

September:

1. 4-H records completed.
2. County and area fat pig contest.
3. Cattle sales begin.
4. State Fair.

October:

1. Bristol 4-H Achievement Day
2. Tobacco Festival
3. Tobacco grading demonstration.
4. Community club judging.
5. Feeder calf and steer sales.

November:

1. Annual report.
2. Tobacco sales.
3. Encourage new DHIA and weigh-a-day-a-month members.
4. Start Special Interest Committee meetings.

December:

1. Assist in completing TVA record books.
2. Tobacco sales continue.
3. Hold meetings of special interest committees to evaluate years accomplishments.

The monthly meetings of community clubs, dairy club, farmers clubs, and SCS, etc. will not normally vary.

4. Southwest Agriculture meeting.
5. Have 4-H Share The Fun program.
6. Hold county wool pool sale committee meeting.
7. Have Pasture Demonstration.
8. 4-H Special Dairy Sale.
9. Assist buyers at breed association bull sale.

May

1. Wool Pool.
2. Prepare for 4-H Camp activities.
3. 4-H lamb show and sale.
4. Sheep shearing school.
5. UTD tour.
6. Have pasture spraying demonstration.

June

1. 4-H Camp.
2. 4-H State Short Course.
3. Fontana Natural Resources Camp.
4. 4-H lamb show and sale.

July

1. Institute of Rural Affairs.
2. Aid with plant disease and insect problems.
3. Commerical ram sale.
4. Soils school.

August:

1. Extension conference.
2. Breed show.
3. Preparation for Tobacco Festival.
4. Tour of supplemental pasture.
5. News releases on proper harvesting of tobacco.

3. Assistant agent attend Leader Fractor Maintenance School.
4. Assist with 4-H Center Fund Drive.
5. Hold annual DHIA analysis meeting.
6. Assâst with display of expermental tobacco.
7. Receive UTD record books and requisition fertilizer.

February

1. Prepare plan of work.
2. Attend State Feeder Calf meeting.
3. Complete 4-H Center Fund Drive.
4. Set up farms on IEM farm records.
5. Start 4-H tractor maintenance school.
6. Hold Turkish Tobacco meeting.

March

1. Assist with Va. Burley Growers meeting.
2. Hold 4-H Public Speaking Contest.
3. Complete 4-H tractor maintenance course.
4. Start training 4-H dairy and livestock judging team.
5. Hold management meeting for poultry producers.
6. Participate in agronomy meeting for professional workers, feed and seed dealers.
7. Assist with meeting of heavy cattle producers.
8. Plan 4-H Spring awards Day.
9. Have Feeder Calf sales planning meeting.

April

1. Hold 4-H Spring Awards Day.
2. Hold 4-H Tractor driving contest.
3. Hold county 4-H baby beef show.

**Extension Methods**

1. Hold annual meeting for UTD Association.
2. Have at least one out of county tour.
3. Use personal contact.
4. Prepare summaries from records completed to show individual weak points.

**Goals**

1. Have 18 active demonstrators.
2. Have record books on 100% of farms.
3. Have 12 members attend out of county tour.
4. Have at least 4 members attend Valley Association meeting.
5. Have 15 attend Southwest Virginia Agriculture Association meeting.

Miscellaneous

1. Furnish bulletins and farm plans on request.
2. Have 750 soil samples tested and recommendations given.
3. Meet with ASC County Committee and assist with program.
4. Have 9,000 tree seedling set out by 4-H members
5. Assist Holston River Soil Conservation District with program.
6. Assist with Tobacco Festival.
7. Publish news articles and give periodic radio broadcasts.
8. Assist Southwest Virginia 4-H Club Center board.
9. Assist 4 community clubs with planning and carrying out their programs.
10. Work with breed association with shows and sales.
11. Advise artificial breeding association.

