

PLAN OF WORK
Hanover County
1959

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Brief Description of County

Hanover County is located in the northeastern section of Virginia. It is situated on the fall line between the Piedmont and Eastern soils and topograph. The western end of the county is predominately rolling Piedmont soils, while the east end is level to gently rolling with tidewater soils. The average size farm is 116 acres.

Poultry constitutes 35% of the total value of sales of farm products. Milk constitutes 15% of sales, cattle and calves 12%, and vegetables 10%. Hogs, small grain, soybeans, tobacco, and forest products are also important farm enterprises.

Hanover County is still primarily rural, having only one town with a population of 2,500. However, being near Richmond, there are many part time farmers. The non-farm population is growing.

County Agricultural Situation

Due to the cost-price squeeze and the decreasing margin of profit, farmers are increasingly interested in farm management and marketing problems.

The small farms of Hanover County make it imperative that good management practices be followed. This situation also calls for serious consideration of some type of collective marketing arrangements for vegetables and other agriculture products.

Farm people still consider themselves primarily as producers, and most of the requests for assistance are on the many problems they have in this field.

The County Extension program was developed with the cooperation of the following groups:

1. County Extension Service Board
2. Agronomy Committee
3. Vegetable Committee
4. Youth Committee

General Agriculture Problems and Need of Hanover County

The Hanover County Agriculture Service Board met and designated the following general area for emphasis during 1959. These projects were selected after information of the county situation had been presented by the County Extension Staff, and the group had discussed the subject.

1. Agronomy
2. Poultry
3. Farm & Home Development
4. 4-H Club Work

Activities

Agronomy

The Hanover County Agronomy Committee is composed of the following men: C. F. Cross, Jr., W. E. Peace, Garland Smith, Julian Rada, Merle Smith, Claude Brooks, J. P. Billingsley, William Shelton, H. D. Dabney, Milton Wickham.

These men met to plan the 1959 Hanover County Agronomy program.

Situation:

Hanover County has 44,717 acres of cropland and 17,886 acres of pasture. Of this acreage, 35,793 were fertilized and 3,867 were limed in 1954.

The use of lime has decreased from 11,463 tons in 1950 to 1,876 tons in 1957. Of the 293 soil samples handled by the County Extension Office in 1958, 215 showed that an application of lime was needed.

Many different grades of fertilizer are now available. This fact plus the importance to use the right analysis and amount of fertilizer.

Chemical weed control has become an important matter in the last few years. Interest in this project is increasing.

Alfalfa acreage is on the increase in Hanover County. The yield per acre of this crop has remained almost constant, about 2.3 tons. Weeds, insects, and lack of proper plant food plays a part in this modest yield.

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Important Needs:

1. More soil sampling.
2. More lime used.
3. Increase in amount, and right analysis of fertilizer used to top dress alfalfa.
4. More effective, economical control of alfalfa weevil.
5. More effective weed control in agronomic crops.
6. Wider use of recommended varieties.

Methods of Meeting Needs:

Two alfalfa demonstrations will be set up in Hanover County. These demonstrations will be on the farms of Mr. Tom Stanley, Ashland, Va., and Mr. R. R. Jeter, Jr., Mechanicsville. These demonstrations will show the effect of the proper control of chickweed, the application of the recommended amount of fertilizer, and the control of the alfalfa weevil with granular heptachlor. Mr. John Shoulders and Mr. Allen Kates will work with the

county agents on this project.

A meeting will be held in early spring on the chemical control of weeds in agronomic crops. Mr. Allen Kates will work with the county Extension agents and one of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers with this project.

Programs on soil sampling will be given at one meeting in each of the 4-H Clubs in Hanover County. Also special newspaper articles and pictures will be prepared for the county weekly paper.

Circulars encouraging the taking of soil samples will be distributed.

Farm visits will be used to encourage and demonstrate the taking of soil samples.

The part results of soil samples plays in determining the fertilizing and liming of crops will also be emphasized.

Lists of recommended varieties will be published in the local county paper. In addition crop recommendations will be sent to members of the Board of Agriculture, commodity committees, and leading farmers. Variety recommendations will also be posted in feed and seedstores in Hanover County.

Goals:

1. 1,000 soil samples taken
2. 3,000 tons of lime applied
3. All alfalfa treated for weevil
4. Alfalfa yields increased to 3.8 tons.

