

PLAN OF WORK

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

December 1, 1954 — November 30, 1955

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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA

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CONTENTS OF PLAN

Prince George County has a large percent of urban population due to Hopewell and Petersburg being in the area. Many of the residents work in the plants of these cities, and some do part-time farming. This is largely on a subsistence basis. Many of these operators call on the Agent for assistance more than do full time farmers.

We have approximately 40,000 acres of crop land.

The principal cash crop is peanuts. Corn and soybeans are next.

Dairying, beef cattle, and hogs are the leading livestock.

Industrial development in the area is advancing rapidly as new plants are built and others expanded. This will, no doubt, increase the urban population and the number of part-time farmers.

Many farmers have operated at a loss for three years, due to drought conditions. Some discontinued completely, while others have secured work in the cities, and operate the farm part-time, and continue to live on it. The "price-cost squeeze" has contributed to the discouragement.

The plan of work was discussed with the District Agent, Mr. J. W. Rogers, the County Board of Agriculture, Mr. W. W. Lewis; V. P. I. Extension Agronomist, Mr. C. E. Gill; Associate Extension Forester, and the County 4-H Club Council. Suggestions from all were included.

An adequate feed program was considered of first importance. The low production yield of peanuts is second, and improved quality of livestock, third. An effort will be made to work with one farm family in each of the five magisterial districts in the county on the "Farm and Home Development" program.

I. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

It was agreed by the County Agronomy Committee that a 12 month feed program should be stressed.

1. Pastures

(a) Goals:

1. Have County Pasture Club
2. Have 30 farmers qualify for membership.
3. Conduct pasture seeding, fertilization and management demonstrations in every district in the county.
4. Increased effort will be made to have all farmers have soils tested.

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Organize County Pasture Committee with District Committee
2. Obtain financial support from Chamber of Commerce, for prizes, materials, signs, dinner and picnic meetings.
3. Solicit fertilizer and seed donations from dealers for conducting demonstrations.

(c) Educational Activities

1. Hold County-wide picnic with free lunch and seeding method demonstration.
2. Hold result demonstration tours.
3. Solicit press and radio aid.
4. Emphasize Prince George County Pasture Slogan "Grow Your GREENBACKS With GRASS" whenever possible.
5. Conduct irrigation demonstrations.

2. Corn

(a) Goals

1. Conduct 100-Bushel-Per-Acre-Corn-Club.

(b) Method to be used.

1. Solicit prizes to be given for highest yields.
2. Furnish farmers information on recommended seed, fertilization and cultural practices.

(c) Educational Activities:

1. Discussions at Farmers Meetings in communities where corn production has not advanced as rapidly as in other parts of the county.
2. Hold Tours.
3. Furnish information to local papers.
4. Conduct Liquid Nitrogen demonstrations

3. Peanuts

(a) Goals

1. Test soil before planting peanuts.
2. Conduct variatal demonstrations.
3. Promote "Ton-Per-Acre" peanut club.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Treat seed before planting.
2. Plant thicker (6 inches, in 32 or 34 inch rows)
3. Use sulphur dust as recommended.

(c) Educational Activities:

1. Hold county-wide peanut meeting at Prince George Courthouse before planting season, with District Agent and a representative from Extension Agronomy addressing the meeting.
2. Hold seed treating demonstrations.
3. Hold field meetings at varieties result demonstrations

4. Small Grain

(a) Goals:

1. Encourage growing adapted varieties.
2. Treat seed for diseases.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Conduct Variatal wheat demonstrations.
2. Hold result demonstration field meeting.
3. Conduct Oat Varieties demonstration.

(c) Educational Activities:

1. Give information through monthly meetings of farm organizations and press.

5. Hay

(a) Goals:

1. Emphasize better quality hay.
2. Encourage the use of artificial hay dryers.
3. Encourage more general use of peanut vines for hay, instead of allowing them to rot in the field.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Grow more alfalfa.
2. Cut hay early when protein content is high.
3. House all peanut vines as they are thrashed.

(c) Educational Activities:

1. Use press and regular meetings.
2. Hold special field meetings.

6. Soybeans

(a) Goals:

1. Increase yields.
2. Wider use of recommended varieties.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Plant early treated seed.
2. Follow recommendations for lime and fertilizer.
3. Grow more soybeans for hogs.

(c) Educational Activities:

1. Furnish findings of experiment to farmers by tours to Holland Experiment Station, letters and newspapers.
2. Conduct seed variety demonstrations.

7. Winter Cover Crops

(a) Goals:

1. Increase the acreage of cover crops in county.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Conduct demonstrations on use of winter cover crops for winter grazing.
2. Hold field meetings when growth shows results.

B. LIVESTOCK

1. Beef Cattle

(a) Goals:

1. Improve breeding stock.
2. Advocate more silos

(b) Method to be used:

1. Discuss livestock production in winter meetings, emphasizing beef cattle on the program.
- 2.. Assist farmers in obtaining purebred breeding stock.
3. Participate in District Feeder Calf Sales in Petersburg and Richmond.

2. Dairying

(a) Goals:

1. Increase number of purebred cows.
2. Increase number of dairymen using testing association.

(b) Method to be used:

1. Assist dairymen in obtaining good quality cattle.
2. Furnish dairymen latest feeding and management information as it becomes available from dairy specialist and experiment station.

