

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

EXTENSION SERVICE
County Agent Work

PLAN OF WORK

COUNTY Richmond

YEAR 1955

Name Lawrence H. Wynn
(Local Farm Agent)

Date Mailed December 21, 1955

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

President.....Mr. F. L. Shears
Vice President.....Mr. James Saunders
Secretary.....Mrs. Clara McCoy
Treasurer.....Mrs. N. G. Woods

The County Situation:

According to 1950 census there are one hundred and forty two (142) operators; Full owners, ninety nine (99); Part owners, thirty five (35). All tenants, eight (8) and croppers, two (2).

Problems:

1. Too much land without clover crops
2. Not enough permanent pastures
3. Not enough purebred livestock
4. Soil low in potash

The crops are corn, potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, soybeans, legumes, such as lespedeza, alfalfa, clover, and such garden vegetables as beans, peas, snaps, egg plants, tomatoes, cabbage, spinach, collards, kale, lettuce, turnips, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes and white potatoes.

The farmers cash crops are: tomatoes, soybeans, wheat and corn.

There has been a large number of improvements made in the different homes such as painting, wiring, putting in running water, and getting electrical equipments. There has been a number of new homes built this year.

Organizations:

Number of members on County Advisory Board, thirty seven (37); number of men, twenty four (24); number of women thirteen (13); number of community clubs, three (3); number of families in clubs, fifty eight (58); number of leaders, fifty (50); number of men, thirty five (35); number of women, fifteen (15).

Field Crops:

Corn: 1. To increase the yield and quality of corn grown in the county.

- Goals: How to accomplish:
- a. To get more farmers to plant good adapted Hybrid Corn.
 - b. To provide the demonstrations with the information concerning the adapted seed and to supervise the planting.
 - c. To conduct Hybrid demonstrations.
 - d. To give publicity to the Locations of the demonstrations through the press.
 - e. To conduct farm tours to the demonstrations.
 - f. To see that local seedmen carry the recommended hybrid.

Small Grains:

Wheat: 1. To increase wheat yields

Goals: 2. To improve the quality of wheat grown

- How to accomplish:
- a. To get as many farmers as possible to sow seed plots of outstanding or recommended varieties.
 - b. To supervise the planting of the seed plots.
 - c. To give all publicity possible to the Experiment Station results of wheat varieties.
 - d. To continue to urge all growers to clean and treat their seed before planting and to use only certified seed.

Oats: 1. To increase the acreage of oats grown on poultry farms.

Goals: 2. To increase yield and quality of oats grown.

How to accomplish:

- a. To help the farmers secure as many bushel of outstanding varieties as possible.
- b. To urge the farmers to top dress with nitrogenous materials in early spring.
- c. To urge the farmer to sow more winter oats.
- d. To urge the farmer to sow certified seed.

Barley: 1. To increase the yield and quality of barley grown.

2. To increase the acreage of barley on poultry farms.

How to accomplish:

- a. To assist the farmers to secure outstanding varieties.
- b. To urge the farmers to top dress with nitrogen in the spring.
- c. To urge the farmer to sow certified seed.

Soy Beans:

Goals: 1. To try to increase the yields of soybeans per acre.

How to accomplish:

- a. By using the heavy yielding varieties as recommended by the Experiment Station.
- b. To help farmers secure seed
- c. To supervise the sowing and harvesting of these plots.

Hay Crops:

Alfalfa:

Goals: 1. To increase the acreage of Alfalfa in the country.

2. To improve the yielding ability of the present acreage.

How to accomplish:

- a. To conduct educational campaign to emphasize the importance of the crop and its adaptability to this section: 1. Through newspapers, 2. Through farmers meeting.
- b. Assist farmers in taking soil samples to determine plant food needs in the soil for alfalfa and to work out a fertilization program.
- c. To assist farmers in securing the best seed possible.
- d. To work with the Soil Conservation Technicians in selecting of land for alfalfa.

Red Clover:

Goals: 1. To urge the farmers to sow more red clover when practical.

2. To urge the farmers to save more seed and to market their seed to better advantage.

How to accomplish:

- a. To stress the importance of red clover in our rotation as a soil improver, as a hay crop and a seed crop.
- b. To urge all farmers to "rogue" their field of dodder.

Lespedeza:

Goals: 1. To get farmers to sow better quality seed.

2. Get more Lespedeza sown on our poor lands.

How to accomplish:

- a. By urging farmers to sow only dodder free seed if possible and to use only clean seed.
- b. To constantly point out to farmers the necessity of keeping our land covered with some kind of growth this winter not only saves the land but helps the livestock also.

Pastures:

- Goals:
1. To get more pastures that are good and permanent through out the county.
 2. To increase the animal carrying capacity of the permanent pastures.

How to accomplish:

- a. To continue to stress through news paper article and farm meeting.
- b. To stress the need of better pastures in the county.
- c. Help the farmers to plan their farming operations for better land use, using the land that be best utilized for permanent pasture as such.
- d. Assist farmers in selecting the adapted grasses for their pastures.
- e. Assist farmers in working out and adequate lime and fertilizer program.

Soil Saving and Improving Crops:

- Goals:
1. To have less bare acres in the county during the coming winter.

