IX. 4-H Club Work

A. Situation

1. Enrollment is low in proportion to the population of children of club age .

2. Club work is being neglected because of demand on agents time for adult work .

3. Home Demonstration Agent is doing most of the club work .

B. Goals for 1961

1. Increase enrollment to 65 members.

2. Promote the appointment of an assistance agent to work with club members.

3. Participate in more activities available to club members.

C. Problems

1. Lack of time to conduct both adult and club programs.

2. Poor enrollment.

3. Transportation to and from meetings.

D. Extension Program of Education

1. Encourage members to enter more of the activities available. (March-April)

2. Enter two calves in baby beef show and sale .(April)

3. Secure good enrollment in State and District Camps . (June-July)

5. Arrange for professional assistance in shearing sheep (March)

6. Cooperate with the Petersburg Feeder Calf and Feeder Pig Producers Associations and encourage and assist farmers in selling their calves and pigs through these organizations. (March, June, Sept., Dec.)

VIII. Forestry

A. Goals for 1961

1. Increase the annual growth to 250 board feet per acre on 25 farms.

2. Establish a stand of desireable trees where cuttings are made, through such means as scarifying, poisoning, planting and leaving seed trees on 16 farms.

B. Problems

1. Long time investment before cash returns.

2. Lack of confidence in future market.

3. Shortage of capital on part of farmer.

4. Lack of know-how as to what should be done and how to do it on individual tracts.

5. Use of unwise cutting practices.

6. Lack of market for particular products, especially low grade hard woods.

C. Extension Program of Education

1. Conduct forestry tour to show what can be expected from carrying out specific practices (April)

2. Conduct an educational program to acquaint farmers with opportunities available through proper management (September-November)

3. Set up two woodland management demonstrations (August-Sept.)

VII. Livestock

A. Situation

1. The rather rapid increase in beef cattle numbers which developed during the war and continued for several years, has halted, with possibly a slight reduction in recent years. However, there is still more beef cattle than dairy cattle in the county.

2. Some dairy farms go out of business and others start into production, maintaining about an equal number of farms and cows.

3. Interest in hog production, which showed signs of declining a year ago, has continued at a fairly high level. Feeding establishments have continued active and interest in feeder pig production has increased.

4. There appears to be a slight increased interest in sheep production but the total number in the county is limited to less than 400 head on 18 farms.

B. Goal for 1961

1. Complete the organization of a livestock committee and the development of a program of work in this field.

C. Problems

1. Disease Control.

2. Poor management.

3. Inadequate housing.

D. Extension Program of Education

1. Answer all calls to assist in diognosing disease (all year)

2. Teach individuals how to vaccinate their own animals. (Every Opportunity)

3. Furnish information and recommend methods of preventing disease and parasites.

4. Furnish dairymen with information to prevent chemical residues in milk (March)

D. Extension Program of Action

1. Offer plans service available through our Agricultural Engineering Department.

2. When required plans are not available, prepare the necessary plans and do the engineering work necessary.

VI. Landscaping

A. Situation

1. Requests for assistance in this field can be divided into three groups -

a. New home owners who need assistance in locating driveways, establishing lawns, and selecting and locating shrubs and trees.

b. Old home owners who desire to relocate drives, renovate lawns and make additinnal plantings.

c. Churches and other public grounds.

B. Goal for 1961

1. Secure the desired assistance or help them do the job themselves.

C. Problems

1. Available information, especially on lawns, is prepared for the state and may not be the best for a particular location.

2. Specialists and other trained personnel not available at the time needed.

D. Extension Program of Education

1. Assist in preparing landscape plans when requested.

2. Supply typed copies of a bulletin prepared by the agent, containing recommendations for establishing and maintaining a lawn, to those requesting such information.

3. Use lawns already established, under the agents supervision, as demonstrations of what may be done.

5. Locate three supplementary pasture demonstrations with the use of sweet sudan grass and pearl millet, seeded on various dates to extend grazing period. (May-June)

6. Publicize methods of providing more pasture and forage crops through educational meetings, news items, circular letters, radio and television programs.

V. Farm Buildings

A. Situation

1. Requests for assistance with plans, bills of material and engineering service has increased greatly in recent years.

2. Buildings are inadequate on many farms .

3. Expansion of operations in community centers and on farms require additional space.

B. Goals for 1961

1. Determine needs and requirements of interested farmers and community groups.

2. Offer council and guidance to individuals and groups in deciding on the type and design which will more nearly meet their requirements, at a minimum cost.

