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1955 CALENDAR OF WORK

JANUARY

1. Annual meetings of all farmer organizations in county and state.
2. Regular A-H club meetings.
3. Finish of tobacco sales for year including experimental tobacco raised in county by local farmer.
4. Arrange for dipping sheep infected with scabies.
5. Annual meeting of Board of Agriculture.

FEBRUARY

1. A-H club meetings.
2. Dairy school for dairyman.
3. Dairy story for Roanoke Times.
4. 1955 Plan of Work.

MARCH

1. Regular A-H meetings and start tractor maintenance course.
2. Enter pasture contestants.
3. Arrange for agronomy demonstrations on farms.
4. Tobacco bed demonstrations.

APRIL

1. A-H meetings and complete tractor maintenance course.
2. Train dairy and poultry judging teams.
3. Corn demonstration.
4. Aid farmers in selecting varieties of vegetables for market.
5. Spring A-H county achievement day.

MAY

1. A-H club meetings.
2. Continue training of A-H judging teams.
3. Attend district A-H judging contests.
4. Demonstrate better hay making techniques.
5. Continue aid on vegetable market.

JUNE

1. A-H district camp.
2. Continue training A-H teams.
3. Hay demonstration.
4. Further aid farmers in marketing vegetables.

JULY

1. State short course teams competing if lucky.
2. Demonstrations using grain weevil protectorant.
3. Demonstration on brush cutter in pastures.
4. Vegetable market aided, also, farmers aided producing for market.

e. When Will Job Be Done:

1. Tractor course - March and April.
2. County Council - May.

f. Where Will Meetings Be Held:

1. Club meetings in schools.
2. Club council at court house.
3. All Stars at their homes and picnics.

g. Who Will Cooperate:

1. Some parents.
2. Some older club members.
3. Some teachers.

h. Goal for 1955:

1. 70% completion of club boys.
2. 20 members at district camp.
3. Judging teams in poultry and dairy.
4. Two all stars chosen.

i. Help Needed:

1. Machinery dealers.
2. State leaders.

Aid given by Elair Keller, Jr.; Leighton Sprinkle, Nancy Jean Lester, Nancy Jean Smith and Robert Garrett.

- f. Attempts will be made to have tours to above demonstrations over the county.
- g. Each community will be asked to choose their cooperator in above.
- h. Goal for 1955:
  - 1. A brush cutting machine demonstrations.
  - 2. Four silage mixture demonstrations.
  - 3. Pasture contest continued.
  - 4. 80% of tobacco fields have soil test.
  - 5. Wholesale vegetable market.
- i. Help Needed:
  - 1. G. R. Mathews for tobacco.
  - 2. G. R. Epperson and W. W. Lewis for crops.
  - 3. Shouder for pastures.
  - 4. L. B. Wilkins and L. G. Beamer for vegetable market.
  - 5. Aid was given by Sherman Gold and D. J. Campbell.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

- a. Situation
 

Washington County has no Assistant Agent and needs one.
- b. What Are Needs:
  - 1. More all stars assuming club leadership in their communities.
  - 2. More club members completing their projects.
  - 3. Assistant Agent to do club work and aid in other work.
- c. What Will Be Done In 1955:
  - 1. Attempt to have older club members assume leadership.
  - 2. Hold tractor maintenance course.
  - 3. Attempt to have all stars help visit members projects in summer.
  - 4. Ask club members to join their parents at community club meetings.
- d. How Will People Be Informed:
  - 1. Community meetings.
  - 2. County Council.
  - 3. All Star chapter.
  - 4. News stories.
  - 5. Radio interviews.

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**i. Help Needed:**

1. Aid of livestock marketing specialist.
2. Aid of Commissioner of Agriculture.
3. Aid of State Veterinarian.  
Aid given by Leighton Sprinkle and D. J. Campbell.

**AGRICULTURE**

**a. Situation:**

We are blessed by good blue grass pastures, but many need renovating. Tobacco acreage cuts imperil livelihood of many small farmers.

**b. What Are Immediate Needs:**

1. Renovate poor pastures.
2. Furnish new pastures.
3. Better hay making techniques.
4. Clip pastures to improve herbage.
5. More alfalfa seedings and better fertilizing of all alfalfa.
6. More silos.
7. More contour farming when hills must be cropped.
8. New source of income.

**c. What Will Be Done:**

1. More demonstration fields of silage mixtures.
2. More supplemental pastures.
3. More soil tests to determine proper liming and fertilizing for different crops.
4. Demonstration of pasture brush cutting by machinery.
5. Aid establishing of vegetable market.