1959 Calendar

**January**

1. Attend annual State Soil Conservation District meeting.
2. Hold Unit Test Demonstration annual meeting.

Tractor Driving Contest; County Share The Fun Program

C. Goals

1. Enter 7 baby beeves in Bristol and County Shows.
2. Enter 35 fat hogs in Bristol and County Shows.
3. Take a District Dairy Herd to State Fair.
4. Have 300 members attend Bristol Achievement Day and Spring Awards Day.
5. Train a dairy, livestock and soils judging team.
6. Enter and sell 50 lambs in special 4-H lamb show and sale.
7. Have 4 members enter speaking contest.
8. Have 10 members enter share the fun contest.
9. Hold tractor maintenance school and driving contest.
10. Hold a leaders and officers training meeting.
11. Send 25 boy to 4-H club camp; send 1 boy to TVA Natural Resources Camp.
12. Place 5 gilts from 4-H pig chain in new community.
13. Hold two county council meetings.
14. Send representative to Electric Congress.
15. Send representatives to State Short Course.
16. Hold two Honor Club meetings.
17. Enroll 500 members with 700 projects.

Hold the following special events, county public speaking contest, Share the Fun program, tractor maintenance and Tractor driving Contest, and Rural Electric School.

Unit Test Demonstration

A. Situation

1. The 20% reduction in fertilizer for UTD farms reduces the results obtained on each farm if 20 active UTD farms are continued.

2. Use newspaper and radio to explain proper methods of chemical weed control.
3. Hold a grading demonstration at annual Tobacco Festival.
4. Furnish seed dealers with recommended varieties of silage corn and have them encourage farmers to use them.

#### Goals

1. Have 50 persons attend spraying chic weed demonstration.
2. Have 200 persons attend tobacco grading demonstration.
3. 95% of silage chrn raised be of a recommended variety.
4. Furnish all seed dealers with a list of recommended varieties for all crops.

#### 4-H Club Program

##### Situation

1. Adult leader in about 40% of clubs.
2. 450 boys enrolled presently in club work.

##### Extension Methods

1. Hold one training meeting for new club officers and leaders.
2. Hold monthly club meetings for each club.
3. Have one fall achievement program and one spring awards day.
4. Conduct or assist with the following livestock shows, 4-H lamb show, County and Bristol Junior baby show, County and Bristol Junior fat hog show.

#### B. Extension Methods

1. Have training meetings for club officers and adult leaders.
2. Continue monthly 4-H Club meetings.
3. Hold the following 4-H events to place 4-H achievements before the public as well as train members:  
Bristol 4-H Achievement Day; 4-H Spring Awards Day; County Baby Beef Show; County Fat Pig Show; County Public Speaking Contest; County 4-H

4. Use personal contact to discuss the possibility of holding a graded hog sale.

C. Goals

1. Place 30 registered bulls with cow and calf producers.
2. Market 30,000 pounds of wool through wool pool.
3. Sell 500 feeder calves through organized sale.
4. If interest is great enough to justify, hold one graded hog sale.

Poultry

A. Situation

1. Mortality rate runs as high as 20% on some broiler flocks because of poor ventilation.
2. Production drops as low as 40% in some hatching flocks because of management practices.

B. Extreme Methods

1. Hold a mass meeting of broiler and hatching egg producers and with commercial egg producers if interest justifies.

Goals.

1. Have 40 persons attend general management meeting.
2. Furnish approved plans for all new poultry houses built.

Agronomy

A. Situation

1. Chic weed is increasing as a problem in alfalfa.
2. 40% of silage corn produced is not recommended variety.
3. 1/2 or more of tobacco sold last year was mix graded or stuck out in the field.

B. Extension Methods

1. Have one demonstration of spraying alfalfa bothered with chic weed.

3. 3000 of 16,500 dairy cows bred artificially.
4. An active organization of dairymen that meets monthly for educational program.

B. Extension teaching Methods

1. By personal contact explain advantages of DHIA
2. Assist dairy club with educational programs.
3. Use mass media to explain advantages of artificial breeding, HDIA and a complete record on farming operation.

C. Goals

1. Add 4 new DHIA members
2. Start two dairy farmers on machine records system offered by Agriculture Economics Department.
3. Breed 3500 cows artificially.
4. Assist with local milk manufacturing Company with placing 200 dairy heifers imported from Wisconsin.

Livestock

A. Situation

1. The supply of good Beef sire is extremely short.
2. County wool pool is handling about 1/2 of wool produced.
3. The lack of buyers for slaughter hogs leaves producers at mercy of buyers.
4. 400 feeder calves of 5000 produced are marketed through organized sale.

B. Extension Methods

1. Assist breeding association in holding bull sale and encouraging calf producers to require better bulls placed in this sale.
2. Continue to assist wool pools committee by advising an organization.
3. Hold meeting of beef calf producers as well as use news articles to explain the Feeder Calf Sale Program.