3. Use buildings already constructed as demonstrations and models to encourage better type structures.

C. Problems

1. Plans not available to meet the needs of many situations.

2. Majority of farm structures now being built are of pole type and both farmers and carpenters need some supervision in this type of construction.

3. There is no way to anticipate the demand or estimate the time needed for this type of program.

5. Promote better cultural practices through circulars, news articles, radio and television programs. (February to June)

IV. Pasture and Forage Crops

A. 1961 Goals

1. Increase improved pasture from 4500 acres to 4650 acres.

2. Control alfalfa weevil on acreage already seeded to alfalfa.

3. Encourage wider use of orchard grass and improved varieties of red clover for hay crops.

4. Establish supplementary pasture of sweet sudan grass or pearl millet on 50% of the dairy and livestock farms.

B. Problems

1. Insufficient use of lime and fertilizer.

2. Neglect of weed and insect control measures.

3. Over grazing of pastures .

4. Lack of sufficient open land.

5. Poor management in providing supplementary pasture for periods of drought.

C. Extension Program of Education

1. Provide fertilizer, lime and seed mixture recommendations to those who plan new pasture seedings. (Feb., March, Sept. and Oct.)

2. Supply alfalfa producers with latest recommendations for controlling alfalfa weevil.(March- April)

3. Cooperate with agronomy committee in establishing two orchard grass and red clover demonstrations for hay. (August - Sept.)

4. Continue two alfalfa demonstrations already established, showing the proper use of lime, fertilizer, weed and insect control. (March-Oct.)

4. Encourage all farmers to establish rotations and to use Ky. 31 fescue where root knott is a problem. (Feb., March, Sept. and Oct.)

5. Stress the production of quality tobacco and disease and insect control through news items, circulars, radio and television programs. (January through June)

6. Conduct educational meeting for benefit of farmers with irrigation systems and those who rent equipment, stressing time, amount of water and rate of application, assisted by specialists. (March)

III. Peanuts

A. 1961 Goal

1. To increase the average yield of peanuts to 1600 pounds per acre.

B. Problems

1. Weed, disease and insect control.

2. Improper use of lime and fertilizer.

3. Improper plowing and cultivating.

4. Failure to use best seed available.

C. Extension Program of Education.

1. Work with agronomy committee in establishing two demonstrations involving latest recommendations in chemical weed control. (April and May)

2. Furnish information to growers regarding plowing, planting and cultivating methods to prevent stem rot. (April, May, June)

3. Encourage use of recommended varieties (March-April)

4. Assist growers in collecting and submitting soil samples and recommend applications of lime and fertilizer, based on laboratory analysis (Feb.-April)

3. Establish two result demonstrations involving the use and placement of fertilizer, based on needs as shown by soil analysis and to avoid injury to seed and young plants. (April)

4. Encourage better cultural practices to avoid damage to root system, through circulars, news items, radio and television programs.

II. Flue-cured Tobacco

A. 1961 Goals

1. Encourage production of better quality by -
   a. Use of recommended varieties
   b. Fertilization according to needs of the soil
   c. Proper spacing

2. Reduce losses on account of blackshank.

3. Maintain production at the high level already attained.

4. Control root knott nematode by the use of Ky. 31 fescue in rotations or by proper soil fumigation where rotations are not practical.

B. Problems

1. Poor quality tobacco.

2. Losses due to disease.

3. Failure to rotate crops.

4. Failure to use best varieties.

C. Extension Program of Education

1. Provide growers with a list of recommended varieties, including a description of new varieties. (January)

2. Furnish growers with a leaflet containing suggestions for producing quality tobacco. (January)

3. Assist growers in submitting soil samples and make fertilizer and lime recommendations, based on analysis, soil type and cropping history. (February, March and April)

but are getting away from the practice of attempting both operations.

Interest in poultry and egg production has declined rapidly during the past year and some of the newer buildings are being converted to other uses.

The production of soybeans for seed increased from 1720 acres in 1955 to 5546 acres in 1959.

A few farms marketed peanuts in bulk in 1959 and more than one-third of the crop was marketed in bulk in 1960.

