PLAN OF WORK

HALIFAX COUNTY

1959

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I. SOIL BUILDING

Situation

Due to a large acreage of the county's soils being clean cultivated each year, soil losses due to erosion and leaching are high. The need for lime and readily available plant food is great. Many fields do not have the protection of cover through the winter months, and others are devoted to crops to which they are not well adapted.

Objectives

Reduce soil losses and get growers to produce crops to which the soil type is best adapted.

Goals

1. Get all farmers to run rows on or near the contour.

2. Increase the amount of terracing on 10 eroding fields and especially those devoted to tobacco.

3. Get 20% more farmers to seed cover crops on cultivated fields to protect the soil and to provide an increased amount of organic matter.

4. Get 20% more farmers to use lime and fertilizer at the desired rate through soil analysis.

5. Get more organic matter into the soil as well as more protection through improved crop rotations and higher yields on 3% of farms.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Assist farmers with terrace lay-out and construction.

2. Personally work with growers on crop rotations and the taking of less desirable land out of clean cultivated crops.

3. With the help of the VPI Agronomy Department, hold two soil tours; one for farmers and one for professional workers.

4. Get timely information to growers during late summer and early fall on methods of seeding recommended crops to be used for winter cover.

5. Use all mass media to disseminate timely information and recommendations on all phases of farming.

II. CORN

Situation

Corn is grown on more acres than any other cultivated crop of the county. While this acreage has been decreasing for the past six years, the present per acre yields or total corn grown has increased considerably. The better corn growers are now producing 75 to 100 bushels or more per acre. Since the average per acre yield is below the state average, much remains to be done on many farms to make corn a profitable crop. Very few growers have adequate storage facilities. Stored grain insects take a considerable toll.

Objectives

Make corn a profitable crop on the farms of the county by increasing yields through improved practices. Decrease the loss from insects through better storage and insect control.

Goals

1. Get 75% of farmers to plant recommended varieties.

2. Get farmers to increase yields three bushels per acre in 1959.

3. Get adequate storage on 20 additional farms.

4. Expand chemical weed control to 50% of growers on river low grounds.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Get into the hands of each farmer, a list of recommended corn varieties as soon as available.

2. Discuss improved methods of corn production at meetings of community improvement clubs, men's clubs, with professional workers and at meetings throughout the county.

3. Supply each seed dealer, farm supply dealer, and fertilizer dealer with variety and cultural practice recommendations.

4. Supply growers with plans for storage and information on fumigation.

5. With the help of the Agricultural Engineering Department of VPI, hold a storage meeting.

6. Urge growers to attend the Charlotte Experiment Station field day.

III. FORAGE CROPS

Situation

Only one-half of the hay needed for adequate feeding of the county's livestock is being produced. The alfalfa acreage has been increased considerably during the past several years but can be profitably increased more on many farms. Growers depend too largely on lespedeza for hay and grazing.

Objectives

Increase both acreage and yield of tall grass and ladino clover for pasture, hay, and silage. Increase silo capacity on those farms that do not have storage space for adequate tonage. Get more sping grown forage made into silage.

Goals

1. Get 5% of farmers to substitute orchards grass and ladino clover for lespedeza.

2. Get 3% of growers to seed orchards grass with lespedeza where the land is to be in hay two or more years.

3. Increase acreage of pasture and hay seeding and top dressing by 10%.

4. Increase alfalfa acreage by 5%.

5. Get 5% of farmers to substitute orchards grass and ladino clover for orchards grass for pasture and add orchards grass to lespedeza for hay.

6. Get 20% of farmers to improve hay quality by cutting at the right stage and using improved curing methods.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a forage crop tour for farmers by visiting two or more farms doing a good job producing hay and pasture and storing high quality hay.

2. Encourage all farmers to attend an Agronomy School by use of radio, circular letters, and news articles.

3. Get county newspapers to publicize Agronomy Committee recommendations on forage crops and pastures.

4. Discuss pasture and forage production at all meetings of community improvement groups and at other meetings.

5. Get latest information on varieties, seeding dates, seed bed preparation and liming and fertilization for forage crops.

6. Publicize timely information on the above practices just prior to time each job is to be done, in connection with seeding, top dressing, cutting, curing and the carrying out of other practices in good forage program.

