

VI. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CLUBS (con't.)

Goals

3. Have sponsoring groups to be more active in club work and arrange for judging communities in contests

Methods

3. Meet with sponsoring groups and assist in working out an active program of sponsorship of clubs

VII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Farm and Home Development is a relative new phase of our County Program for 1955.

Our objective will be to provide carefully chosen farm families with counsel and assistance in learning to identify and analyze their farm and home problems. We will then assist these families in determining their opportunities and a definite course of action to follow which will produce the maximum in terms of economic returns and family satisfaction. Then, these families will decide which course of action to follow and will put the chosen plan into operation as rapidly as conditions will permit. We will offer council and assistance through Extension specialists and our own technical information in helping them start this plan.

Our goal is to work with three farm families on this program in 1955.

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V. EXTENSION-TVA PROGRAM (con't.)

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
2. Review status of each unit test demonstrator and develop up-to-date farm plans with him. Those not cooperating to be placed on inactive list by committee	2. Farm visit on developing farm plans. Committee farm visit for any placed on inactive list
3. Hold field meetings or farm tours where good farm management practices have been established	3. Plan and publicize meetings or tours by way of radio, letters and news stories
4. Selection of four new unit test demonstration farms to balance program in the county	4. Submit suggested farms to committee for approval. Prepare farm map, land-use and cropping plans, requisitions, etc. with unit demonstrator

VI. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

We have five active community clubs in Wythe County. One club deactivated in 1954 from lack of interest of club members. Our clubs are sponsored by the Wythe County Chamber of Commerce and the Wythe County Farm Bureau. This has been a passive type sponsorship in the past with the exception of awarding county prize money.

Each club holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings of an educational or recreational type. Visiting speakers are used on the program. These speakers are usually a businessman, or professional man from here in the county. Three of the five clubs purchased their community buildings from the Wythe County School Board in 1954 and will remodel these buildings in 1955.

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
1. Assist clubs in conducting club meetings and activities	1. Furnish material and information to the clubs. Meet with them and participate in their programs as time will permit
2. Conduct a planning meeting for club officers on 1955 program	2. Arrange meeting and secure a specialist to assist with program planning

Our enrollment for 1955 has dropped under that of 1954. This should increase the quality of work and per cent of completions for 1955.

Livestock projects and related activities, such as baby beef shows and tours, dairy shows, livestock and dairy judging are our most popular projects and activities of club members. We will have these activities again this year with a larger participation by club members.

Goals

1. Try to secure an adult leader for each club
2. Have county delegates attend Short Course and hold summer 4-H club camp
3. Obtain at least an 80% completion of projects
4. Hold County 4-H Achievement Day
5. Organize and train a livestock and dairy judging teams for district competition

Methods

1. Personal contact with former club members and other adults interested in young people
2. Number to be determined by state quota and eligibility. Send 30 or more members to 4-H camp
3. Through help of local leaders, parents and close supervision on part of club agent
4. Time and place to be determined by County Council
5. Train interested club members with the help of leaders and interested parents and farmers

V. EXTENSION-TVA PROGRAM

Goals

1. Complete 1954 farm record books. Set up 1955 records and make requisitions for phosphate and ammonium nitrate

Methods

1. Call meeting of unit test demonstration farmers and do as much of work as possible at meeting. Complete work at office calls and farm visits

III. GENERAL LIVESTOCK PROGRAM (con't.)

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
2. Hold County Bull Sale in spring	2. Stress value of good breeding. Work with Sale Committee to select consignments. Advertise and manage sale with help of committee and specialists
3. Hold Ram Sale in July	3. Stress value of good breeding. Work with Sale Committee to select consignments. Advertise and manage sale with help of committee and specialists
4. Hold registered Calf Sale in fall	4. Stress value of good breeding. Work with Sale Committee to select consignments. Advertise and manage sale with help of committee and specialists
5. Market wool cooperatively	5. Give market information to growers. Suggest improved handling and packing methods, and explain incentive payments
6. Have feeder calf sales for commercial producers. Wythe Eland Hereford Sale and Southwest Virginia Angus Sale	6. Work with committee in inspecting herds, selecting calves, advertising, and general sale management
7. Better management, disease and parasite control	7. Supply holding chute plans, encourage herd testing and vaccination, and treating for internal and external parasites

IV. 4-H CLUB WORK

Four-H club work was not well organized on a county-wide basis last year, as the club leaders and county council were not organized into working groups which restricted the effectiveness of our county organization. This has been corrected and should improve the effectiveness of our entire 4-H program.