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

Considerable work has recently been done toward writing a long-time program of work for the county. It is expected that this will be completed within the next few weeks.

The following plan has been selected from the programs developed, with the aid of the agronomy, forestry and livestock committees.

ACTIVITIES

I. Corn

A. 1961 Goal

1. Increase average yield per acre to 55 bushels.

B. Problems

1. Planting varieties not adapted.

2. Improper fertilization (amount and placing).

3. Failure to control weeds.

4. Improper cultivation (too deep).

C. Extension Program of Education

1. Provide seedsmen and farmers a list of recommended varieties. (March)

2. Cooperate with the agronomy committee in setting up two chemical weed control demonstrations involving most recent recommendations. (June)

As near as can be determined, the various sources and amounts of farm income for the year 1955 are listed below.

Flue-cured tobacco	$ 2,920,000	
Peanuts	660,000	
Fire-cured tobacco	122,000	
Corn (Est. 15% sold)	67,000	
Soybeans	60,800	
Wheat (Est. 30% sold)	45,000	
Cotton	13,825	
All other, including vegetables	65,000	$3,954,125
Dairy Products	346,500	
Hogs	296,190	
Poultry & Products	251,700	
Beef Cattle	218,750	
Sheep	2,450	1,115,725
Farm Forest Products	96,666	96,666
Total farm income for 1955		$ 5,166,391

CHANGES INFLUENCING PLAN

Interest in forest improvement practices is increasing. This includes poisoning of hardwood stands, thinning, clearing and planting. Small farms placed in the soil bank or otherwise gone out of production are being planted with pine seedlings.

Farmers are depending more each year on soil analysis to determine lime and fertilizer requirements which demands more time in soil sampling and converting laboratory reports to recommendations.

There is much interest in crop varieties, especially tobacco, corn, soybeans and peanuts.

Both the number of farms and farm operators are becoming smaller each year as small farms go out of production or are combined into larger operations.

The rapid spread of blackshank in tobacco to more farms and more fields makes the use of crop rotations and resistant varieties a matter of great importance.

The demand for assistance with various types of structures is increasing rapidly and demanding more of the agents time.

Hog production is becoming more specialized. More farmers are preparing to either produce feeder pigs or grow out hogs for market,

GENERAL SITUATION

Dinwiddie County is located in Southside Virginia, between the Appomattox River on the north and the Nottoway River on the south. It was formed from Prince George County in 1752 and named for Lord Dinwiddie, then Governor of Virginia.

Petersburg, an independent city, is located in the northeastern corner of the county. It was settled before 1675 and grew up on the site of Fort Henry, which had been established in 1645 at the falls of the Appomattox River. It was incorporated as a town in 1784 and became a city of first class in 1851.

The population of Dinwiddie County increased from 18,839 in 1950 to 22,134 in 1960. Petersburg increased from 35,054 in 1950 to 36,795 in 1960.

The topography of the land is generally level to slightly rolling. Elevations vary from 50 feet above sea level in the east to 400 feet in the west. Swampy areas are found in the eastern part of the county, otherwise it is well drained and the surface relief is favorable for crop production.

Since the county is located between two rivers and lies across the dividing line between the Coastal Plains and the Piedmont Plateau, a wide variety of soils are found. The loam and clay soils of the Piedmont, the sandy soils of the Coastal Plains and mixtures of these are general. The light, well drained soils are desireable for the important flue-cured tobacco and peanut crop.

With an area of 507 square miles, the county ranks about twenty-first in size among the Virginia Counties. Rainfall averages from 40 to 45 inches per year, which is usually well distributed and abundant for crop production. The average length of the growing season from frost to frost is 198 days.

There probably was never more cleared land in the county than there is today. About 72% of the total land area is forested with some form of timber growth. In recent years, large tracts of hardwood have been cleared or poisoned and replanted with pine. About 30% of the land area is held by companies or individuals for forest product purposes. The estimated annual growth of timber is 200 board feet per acre. The estimated potential, with proper management, is 500 board feet.

PLAN OF WORK - EXTENSION PROGRAM

DINWIDDIE COUNTY VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1, 1960 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1961

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HEADQUARTERS - DINWIDDIE VIRGINIA

B. F. Bedwell, County Agent

Margie B. Reese, Secretary