IV. HOME GARDEN

Situation

Halifax, being largely a rural county, practically all families have a home garden for supplying the family with vegetables for the table. Most families have a reasonably good early garden but the mid-summer and late gardens are in many instances neglected. Most gardens could be improved by the addition of small fruits and a wider variety of vegetables.

Objectives

Increase the vegetable supply from the garden during mid-summer, fall and winter. Get more gardeners to include small fruits and grow a wider variety of vegetables.

Goals

1. Get all gardeners to prepare soil for early and mid-summer garden needs early.

2. Increase the number of vegetables planted and cared for during mid-summer and fall by 10% of gardeners.

3. Get 3% of gardeners to plant the most used hot weather vegetables, each two weeks to August.

4. Get 5% of gardeners to keep the garden busy by following harvesting of early varieties with later vegetables.

5. Get 50 gardeners that do not have small fruits to include strawberries, dewberries, and raspberries in their garden program.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Use all mass media to inform gardeners on recommended varieties, planting dates, soil management and other timely information.

V. TOBACCO

Situation

The acreage allotments for the different types of tobacco for the county in 1959 are as follows:

flue cured	14,438.69 acres
Maryland	1.19 acres
Burley	2.89 acres

Diseases such as black shank, root knot, and the root rot complex, continue to be a problem in this county. The failure to use a crop rotation is responsible for much of this trouble. Improper use and/or use of wrong kinds of chemicals for control of insects, suckers, diseases and weeds is also prevalent on many farms. Too much slick, green tobacco that is unacceptable to the tobacco trade is being produced. There is labor available on many farms to grow aromatic tobacco and the extra income is needed.

Objectives

Cut the loss from black shank and other diseases. Have more tobacco grown in rotations. Make farmers aware of health hazzards and possibilities of lower quality crops in improper use of chemicals or using the wrong kinds. Place more emphasis on quality tobacco and less emphasis on more pounds per acre. Get farmers to treat plant beds against weeds at the fall of the year.

Goals

1. Get 20% of the tobacco farmers to go back to rotations as the prime method of controlling diseases.

2. Encourage all farmers to use only the recommended chemicals and to use them properly.

3. Get at least 75% of farmers to treat and prepare their plant beds by November.

4. Get two farmers to grow Aromatic tobacco.

5. Raise the quality of the tobacco produced on 50% of farms.

6. Strive for 100% participation in soil testing.

7. Get 50 farmers to visit Chatham Experiment Station.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a tobacco tour for the farmers in the county and visit the Coker Seed Company, Hartsville, South Carolina and the Oxford, North Carolina Experiment Station.

2. Hold one county-wide tobacco meeting in cooperation with the Farm Bureau to stress the importance of producing high quality tobacco and four follow-up community meetings.

3. Use radio, newspaper, publications and letters to keep tobacco farmers up to date on latest recommended practices.

4. Hold three demonstrations on fall treatment of plant beds for wood control.

5. Use Aromatic tobacco produced in the county for demonstration purposes.

6. Furnish farmers with recommended varieties and fertilizer recommendations as soon as possible.

VI. FORESTRY

Situation

Better than 90% of all forest lands in Halifax County is farmer owned. A large portion of this forest consists of hardwoods, much of which is slow growing and of little value. Cutting is done on most farms without much thought as to the future welfare of the building up of the woodlands. Many of the pine stands need thinning. Much pulp wood is being cut from trees that should be left to grow into a more valuable production. There are considerable forest areas that have been cut over that should be planted back to pine and there are areas that have been in cultivation that should be planted.

Objective

Assist forest land owners by supplying information on profits that may be secured from planting where needed, thinning, and following other improved practices that will result in the growing of a larger volume of high quality timber.

Goals

1. Establish 3 additional forest thinning demonstrations and continue to work with the seven demonstrators already set up.

2. Hold two demonstrations on planting, disposing of undesirable hardwoods, and other improved practices.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Give demonstrations on planting, thinning, poisoning of undesirable hardwoods and other improved practices.

2. Assist woodland owners in securing needed forest trees for planting.

3. Carry on an educational program by discussing better forestry at meetings, through the press, by radio, individual contacts, and by letter.

VII. BEEF CATTLE

Situation

The number of beef cattle has held fairly steady over the years with need for improvement of quality. A feed shortage is suffered with most farmers only producing about three-fourths of their feed needs. The feeder calf sale has decreased in numbers over the years.

Objectives

To improve the quality of breeding stock and grow required amount of feed with more farmers taking advantage of cooperative type sales.