Vegetables

The Hanover County Vegetable Committee is composed of the following vegetable growers: Oscar Via, Jr., Leonard Burnette, Daniel Talley, Natherine Kirby, Cary Hall, Winston Parsley, Edwin Adams, Edward Talley, Vernon Grubbs.

This committee assisted in planning the Hanover County vegetable program.

Approximately 35% of the tomatoes, 50% of sweet corn, and 95% of the fall greens sold through the Association were packed in recommended packages.

Very few Hanover County vegetable growers use soil sampling to help them determine their fertilizer and lime needs.

Vegetable growers continuously have problems in insect, disease, and weed control. New chemicals are rapidly being developed and becoming available to farmers. They need up-to-date information in order to intelligently choose the proper material and methods.

New varieties of vegetable crops are being developed, and farmers want to be kept informed of these new varieties.

Important Needs:

1. Continue work on marketing facility
2. Continue work on marketing methods
3. More fertilization and liming based on soil samples
4. Information on varieties, insect control, disease control, and weed control

Method of Meeting Needs:

The County Extension agents will meet with a Hanover County Vegetable Growers Association Committee and Farm Bureau representative, Mr. A. B. Flora, to discuss the purchase of two acres of land by the Association. The land will be purchased for the purpose of construction of a marketing facility for the Association.

The County Extension agents will also assist vegetable growers committees in securing buyers and discussing arrangements with those buyers. Agents will assist in informing farmers of the importance of signing marketing agreements with the Association in order for it to do a good job of marketing their produce.

County Extension agents will work closely with the Vegetable Growers Association in furnishing it with information and assistance with organizational and marketing problems.

Vegetable growers will be invited to attend a meeting on weed control in April. Mr. Allen Kates, VPI Extension specialist, will assist with this meeting.

Soil sample boxes and instruction sheets will be made available at meetings of the Vegetable Growers Association. Also demonstrations on soil sampling and soil and liming information will be given on farm visits.

Bulletins and other information on insect and disease control and new varieties will be made available at meeting of the Vegetable Growers organization.

Special newspaper articles and pictures will be prepared on soil sampling, insect and disease control, weed control, and new varieties.

Goals:

1. Improved marketing facility during 1959
2. 60% of tomatoes packed in recommended containers.
3. 75% of corn packed in recommended container.
4. 30 farmers taking and using results of soil samples to determine fertilizer and lime requirements.

Farm and Home Development

Situation:

The Assistant County Agent worked with 56 families during 1958. An abundance of feed grain and hogs was produced causing more interest in feeding hogs and beef cattle. More calves were kept for wintering and more gilts have been bred. More interest has been seen in management and ways of reducing costs.

Extension Methods:

Farm visits will be used for the most part in conducting the program. A two-day Farm and Home Management School will be held with the help of the Extension Division specialists. A series of 4 farm management meetings will be held in two communities for cooperation in the program. Cooperators will be urged to attend special field days at the Experiment Stations and The Farmers Institute.

Goals for year:

1. Appraise progress of cooperators and drop those who do not need special assistance.
2. Enroll new cooperators to take place of those dropped.
3. Keep cooperators informed of the general Extension program.

Livestock

The County Extension agents will continue to schedule trips with the local veterinarian to vaccinate calves for Bangs.

Feeder calf, yearling and fat cattle sales will continue to be publicized and farmers encouraged to sell their animals through these Extension sponsored sales.

Information on and assistance in controlling diseases and parasites will be given by County Extension agents.

The County Extension agents will again assist sheep growers in securing a professional shearer to come to Hanover County to shear their sheep.

Information and plans for construction of livestock buildings and equipment will continue to be supplied through the County Extension office.

Dairying

The DHIA program will continue to be assisted and supported by the Hanover County Extension agents. The monthly report of the Chesterfield-Hanover DHIA will be sent out from this Extension office.

Dairy animals will be included in the Bangs vaccination trips scheduled through the County Extension office.

Information and plans for construction of dairy buildings and equipment will continue to be supplied through the County Extension office.

Forestry

The County Extension forestry program will continue with all the effort the County Extension agents can give to it.

