists of varieties and fertilizer recommendations. Seed merchants are requested to cooperate by stocking approved varieties.

### FORAGE CROPS AND PASTURES

The committee felt that our work should emphasize more acreage of alfalfa and clover and grass for hay, the increased use of silage, and pasture fertilization.

The shortage of forage due to the dry summer last year is pointing up the need for more hay. There will be an effort to increase acreage and yield of especially alfalfa. Dairy men and livestock men will be urged by letter to seed and fertilize according to conclusions based on soil test. Weed and insect control will be demonstrated in each section of the county. Some demonstrations in weed control were set up in late 1957 on weed control on the 1958 crop. Radio and news articles and field meetings will be

based on soil tests.

Therefore, activities this year are to be centered around variety demonstrations, and soil test as basis for proper fertilization. Twenty or more demonstrations are planned on this work. By these we hope to emphasize quality, disease resistance, yield per acre, and dollar value per acre. As indicated above, we will use field demonstrations, radio, newspaper articles, and field meetings during the growing season, or at or near maturity period.

FLUE CURED TOBACCO acreage for the 1958 crop is set at 829 acres, 68 of which went into the soil bank acreage reserve. The 68 acres were from 40 farms. Many flue cured growers produce several allotments to get enough acreage. There is considerable interest in varieties and production practices. The plan of work includes demonstration with varieties. There will also be work with nematode control and fertilizer demonstrations based on soil tests. Sucker control will be demonstrated as usual; and in doing so growers will be urged to switch back to oil and oil emulsion. Demonstrations

with varieties will include:

J. A. Hines  
Odell Cook  
W. A. Lewis  
H. E. Rickman  
W. E. Frank Jr.      A field

meeting is scheduled at Mr. Cook's farm in late July.

Separate letters on variety, fertilizer, sucker control, and marketing care will go to all growers. These will be supplemented with news articles and radio programs.

to make farming profitable will operate larger farms and most will produce livestock of one or more kinds.

The severe winter weather has intensified the short feed supply following the dry season last year.

Credit supply is generally adequate and a considerable number of farmers will need it. With the increasing cost of living and the decreasing tobacco acreage, high cost of machinery and labor, and the continued low price of corn, wheat, and other small grains it is necessary, the committees feel, that farmers increase their yields per acre and animal. In view of these conditions the following suggested plan of work was developed:

#### GENERAL CROP SITUATION

##### DARK TOBACCO

Once a major source of income to about half the farmers, this crop is now the major source on only a small per cent of the farms. Average allotted acreage is less than one and one half acres. Practically all growers have or seek additional income. Increased interest in varieties and better fertilization has increased the yields. Growers will plant this year about 700 acres. 136 acres went into the soil bank acreage reserve.

In view of disease conditions, and only-fair yields, efforts should be made to increase interest in varieties. Emphasis is needed in the matter of proper fertilization

year and the increasing numbers of cattle. There is a gradual increase in dairying but labor costs are resulting in an increase by most dairymen in machinery inventory, which does not help the cost-price squeeze situation much.

The program and plan of work have been arrived at after meeting of the following committees and discussions with individual members of the committees and other leading farmers and livestock producers. Special interest committee meetings were not well attended because of weather conditions.

The Agronomy Committee is as follows:

B. H. Cunningham, Chairman  
E. C. Bass  
T. C. Hix  
Charles Owen  
J. A. Hines  
C. W. Dickhoff

Members of the Livestock Committee are:

F. G. Baldwin  
R. M. Bradshaw  
George Shorter  
J. G. Hudson  
D. B. Phillips  
R. W. Dupuy

The Dairy Committee includes:

W. L. Dickinson  
John Gates  
Frank Bruce  
Robert Schmidt  
W. B. Bass

The farm situation is going to change, probably, more rapidly than in recent years. Farmers who will try

## PLAN OF WORK FOR 1958

Prince Edward County is an average size Virginia county. It is located in the southern Piedmont area, with a population of about 15,000. The 1955 census lists 1150 farms, averaging 112 acres in size. The topography is rolling. Farm population is decreasing, but urban population is increasing slowly. Farm size is increasing. General farming predominates. Dairying is the largest livestock enterprise. Tobacco acreage grows smaller each year. Crop and pasture land make up about one-third of the land area.

As stated above, the tobacco acreages are smaller and smaller. Farmers continue to support controlled production for 90% support price and the result is cuts in acreage at least once in each referendum period. Especially is this true of flue cured and fire cured types. The soil bank acreage reserve program is popular among growers because allotments of tobacco are so small and the soil bank payment is much better than the landowner's share of a poor tenant crop.

The market for small grains and corn does not encourage production for market.

The acreage of hays and feed grains will need to be larger because of the extremely poor season last

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PLAN of WORK

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for E. F. Striplin, County Agent  
and G. D. Gilliam, Assistant County Agent

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

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1958