Goals

1. Increase the number of good registered bulls by five.

2. Grow 100% of forages required for feed.

3. Increase the acreage of quality improved pastures by 15%.

4. Increase feeder calf sale to 500 head.

5. Get two additional farmers to use silage.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a forage tour in the county and visit at least three farmers producing adequate amounts of quality feed.

2. Furnish all livestock farmers with the latest information on pasture and forage production.

3. Assist growers in locating and selecting breeding stock through personal contacts.

4. Discuss advantages of cooperative marketing at livestock meetings and run series of newspaper articles on feeder calf sales.

5. Use all mass media to inform the farmers of new developments and proven practices.

VIII. DAIRYING

Situation

Grade A dairy farmers continue to be our better farmers and they experience a need for more accurate records, replacement stock and a good pasture and forage program. An unlimited market for manufacturing milk has developed in the area which works well as a supplemental income for tobacco farmers.

Objectives

To have more producers go on some type of record plan and develop a good forage program. To get more tobacco farmers to supplement their income through the production of manufacturing milk.

Goals

1. Have 100% Grade A producers on some system of record keeping.

2. Get producers to produce 75% of their replacement stock.

3. Increase quality of replacement stock by having 100% use artificial insemination on their best cows.

4. Have five more producers become DHIA members.

5. Make 95% aware of the need for a top quality forage program through the use of mass media.

6. Increase production per cow by 250 pounds.

7. Have 25 farmers supplement their income through the production of manufacturing milk.

8. Get at least 6 silos constructed in 1959.

9. Have 10 farmers go into production of replacement heifers as a means of supplemental income.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a dairy school.

2. Hold meeting with DHIA members on analyzing farm records and the control of Leptospirosis.

3. Hold one meeting and one tour on the production of manufacturing milk.

4. Assist 4-H members to secure good breeding stock and increase number of animals in dairy show by 10.

5. Hold a forage and pasture tour in the county with visit to farmers doing a good job.

6. Use all mass media to get all helpful information to the farmers.

IX. POULTRY

Situation

Some five years ago practically every farm family kept a poultry flock for a home supply of meat and eggs. This practice is rapidly changing. Most families either keep no poultry or maintain larger units for broilers and laying hens.

Objectives

Due to the need for more farm income, farmers that like poultry are being urged to increase their laying flocks up to a commercial unit.

Goals

1. Get 6 farmers to install a laying unit of 1,000 hens or more each.

2. Give all commercial growers assistance in marketing eggs wherever possible.

3. Give assistance to all producers by supplying them with the latest information on management, feeding, chick replacement and other production problems.

4. Increase efficiency of 25% of the home flock owners by supplying them with timely information on management, feeding and other problems that make for efficient production.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a meeting of business men and leaders with the help of the VPI Poultry Department to acquaint them with what can be expected from commercial poultry production.

2. With the help of VPI Poultry Specialists, hold a meeting for both egg and broiler producers at which up-to-date poultry production information will be given.

3. Encourage 50 growers to use plans supplied them through the Extension Service for up-to-date houses and other facilities.

4. Keep all commercial egg producers informed throughout the year with market information as well as with new findings through research.

X. SHEEP

Situation

The number of sheep has increased very slightly over the last ten-year period with a slight increase in quality. Dogs continue to be a major problem. Many farms would raise sheep if the cost of fencing was not as high.

Objectives

To increase the number of sheep raised on Halifax County farms and increase the percentage of lambs marketed. Improve marketing conditions and aid more farmers in developing a good worming program.

Goals

1. Increase sheep numbers by 200.

2. Strive for 95% lamb crop.

3. Have 100% of growers worming three times a year.

4. Hold five cooperative lamb sales.

5. Have at least 90% of growers market wool cooperatively.

6. Get at least 95% of lambs docked and castrated before marketing.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Use circular letters and radio to make growers aware of worming dates and necessity of docking and castrating.

2. Furnish growers with latest circulars and bulletins on production.

3. Hold a marketing meeting.

4. Use radio, newspaper, personal contacts and all other means of keeping the farmers informed with timely information.

XI. SWINE

Situation

Ten pig parlors have begun operation in the last year and many farmers find it profitable to produce feeder pigs for their neighbors and those to the east and south of us. With the squeeze being felt, many farmers are thinking of going out of business. Disease continues to be a major problem. Many pigs raised in the county are of inferior quality.