During the month of January the County Extension agents will work with Ed. Gill, Extension forester, and representatives of the Virginia Division of Forestry in holding a demonstration. The demonstrations will be on killing

hardwood, planting pine, thinning a young stand, and bulldozing and planting.

In April a program on forestry will be given to the Montpelier Kuritan Club.

The County Extension agents will also assist in collecting material for the pine sawfly survey. This insect was observed in four west-end communities last year.

Forestry information, tree seedling applications, and requests for forestry assistance will be handled by the County Extension staff.

Poultry

A poultry committee will be organized during 1959.

Information on marketing and production will be supplied by personal contact, literature, and newspaper articles.

Other Agencies

The County Extension agents will cooperate with the SCS, ASC, FHA, Virginia Forestry Department, the Vocational Educational Departments in assisting Hanover County farmers.

4-H

The Hanover County Youth Committee is composed of the following people: Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Carpenter, Mrs. Kenneth Litton, Mrs. L. T. Holman, Mrs. Charles E. Owen, Jr., Mrs. E. K. Graves, Mrs. J. R. Gilman, Mrs. A. A. Farrell, Frank Hamard, Carlton Hall, M. R. Sisson, Robert Jeter, Jr.

This committee met to plan the Hanover County 4-H program.

Situation:

The 4-H Club enrollment has remained about the same for the last three years. The percentage of completions has also been about constant.

There is a 4-H County Council organized in Hanover County which holds regular meetings. At the beginning of this year an advisory group, the Hanover County Youth Committee, was organized to assist agents in planning the County 4-H program.

Six adult and three Junior leaders assist in the Hanover County 4-H program. However, the adult leaders work in an unorganized manner, and assist in specific projects as they come up.

Hanover County Club members participate in varied activities. These include; Camps, contests, fairs, and demonstrations.

Important Needs:

The following needs of the Hanover County 4-H program were named by the County Youth Committee:

1. Education of parents
2. Community clubs (This does not mean that all clubs should be taken out of the schools.)
3. More adult leaders (husband and wife teams)
4. More Junior leaders
5. Interest more civic clubs in sponsoring 4-H activities
6. Regular meetings of this group (County Youth Committee)

Methods of Meeting Needs:

Literature on 4-H Club work will be obtained to inform parents of 4-H Club work. Parents will also be visited by leaders and agents.

Leaders and agents will meet with parents and prospective 4-H leaders in the communities.

In some communities leaders will visit homes to see if there is sufficient interest in organizing a community 4-H Club. If there is interest, a community club will be organized.

Civic clubs in the county will sponsor 4-H projects if they are presented with a specific well-planned project. During 1959 this method will be used to obtain civic club support.

Meeting times for the County Youth Committee have been set during April and August.

The Hanover County program will also be carried out by the participation of 4-H Club members in the varied activities of the County, district and State activities:

Information and publicity on 4-H Club work, members, and leaders will be presented by news articles, pictures, at meetings, and other media.

Goals:

1. 70% record book completion
2. 4 leaders in organized 4-H Club work
3. Two community clubs organized
4. At least two club members attend State Short / Course
5. A representative at Conservation Camp
6. 4 Junior leaders assisting with 4-H Club work

Calendar:

December: Meeting of County Board of Agriculture

January: Forestry Demonstration
Meeting of Agronomy Committee
DHIA Meeting
Meeting of Vegetable Growers' Association

February: Meeting of Youth Committee
Meeting of Extension Vegetable Committee
Meeting of Hanover County Vegetable Growers' Association
4-H Livestock Judging Team Organized

March: Meeting of Hanover County Vegetable Growers' Association
Submit State 4-H Club Records
4-H Camp Meeting
Picnic Committee of County Board of Agriculture

April: 4-H County Council Meeting
County Board of Agriculture Meeting
District 4-H Contests
Forestry Program at Ruritan Meeting
Junior Fat Stock Show & Sale
Weed Control Meeting

May: Hanover County Youth Committee Meeting
Poultry Committee Meeting
Vegetable Committee Meeting

June: State 4-H Short Course
Agronomy Committee Meeting

July: 4-H Camp - Jr. & Sr.
Institute of Rural Affairs
County Board of Agriculture

August: County Picnic
Extension Conference
Youth Committee Meeting

September: State Fair
Organize 4-H Clubs

October: 4-H Achievement Day

November: Annual Report