- c. The majority of dairymen do not maintain an accurate record of what their production costs over and above feed cost which can be furnished by DHIA.

2. Livestock

- a. Hog producers are hampered by having only one company buying hogs in this area.
- b. Steer producers continue to produce animals above the desired weight.
- c. It is increasingly difficult to locate desirable beef sires.

3. Poultry

- a. Poultry housing has not provided for adequate ventlation.
- b. Since poultry on a commerical scale is new to most producers, management in general is lacking.

4. Agronomy

- a. Controlling weeds in pastures and row crops has been hindered by using incorrect concentrations and consequently caused many farmers to stop using them all together.
- b. The acreage of silage corn has increased sharpely over recent years but there is still a shortage of silage produced.
- c. Tobacco harvesting and grading practices are still reducing quality of tobacco.

5. 4-H Club Work

- a. A need for more local leaders
- b. Keeping older 4-H members enrolled in club work.

IV. Activities

Dairying

A. Situation

1. 43 of 86 grade A producers using DHIA
2. Local supply of replacement heifers insufficient to meet demand.

Last fall's high feeder calf prices stimulated beef cow numbers but it will be some time before an increase in population will be experienced.

Many of the steer producers have had to examine their operation closely. The history of our County has been grass finishing steers to 1100-1200 pounds and some producers finishing 16,000 pound steers. These people are being forced to produce lighter steers, however they will be slow to accept this fact.

The sheep numbers, after holding their own for a couple of years have started to decline again. The major factor here are disease (rot foot, scabies) and dogs and most of all a personal dislike of sheep.

On the agronomy side, of course tobacco is of utmost importance, but the tobacco picture seems stable. The alfalfa acreage is tending to increase. The largest change on the agronomic scene is the increase of silage corn acreage. This will probably continue to increase.

The poultry enterprise in the county are stable except for broiler production. The broilers are decreasing and will probably continue this trend since most of the broilers contracts have changed to give lower guarantees. The hatching egg enterprises will show slight increase and commercial egg producers will change very little.

The trends in 4-H work are toward larger clubs and more special interest programs, such as tractor maintenance etc., which are held outside of the schools and regular club meetings. The county is presently building 3 large consolidated schools. This should not have an adverse effect on the 4-H work but will make programing more difficult.

### III. County Problems and Opportunities

#### I Dairying

- a. The DHIA records indicate an excessive feed cost on a large percentage of farms.
- b. A reluctance to cull cows from herds even when they are producing at a rate less than a break even point.

## I. Brief Description of County Situation

Washington County is the largest Southwest Virginia county. Practically the entire county's economy is based either directly or indirectly upon agriculture. The exception to this the industrial development in the Bristol area. Several housing developments have taken over the better farm land around Bristol.

Washington County (Abingdon) is the marketing center for most farm products in adjoining counties. The local livestock market is one of the largen in the state. The eight burley tobacco warehouses market most of the tobacco produced in the area and the Pet Milk Company condensing plant handles a large portion of the manufactured milk produced in the area. A small plant in Bristol handles the remainder. The Tri-State Milk Producers Plant, located in the county, either handles or negotiates the handling of all the Grade A milk in the area.

Approximately 1/2 of the County's farm income continues to come from Burley tobacco. The size of farms remains small averaging around 65 acres and the large part that tobacco plays in our agriculture appears to be responsible.

## II. County Trends

Dairying continues to be the fastest expanding of our agricultural enterprise. Four new grade A producers have been added and numerous others could be added if a market could be obtained. Manufactured milk producers are also continuing to increase with over 1300 farms selling some milk. The "out of area" marketing of Class I milk by the Tri-State Milk Producers Association has kept the producers in a healthy position and the surplus milk to a minimum (as low as 3% some months). This milk is shipped to a Florida market and since last Sept. was shipped to Norfolk on a Government Contract.

The livestock trends other than Dairying have been erratic. The swine numbers increased rapidly during the last 12 months, however the low market at present will depress the numbers in the immediate future.

EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

FOR

WASHINGTON COUNTY

1959

W. H. Groseclose  
County Agent

Joe W. Derting  
Assistant County Agent

Gay A. Crabtree  
Secretary