Objectives

To help farmers operate on the narrow margin through efficiency, know-how of production, and marketing of a quality product.

Goals

1. Improve quality of breeding stock with an increase of 10% in meat type boars.

2. Strive for 9 pigs raised per litter.

3. Encourage all growers to farrow two litters per sow per year.

4. Have 50% of farmers producing a pound of pork on 3.5 pounds of feed.

5. Have 85% of parlor operators marketing a 200 pound hog in less than five months.

6. Increase acreages of Ladino pasture by 15%.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold production school and get as many to attend as possible by personal contacts, circular letters, radio and newspapers.

2. Include at least one good hog pasture in pasture and forage tour.

3. Keep farmers informed of new developments and practices through the use of all available mass media.

4. Continue 4-H pig chain as a basis for bringing good breeding stock into the community.

XII. INSECTS AND DISEASES

Situation

Despite the tremendous strides made in the controlling of insects and diseases, there are new insects, new diseases, and new methods of control developing each year. In the case of many crops, systematic controls have become an established part of farming in Halifax County. Some insects and diseases that require much attention that were not present a few years ago are black shank and root knot, alfalfa weevil, Japanese beetles, and an increased amount of damage from saw fly on pine timber.

Objectives

Give all farmers of the county the latest research information on the identification and control of destructive insects and diseases.

Goals

1. Get 10% of the tobacco growers to adopt a 2 to 3 year rotation as a means of controlling diseases.

2. Get 100% of alfalfa growers to treat against alfalfa weevil.

3. Supply all tobacco growers with latest information on control of most common tobacco insects such as flea beetles, horn worms, bud worms, and lice.

4. Help all growers identify diseases and insects as well as giving them up to date control recommendations.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold at least one county-wide meeting with the help of VPI Extension Entomologist and Plant Pathologist at which diseases and insects and their control are outlined.

2. Hold meetings in all sections of the county at which insects and diseases and their control are discussed.

3. Get to all growers information on detremental effects that may be had from insecticides under certain conditions also, warn of dangers to livestock as well as man.

4. Identify insects and diseases at office and on farms.

5. Use newspapers, radio, personal contacts, circular letters, bulletins, and leaflets and all other means to keep farmers informed on timely insect information.

XIII. WEEDS

Situation

While weeds have always been a problem, the gaining of more information on their control and the fact that there are new weeds coming into the area, means that it is very important that farmers use weed controls under many conditions now. Dairymen especially sustain a big loss in money each year from flavors caused by weeds. Weeds take a large toll on most farms.

Objectives

Increase the number of farms on which weed control is practiced and especially under conditions where weeds take the greater toll.

Goals

1. Get 10% of dairymen to apply weed control to pastures on which dairy cows are grazed.

2. Get 10% of corn growers that grow corn on river low grounds to apply either pre or post-emergence sprays to their corn fields.

3. Assist all growers where emergency measures are necessary to save crops from weeds during abnormal weather conditions.

4. Get 5 corn growers to apply weed control measures against morning glories.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold one county-wide weed control demonstration with help of VPI Weed Specialist.

2. Furnish all dairymen and river low ground corn growers with information on materials and their use in weed control, also, on spray calibration and spray equipment care.

3. Keep all farmers informed by use of radio, newspapers, personal contacts, circular letters, and other means.

XIV. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Situation

With the coming of the consolidation of schools, televisions, radios, and automobiles, there has developed a lack of community cooperation in many undertakings that are helpful to the community, the individual family, and ultimately the entire county.

Objectives

To promote community pride, community development, community relations, and a general information program.

Goals

1. Improve community by providing a community meeting place, improving churches, church grounds, cemeterys, mailboxes, etc. in five communities.

2. Increase recreational and community relationships in five communities.

3. Increase corn yields, home grounds beautification, gardens, pasture acreage and quality, forage production, soil sampling, 4-H club work, and home living conditions in five communities.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold one planning meeting in each of five communities in which projects are selected and a year's program of work and recreation is determined.

2. Hold a monthly meeting at which projects selected by the communities are discussed and plans for carrying them out are made.

3. Carry timely information on projects to groups at each meeting through illustrated talks and demonstrations.

4. Assist the five groups with overall county planning including score card for judging, securing of judges, and working with sponsoring organizations.