**d. How Brought to Public:**

1. Community club meetings.
2. Newspaper articles.
3. Radio interviews.
4. Cooperation of seed and fertilizer dealers.

**e. When Will Job Be Done:**

1. Pasture seeding in spring and fall.
2. Pasture clipping in August.
3. Silage mixtures in August.
4. Vegetable varieties and culture for market in spring.

b. What Are Needs:

1. More aggressive marketing by farmers.
2. Better sanitation and health.
3. More farmers use portable sheep dipping vat.
4. Sell as calves, beef showing poor quality.

c. 1955, What Shall We Do:

1. Livestock school this fall.
2. Dip 25% of all sheep.
3. Have general livestock meeting with authority to speak.
4. More silos constructed, either pit, bunker or upright.

d. How To Reach Peoples:

1. Newspaper success stories.
2. Radio success stories.
3. Meetings and livestock school.

e. When Will Each Job Be Done:

1. Winter meeting setting standards for 1955 feeder calf sale.
2. Each producer sent rules of sale as decided at winter meeting.
3. Sheep dipping as soon after shearing as practicable and feasible.

f. When Meetings To Be Held:

1. At time of collection of wool pool.
2. Previous to feeder calf sale.

g. Who Will Cooperate:

1. Wool pool committee and operator of dip vat.
2. All consignors to feeder calf and steer sales.

h. Goal for 1955:

1. 25% of all sheep dipped.
2. 95% of all lambs docked and castrated.
3. Get both local yards to state grade lambs.
4. All beef calves treated for blackleg and bull calves castrated.
5. 50% of all beef cattle blood tested for bangs.
6. Better sires stressed at all times.
7. Tetanus in lambs controlled.

c. 1955, What Shall We Do:

1. Use Artificial Breeding Association bulls.
2. Raise better cow replacements.
3. Promote better and more seasonal pasture.
4. Better management and feeding.
5. All females tested for Bangs.

d. How To Tell the Dairymen:

1. Meeting in communities and monthly dairy association.
2. Radio success stories.
3. News stories of improved practices.
4. Pasture contest.

e. When Shall Each Be Done:

1. Better sires stressed continually.
2. Establish and recognize demonstration pastures in all communities.
3. Secure aid from feed and fertilizer dealers, banks and Pet Dairy.
4. Tour good pastures in August.
5. Artificial bred heifer class in October.

f. Where Meetings Be Held:

1. On dairy farms where good jobs are being done.

g. Goal For 1955:

1. 10% increase in number cows bred artificially.
2. Increase size of local BHA from 22 to 24.
3. Increase alfalfa and ladino-corchard grass or fescue, acreages.
4. One herd averaging 500 # fat.

h. Help Needed to Do The Job:

1. Outstanding dairy speaker for Appalachian Artificial Breeding Association annual meeting.
2. Discussion of present situation in feeding and management by Frank Ellmore and local dairymen. Aid given by Kenneth Spahr and H. J. Hagan.

LIVESTOCK

a. Present Status:

Gradual and consistent swing from steers to cow and calf herds. Present lamb market is unstable for lack of buyers. Unsteady hog price situation to reflect either higher or lower prices.

3. Start the Sears chick project with 10 to 11 A-H club members taking a total of 1000 chicks bred for laying qualities.

d. How Inform The Public:

1. Newspaper articles.
2. Radio success stories.
3. Discussions at farm and A-H meetings.

e. When Will Each Job Be Done:

1. Meetings to be held as needs arise.
2. Timely stories.
3. Demonstrations.

f. Where Will Above Be Held:

1. In affected areas.

g. Who Will Cooperate:

1. Local feed handlers; veterans, dressing plants and producers.

h. Goal For 1955:

1. To replace at least 1/4 of shipped in eggs with local eggs.
2. Train stores to sell graded eggs.
3. Train consumers to buy on grade.

i. Specialists or Others To Help:

1. Dr. Hindman of diagnostic laboratory at Wytheville.
2. Dr. E. F. Johnson of VPI.
3. Poultry Department men.

DAIRY

a. Present Status:

There is a gradual increase in number of producers selling grade A as they establish qualified buildings.

b. What Are Needs:

1. More economical structures for housing and feed.
2. Use better bred bulls, either artificial or natural.
3. Dairymen to keep bulls until producing daughters show real merit or failure.
4. More economical production.

## I. HISTORY, PAST AND PRESENT

Washington County has 3814 farms according to 1950 census and average size of farm is 96.7 acres. Medium sized farms are decreasing as farms are split and sold in sections; large farms and small farms are remaining stable.

The county is in the Virginia Highlands which means farms have rolling to mountainous topography. Good land is high in price.

Beef cattle numbers remain steady with swing from steers to cow and calf herds.

Dairying is on increase as population increases with industrial growth of towns and cities.

1953 and 1954 drouths materially affected the economy of the county.

Good labor supply is nil.

25% reduction in tobacco allotments for 1955 means an additional source of revenue is mandatory for the economy of the county.

### EQUINRY

#### a. Present Status:

Prices of broilers and turkeys have been disastrous and many are stopping all poultry production.

#### b. Needs:

Get chicks placed to become layers this summer and fall when egg prices should be higher.

#### c. 1955 Needs:

1. Get layer flocks ready for fall production.
2. Get broiler producers who are out of business to start broilers when broiler prices are low as they should hit a scarcity if they are careful and follow good management. Higher broiler prices are forecast for April and the large number of broilers started then will mean low prices ten to twelve weeks later.

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PLAN OF MORE

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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James M. Coraline  
County Agent