3. Hogs

(a) Goals:

1. Good management
2. Improved breeding stock
3. Enter animals in pure-bred hog Auction Sale

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Disease control
2. Balanced feeding
3. Use purebred boars
4. Encourage farmers to attend purebred hog sales to see, buy and sell good hogs.

C. FORESTRY

(a) Goals:

1. Improve Forestry Management.
2. Home production of farm requirements of fence posts.
3. Furnish information upon request to all farmers requiring it.

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Conduct selective cutting method demonstrations.
2. Conduct timber estimating method demonstrations.
3. Conduct post treating demonstrations.

D. AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND ECONOMICS

(a) Goals:

1. Reorganize Board of Agriculture.
2. Hold Agricultural Outlook Meetings.
3. Improve the farm accounting system of the county.

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Have farm organizations appoint members of Board of Agriculture in addition to representatives from each district.
2. Discuss Agricultural Outlook at county meeting.
3. Furnish Farm Account books to every farmer requesting them.

II. 4-H CLUBS

(a) Goals:

1. Conduct 4-H Clubs in every school in County.
2. Obtain 200 (boys) members.
3. Hold 3 Council Meetings.
4. Hold County-wide picnic Achievement Program.
5. Raise funds for Jamestown 4-H Building Fund.
6. Try to persuade more adults to serve as Leaders of Clubs.

7. Have delegates attend District and State Short Courses.
8. Send 3 delegates to State Forestry School.
9. Send 2 delegates to State Tractor Maintenance School.
10. Try to interest All-Stars in attending State Short Course.

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Request older 4-H Club members to serve as leaders.
2. Organize club in every school and hold monthly meetings.
3. Participate in 4-H Baby Beef Show and Auction to be held in Petersburg in May.
4. Have members exhibit at County and State Fair.
5. Continue the County 4-H Baseball League, with a team from each club in the county.
6. Hold county 4-H Tractor School.

III. OLDER YOUTH

(a) Goals:

1. Organize a county 4-H Alumni Chapter.
2. Reorganize County All Stars.
3. Give precedence to calls for personal service from local veterans.

(b) Methods to be used:

1. Will call on Extension Specialists and with him, will formulate plans.

IV. FARM ORGANIZATIONS

We have always attended regularly monthly meetings of Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmers Union and Ruritan Clubs. The County Extension program is discussed from time to time. This procedure will be continued.

V. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Very satisfactory cooperation is effective between Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Administration, and

Extension Service. All work together on projects of common interest.

Will assist several farmers in establishing irrigation systems.

Concentrated effort will be made to increase farm and home pressure water systems.

All necessary time will be given to conducting Drought Emergency Feed Program.

All Tobacco farmers will be invited to attend tobacco production meeting under sponsorship of Petersburg Chamber of Commerce to be held in March.

Will hold county-wide meeting at which information will be given on farm records and the new Social Security Law.

CALENDAR OF WORK

- January-
 - 1. Farm Accounts and Social Security
 - 2. Agricultural Outlook meetings
 - 3. Develop 4-H Club plans and set up projects.
 - 4. Emergency Feed Program.
- February-
 - 1. Farm and Home Development program.
 - 2. Pruning Demonstrations.
 - 3. Hold 4-H Tractor School.
 - 4. Pasture Meetings.
- March-
 - 1. Organize Corn production program.
 - 2. Pasture Tour
- April-
 - 1. Hold County Peanut production meeting.
 - 2. Soybean Production and Marketing meeting.
 - 3. Tobacco production meeting.
- May-
 - 1. Hold 4-H Club Rally and picnic.
 - 2. Put on 4-H Radio Program.
 - 3. Participate in 4-H Baby Beef Show and Sale.
 - 4. Conduct permanent pasture tour.

- June-
 - 1. Work on Farm and Home Development Program.
 - 2. Visit demonstrations.
 - 3. Give all available time to 4-H Clubs.
- July-
 - 1. Attend District 4-H Club Camp with County Club members.
 - 2. Work on having large attendance from County, at Institute of Rural Affairs.
- August-
 - 1. Hold County Picnic with Hopewell Chamber of Commerce.
 - 2. Promote large attendance of farmers to Holland Experiment Station Field Day.
 - 3. Attend Extension conference in Blacksburg.
- September-
 - 1. Conduct pasture seeding and management demonstrations.
 - 2. Work with Feeder Calf farmers in preparing for Fall sale.
- October-
 - 1. Conduct 4-H Tours to Atlantic Rural Exposition and Southside Virginia Fairs.
 - 2. Assist farmers and club members in preparing and entering exhibits, in Fairs.
 - 3. Visit demonstrations.
- November-
 - 1. Work with Corn Club members in Completing 100-Bushel-Corn-Club contest.
 - 2. Assist 4-H Clubs in completing years work.
 - 3. Write annual reports.
- December-
 - 1. Re-organize 4-H Clubs
 - 2. Hold 4-H Club achievement program.
 - 3. Take vacation.

There is a heavy demand throughout the year for personal service of many types such as vaccinating hogs, culling poultry, agricultural engineering, and general farm management. This often necessitates deviation from the regular program.