How to accomplish:

- a. Write news articles stressing the importance of such crops.
- b. Briefly discuss the needs for these crops at every farm meeting and to suggest to the farmers the possibility of such early sown crops as Crimson Clover and rye grass.
- c. Point out their values to the farming program.

Truck Crops:

Tomatoes:

- Goals:
1. To produce more and better quality fruit peracre economically

How to accomplish:

- a. With the assistance of specialist of the Extension Service to conduct meetings on cultural practices prevention and control of disease and insects proper fertilization and plant growing.
- b. Work with local supply stores on insecticides and fungicides so that they will be rapidly available to farmers at normal cost.
- c. Continue to stress the importance of proper picking.
- d. Continue to stress the importance of certified plants.

Soil Conservation Services:

- Goal:
1. To get every farmer to take full advantage of the program.

How to accomplish:

- a. By employing all of the educational medium possible.
- b. By working closely with the program fitting in the Extension Program and the services of the technicians when ever possible.

Production and Marketing Program:

- Goal:
1. To get every farmer possible to take full advantage of the program and to be responsible for the general education program.

How to accomplish:

- a. By employing all of the educational medium possible.
- b. By urging all farmers to fill out their work sheets.
- c. By helping farmers to plan their fertilizing program also liming program.

Home Gardens:

- Goal:
1. For as many families as possible to have a good year round garden of sufficient size to produce enough for family need.

How to accomplish:

- a. By sending out timely garden suggestions on varieties planting dates diseases and insect control.
- b. By assigning this one particle job to the neighborhood leader.

Livestock:

- Goals:**
1. To increase the number of good dairy cows on farms.
 2. To get more grade "A" milk produced in the county.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. By placing as many good purebred bulls as possible from high producing families.
 - b. By personal contacting farmers.
 - c. By urging farmers to feed their young stock better during the winter months and to provide better pastures during the summer months.
 - d. Urge producers to control insects and disease.

Beef Cattle:

- Goals:**
1. To improve the quality of existing herds in the county.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. Educational meetings, farm tours to good herds.
 - b. Better sizes.

Hogs:

- Goals:**
1. For every family to produce sufficient amount of pork for its use.
 2. To improve the quality of hogs raised in the county.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. To continue to stress the importance of the Live At Home Program through farm meetings, newspaper articles and personal contacts.
 - b. By placing good type of breeding animals in strategic points in the county.
 - c. By controlling internal and external parasites and diseases.
 - d. By recommending better feeding and management practices.
 - e. By use of pastures.

Poultry:

- Goals:**
1. For as many farmers as practical to have a good laying flock.
 2. To reduce mortality rate of poultry on farms.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. Continue to stress general purpose breeds for farm flocks.
 - b. Continue to stress better housing conditions.
 - c. To urge farmers to grow more oats and barley for farm flocks.
 - d. Conduct culling demonstrations.
 - e. Continue to stress good feeding practices.

Forest Management:

- Goals:**
1. To encourage farmers to properly manage their woodlands.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. By encouraging the farmers to look upon their woodlands as crop and to properly harvest their timber.
 - b. Encourage selective cutting
 - c. Encourage farmers to work with the State Forest Service in preventing and controlling forest fires.
 - d. Encourage small saw mill operators to leave seed trees.

4-H Club Work:

- Goal:**
1. To develop a better 4-H club program in the county.
- How to accomplish:**
- a. By working closely with the 4-H council and each 4-H club in planning their yearly program.
 - b. To visit 4-H club members more often to discuss their problems.
 - c. To enroll the support of the parents of 4-H club members.
 - d. To give help in the selecting of the projects that the members be interested in.

Miscellaneous:

To cooperate with all agricultural agencies operating within the county.

County Wide Activities:

1. Advisory Board Meeting, January 1955
2. Leader Training Meetings (4-H and Health), January and February.
3. Meeting of 4-H Club Council
4. Farmers Banquet, March
5. Rural Life Sunday

Specialist Needed:

Mr. J. N. Settle.....	Livestock.....	Va. State College
Miss Mary Neugent.....	Foods.....	Va. State College
Mr. M. T. Carter.....	Agronomy.....	Va. State College
Mr. I. C. Passles.....	Foultry.....	Va. State College

Calendar of Activities:

1. Strengthening Adult and 4-H Club Work by Leader Training Meeting---December-March
2. Farm and Home Unit Demonstrations.....April
3. Checking Result Demonstrations.....April-July
4. Checking on Results of Cultural Practices on Crops, such as the use of fertilizer and now Cultivated.....July-August
5. Check of pastures for livestock.....August-September
6. Soil Improvement.....September-October
7. Organization.....October-November
8. Demonstration Community.....November-December

Forestry:

Goals: 1. To increase the farmers income by proper handling of the wooded sections of the farms.

How to accomplish:

- a. By employing all of the educational medium possible.
- b. By urging the farmer to plant pine seedling.
- c. With assistance of the specialist of the extension service to conduct meetings.
- d. Writing circular letters stressing the importance of keeping the forest fully seeded to pine.
- e. By encouraging selective cutting.
- f. Encourage farmer to work with the State Forest Service in preventing and controlling forest fires.
- g. Encourage small saw mill operators to leave seed trees.

Farm and Home Development:

Goals: 1. To get some farmers to improve the farm and home as a unit.

How to Accomplish:

- a. Through meetings, personal contacts.
- b. With assistance of specialist from the extension service.