

1960

AGRICULTURAL PLAN OF WORK

FOR

POWHATAN COUNTY

POWHATAN, VIRGINIA

prepared by the County Agricultural Agent through the cooperation
of the following commodity committees:

1. Dairy
2. Livestock
3. Agronomy
4. Forestry

* Reference - Long Time Extension Program for Powhatan County

Fowhatan, one of the small counties in Eastern Piedmont, has an area of only 270 square miles, with two-thirds of this area in woodland.

The average size farm is 155 acres. There are approximately 600 farms in the county. The cash income from products sold off the farm amounts to a million and a half dollars annually.

The chief source of farm income is from milk and dairy products. This accounts for over 50% of the total farm income.

Beef cattle, poultry, tobacco and grain crops are other sources of cash farm income.

According to the "Long Time Extension Program" for the county, the annual plan of work would have to do with the following:

1. Dairying
2. Livestock
 - a. beef cattle
 - b. swine
 - c. poultry
3. Agronomy
 - a. alfalfa
 - b. corn
 1. for silage
 2. for grain
 - c. Tobacco
 - d. Pastures
 - e. Small grain
4. Forestry
5. 4-H Clubs

1. From the "Long Time Plan" the Dairy Committee selected the following to be included in the 1960 Plan of Work.
 - a. To increase membership in the local D.H.I.A., and if necessary look into the possibility of setting up another association to meet the needs of the county dairymen.
 - b. To increase the number of cows bred artificially.
 - c. To supervise 4-H boys with their dairy projects, and to have 4-H county judging team at District Contest.
 - d. To follow through on the State "Mastitis" program on the county level.

Methods to be used in meeting these objectives are listed as follows:

1. Hold analysis meeting for D.H.I.A. members.
2. Tours to demonstration dairy herds, for the purpose of showing the advantages of using the services of the Artificial Breeding Program.
3. Have fitting and showing clinic for both adults and 4-H members.

4. Place "Mastitis" posters in every dairy barn in the county.
5. See that all information available on the mastitis program gets into the hands of each county dairymen.
6. Through general meetings, letters, news articles etc. get the mastitis message to dairymen.
7. Observe "Dairy month" by tours, letters and posters.
8. Individual visits to County Dairy farms for consultations on individual dairy problems.
9. Visit by agent to 4-H dairy projects.
10. Coach 4-H dairy team
11. Monthly D.H.I.A. summary sheets to be prepared and mailed to all D.H.I.A. members.
12. Exhibit dairy cattle in both the adult and 4-H classes at the state and local fairs.

Livestock

Livestock is second only to dairying in economic importance in Pownatan county.

The livestock committee feel that the most important problem to be tackled in 1960 was the marketing of calves through the special sales. These problems as listed:

1. Too few beef producers are taking advantage of this market outlet.
2. Strict grading on the farm before selling is being neglected by many producers.
3. Many beef producers are not using a pure bred bull.
4. Management and feeding of beef cattle is not up to par in many of the county herds.

Methods to be used in solving the above problems:

1. Through meetings and personal contacts point out the advantages of marketing calves through the "Feeder Sales".
2. Assist the selection committee in the grading of calves on the farm before sale.
3. Assist beef cattle producers with locating, selecting, and purchasing pure bred sires.
4. Hold livestock school for the purpose of discussing the following topics.
 - a. Management and feeding
 - b. Breeding
 - c. Castrating, dehorning and vaccinating calves.
 - d. Worming
 - e. Grading
 - f. Selecting heifers for brood cows
 - g. Culling the herd.

Agronomy

The agronomy committee felt that the following were the agronomy problems to be considered in 1960:

1. Alfalfa
 - a. Fertilization
 - b. Alfalfa weevil control
 - c. Chick weed control
2. Use of soil testing service
3. Pasture improvement
4. Use of recommended seed varieties

Methods to be used are listed as follows:

- A. Alfalfa demonstrations on
 1. Proper fertilization including annual top dressing.
 2. Alfalfa weevil control by the use of granular heptachlor, and other chemicals.
 3. Chick weed control by use of applied chemicals at proper time.
 - B. Through meetings, letters, and other means of communication, advise farmers of the value of using the soil testing service of V.P.I., the proper way to take soil samples, and the use of the correct amount and analysis of fertilizers.
 - C. Hold "Forage Contest" (county-wide)
 - D. Conduct demonstrations on seed varieties.
- Educational Activities
1. Agronomy tours to alfalfa and pasture fields where approved practices are being carried out.
 2. News stories on outstanding agronomy accomplishments.
 3. Agronomy exhibits at local fairs by farmers and 4-H members.

Forestry

The forestry committee considered the following as goals for 1960:

1. To include the forestry project in the county 4-H club program.
2. To plant more pine trees.
3. To encourage more farmers to take advantage of the A.C.P. program in their forestry practices.
4. To encourage the county farmers to use the services of the Virginia Forest Service.

Methods to be used:

1. Meet with the County Forestry Committee and V.P.I. Forestry specialist for planning.
2. To supervise 4-H Forestry projects.
3. Forestry demonstrations on -
 - a. Clear cutting and planting trees
 - b. Thinning and spot planting

Educational Activities:

1. Tours to sites with good forestry management.
2. Forestry exhibits at local fair.
3. Field trip for 4-H boys with forestry projects.

4-H Clubs

1. Goals:
 - a. Enroll at least 65 boys.
 - b. Regular monthly meetings outside of school.
 - c. Increase completions to at least 80%.
 - d. To take part in District Contest.
 - e. Supervise on the farm projects.
 - f. Secure at least one additional leader for a boy's club.
 - g. Hold annual achievement day program.
 - h. Observe National 4-H Club Week.
 - i. Hold annual meetings of county council.
 - j. Recommend one boy to All Stars.
 - k. Have at least 35 members from the county attend summer 4-H Camp.

2. Methods to be used:

1. Meet with prospective club members (in school).
2. Arrange for monthly meeting places out of school.
3. Work with boys on individual club projects.
4. Coach 4-H members and teams who will compete in the District Contest.
5. Assist members in completion of records.
6. Assist members with fair exhibits.

Educational Activities

1. Newspaper stories and pictures on outstanding project work.
2. Reports from each club at the achievement day program.
3. Posters made by members and leaders to be displayed in prominent places in the county

CALENDAR OF WORK

December

- Meetings of commodity committees
- 4-H Club re-organization

January

- Meetings of commodity committees
- Annual meetings of Artificial Breeding Association
- Annual meetings of D.H.I.A.
- Communication school

February

- Achievement Day Program
- Plan of Work
- Subject matter meetings
- Demonstrations on 1. Chickweed control on alfalfa
- 2. Alfalfa weevil control

March

- Demonstration on
 - a. Castrating, dehorning and vaccinating beef calves
 - b. Pasture seeding demonstrations

April

- District 4-H Contest (Farmville)
- Feeder Calf Sale

May

- Pasture and forage tour
- Forage Contest

June

- 1. 4-H All Star Conference and short course
- 2. Dairy month (observance)

July

- 1. Institute of Rural Affairs
- 2. 4-H Camp at Jamestown

August

- Annual Extension Conference
- Judging Forage Contest

September

- 1. Demonstrations on castrating, dehorning and vaccinating beef calves.
- 2. Selecting calves for Feeder sale.
- 3. Planning for local fair

October

- Local Fair
- State Fair
- Feeder Calf Sale

November

- Meetings of commodity committees
- Annual reports