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An increased use of artificial breeding has been noted each year the ABA has been used in the county.

We now have two DHIA groups that are presently faced with the problem of being consolidated into one association.

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
1. Hold a one-day Dairy Institute and DHIA Analysis for interested dairymen and DHIA members	1. Arrange time and place, secure dairy specialists, and promote attendance of meetings through personal contacts, letters, news stories and radio
2. Increase membership of ABA and number of cows bred	2. Encourage, work with, and support ABA through personal contacts, radio, news stories, officers and members of association
3. Promote TB and Bangs testing and calf-hood vaccination	3. Hold informational community meetings, personal contacts, radio and news articles
4. Increase membership and activities of county dairy organization	4. Secure qualified speakers for meetings and help arrange field meetings and tours

III. GENERAL LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

For some years our beef cattle producers followed the trend of more cow and calf herds. Following the cattle price drop, this trend has shifted more to light stockers and feeders and to a slow increase in sheep. Hog numbers are declining but with the increase of pigs saved per litter, very little decrease is expected in number of hogs marketed this year.

One of the major objectives of our program is to keep producers of all classes of livestock conscious of the value of good foundation breeding stock and the advantages of using thrifty, fast gaining, registered sires.

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
1. Better sires and better foundation herds and flocks	1. Help farmers locate better sires. Assist in culling and publicize near-by pure-bred sales

I. AGRONOMY (con't.)

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Methods</u>
1. The use of recommended seed varieties for all crops	1. Furnish a list of recommended varieties to all dealers and agricultural workers. Give recommendations to farmers through group meetings, radio, personal contacts, and newspapers
2. Continued soil improvement and a more efficient land use program on all farms in the county	2. Stress the need of a crop rotation to provide the feed requirements, the use of winter cover crops, strip cropping where needed, soil testing and ample fertilization
3. Increased acreage of alfalfa on all farms in county	3. Stress the feeding value, productivity, and importance of alfalfa through group meetings, personal contacts, newspapers, and radio
4. Conduct county and community agronomy tours	4. Visit farmers in communities with outstanding pasture, crop and forage programs to encourage these practices

II. DAIRY PROGRAM

Dairy production has increased to the point that Wythe County is a so called surplus producing area. This has forced dairymen to gear their operation to this system of production. Profit is now being measured by the ability of the dairy farmer to manage. Efficient use of labor and labor saving equipment is necessary to reduce operating costs. Efficient feed, breeding, and culling the herd is necessary to reduce production costs. Our goal for 1955 is to aid the dairyman in any manner we may be able to in facing these management problems.

Dairy cattle diseases are still the enemy of Wythe County dairymen in their breeding program and the production of quality milk. These diseases need to be eradicated through Bangs testing programs, and a sound breeding and milking program.

1955

EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

FOR

WYTHE COUNTY

Wythe is one of the larger livestock and good pasture counties of Southwest Virginia. It has an area of 460 square miles, or approximately 294,400 acres. The farm land, comprising about two-thirds of the total land area (194,970 acres) is divided, according to the latest census, into 1835 farms with an average of 106 acres per farm. The farming sections vary in elevation from 1900 to 3000 feet with a cool temperate climate and normally enough rainfall for fair crop production. Over 75% of the farm income is derived from livestock and livestock products, mainly beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and hogs.

The Agronomy, Dairy, and General Livestock Commodity Committees, in helping to develop this plan of work, stressed the fact that drought conditions three years in succession had lowered crop and pasture yields, and this, with the price-cost squeeze had greatly lowered farm income. Our major problem they said is, "to restore or increase farm income as much as possible through more efficient farm management practices." The County Board of Agriculture agreed that more farm income is a major objective that can best be brought about by better livestock and crop production management practices.

I. AGRONOMY

In the past we have not had a very active Agronomy Committee as part of the County Board of Agriculture. This Committee has been reorganized. A well-balanced Agronomy Program has been worked out and proposed for Wythe County farmers by this Committee. The program, in addition to the production of feed requirements for livestock, stresses the importance of a year 'round pasture program in reducing production costs. The Agronomy Committee recommends seeding small grain mixtures for winter pastures and a heavy application of fertilizer for fast productive growth. The Committee recognizes the fact that the present condition of our permanent pastures offer opportunity for much improvement and strongly recommends that these pastures receive proper fertilization and management for maximum results.

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EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

FOR

WYTHE COUNTY

1955

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