5. Supply groups with timely information on production projects through bulletins, leaflets, andmimeograph material.

XV. HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Situation

During recent years home owners have become more and more conscious as well as interested in the attractiveness of the home ground. Most urban and a large percentage of rural home owners are deeply interested in their lawns, shrubbery, shade trees, driveways and other things that make for an attractive home and its surroundings. Many home owners are desirous of help in making their home grounds more beautiful.

Objectives

Assist home owners with information on grading, securing of lawns, shrubbery and shade tree identification, and planning the farmstead.

Goals

1. Assist 75 home owners in securing and maintaining a good lawn.

2. Increase the desire for improved home grounds and surroundings of the 250 farm families in the five community improvement groups.

3. Work with 8 organized groups on methods of improving home grounds.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Give demonstrations on shrubbery and shade tree planting also, on pruning.

2. Assist home owners in securing and maintaining good lawns by assisting with soils analysis and supplying up to date information on lawn materials, fertilization and other practices that help to establish top-quality lawns.

3. Furnish home owners with list of desirable shrubs and shade trees for the area also, with methods of insect and disease control.

4. Get this finformation to home owners through radio, newspapers, personal letters, circular letters, and personal contacts.

XVI. 4-H WORK

Situation

The 4-H situation in Halifax County is promising; and the potential for more and better 4-H work is everywhere.

Nine hundred boys and girls are enrolled in 4-H clubs from approximately 4,500 county youths. There are increases of youth in and around South Boston and villages and a decrease in the youth in the very rural areas. The consolidated high school serving the entire county, prevents very active 4-H participation at this school.

Objectives

1. Establish 4-H club in each community linked with community development clubs in order to obtain more adult leadership.

2. Adopt 4-H program to more fully meet the needs of urban and sub-urban youth.

3. Train the 4-H club members through projects and the awards program to attain a higher degree of leadership and citizenship.

4. Promote more specialized project work such as forestry improvement, baby beef, dairy heifer chain, poultry chain, crop and pasture improvement.

5. Have club members strive to give at least one well-prepared demonstration during the club year.

6. Work toward 100% record completion.

7. Continue the locally sponsored pig chain and tractor program.

Goals

1. Organize 3 community 4-H clubs supervised by leaders trained in leader-training meetings.

2. Have 4-H forestry members plant 50,000 loblolly pines, and increase the number of urban and rural non-farm club members taking forestry appreciation as a project.

3. Double the participation in the father-son forestry improvement program.

4. Have the first annual baby beef show and sale in South Boston with approximately 28 animals.

5. Encourage 25 additional 4-H members to takeswine, beef and sheep as a project - to supplement the tobacco income. Also, have more record completions in these projects.

6. Establish the first link of the 4-H pig chain with seven registered Hampshire gilts.

7. Increase the number of 4-H dairy heifer calf projects to 45 and exhibit these at 2 fairs.

8. Give special emphasis to the safety project to help the 4-H member recognize and correct safety hazards on the farm, in the home, in the community, at school and to make the club member more safety conscious. Safety is the county-wide 4-H project for 1959.

9. Have five 4-H boys submit achievment records and four boys to enter district demonstration contests for 1959.

10. Strive to have a 4-H livestock judging team, dairy judging team, egg grading team and a poultry judging team.

11. Work toward 75% completion of boys 4-H projects.

12. Encourage 50 4-H boys to attend 4-H camp at Holiday Lake, 2 to attend forestry camp, 3 to attend Senior 4-H camp, 2 to attend conservation camp and the alloted quota to go to State Short Course.

13. Have 2 4-H livestock fitting and grooming schools and 2 4-H dairy clinics.

14. Encourage 50% of the 4-H members to exhibit a representative sample of their projects at the local fair.

15. Have 3 community 4-H clubs hold Rural Life Sunday Programs.

16. Hold tractor school in March - Unit A.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Step up the communication to 4-H club members with timely news articles, 4-H radio program once a week, personal and circular letters, and more individual visitation during the summer months.

2. Hold monthly 4-H in-school and community 4-H club meetings with agent conducting well planned demonstrations.

3. Take advantage and use fully the sponsored funds in the forestry improvement contest, Sears poultry chain, Halifax County pig chain, county safety, electric contest and tractor school.

4. Assist 4-H members with the preparation of demonstrations and have well planned judging team workouts.

5. Contact Rural ministers and help arrange Rural Life Sunday programs and urge 4-H members to attend.

6. Work closely with local sponsors, business men and community leaders to develop public relations to sell 4-H club work in Halifax County.