

April..... Wool producers' meeting
 Bristol Baby Beef Show and Sale
 Sheep Shearing School
 Southwest Agricultural Association Meeting
 4-H Judging Team work-outs
 4-H Talent Show

May..... Tazewell and Burkes Garden Wool Pools
 4-H District Contests
 Plant Corn Varietal Tests

June..... 4-H Camp
 County-wide 4-H Electric Project
 Richlands Fair and Stock Show
 Yearling Ewe Sale
 4-H Short Course
 TVA Camp, Fontana Lake, N.C.

July..... 4-H Camp
 Institute of Rural Affairs
 Soils School
 TVA Valley-wide Tour

August..... Tazewell County Agricultural Fair
 Extension Conference
 Silage Contest Measuring

September..... 4-H Club Organization
 Inspect calves for Tazewell Hereford Sale
 Atlantic Rural Exposition

October..... Yearling Steer Sale
 Tazewell Hereford Sale
 Community Club Judging
 100-Bushel Corn Club Measuring
 Check results of varietal corn tests

November..... 100-Bushel Corn Club Banquet
 4-H County Council Meeting
 Annual Report
 Area Improvement Contest

December..... 4-H Achievement Day Program
 Reorganization of Community Clubs
 Fertilizer Dealers' Meeting

VII. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED BY ADVISORY GROUPS

1. Encourage farmers to keep accurate and up-to-date records.
2. Continued participation in radio programs.
3. Work with the ASC Committee in advising farmers as to best selection of materials to use.
4. Work with the Tazewell Soil Conservation District in doing a better conservation program.
5. Assist with the programs of the community clubs and help in making their communities a better place in which to live.
6. Increased visitation of individual 4-H projects.
7. Participate in television programs over Bluefield WHIS-TV when possible.

VIII. CALENDAR OF WORK FOR 1959

January..... Tazewell Hereford Breeders' Meeting
Farmers Income Tax & Social Security Meeting
Poultry Meeting
Artificial Breeding Meeting
TVA Fertilizer Sign-up
Two television programs

February..... Plan of Work
Communications School
Agronomy Committee Meeting
Agronomy letter to all farmers
TVA Requisitions sent in
Livestock Committee Meeting

March..... Farm Credit Conference
Yearling Ewe producers' meeting
Tobacco letter sent to all growers
Annual TVA Meeting
District Meeting
Alfalfa Top-dressing Demonstration
Feeder Calf producers' meeting

been making some money on these flocks. As the number of flocks increase then outside guaranteed markets will have to be secured. The Extension poultrymen talked in January to a group of interested people on egg production. The specialists will be consulted to handle specific cases that can not be handled by the agents. This may add a source of income on some of the farms that have needed some additional income.

B. Horticulture

Two of the community club programs this year are going to deal with "The Pruning and Care of Small Fruits and Berries." Extension specialists will supply this information for the people requesting assistance. A pruning demonstration will be held in Bluefield for a group of interested people.

C. Forestry

There is a need for trees on some of the steep eroded slopes of Tazewell county. Since farmers are having to use more machinery there is a need to take some of the steep land out of cultivation and pasture and plant it back to trees.

The forestry committee, the local forest warden, and the Extension Forestry Department will be worked with cooperatively in encouraging land owners to plant trees and properly manage their woodlands. The ASC program has been beneficial in establishing trees on steep land in the county.

A forestry management demonstration will be set up in the county. Radio programs and news articles will be used to stress the need to "Plant More Trees."

a resume of summer activities of the 4-H program. The fall meeting will be devoted to training officers and project planning for the year.

The county 4-H yearbook will continue to be published. National Club Week and Rural Life Sunday will also be observed by most of the 35 4-H clubs.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Hold annual spring livestock show.
- b. Hold fall achievement program.
- c. Participate in 3rd annual area commercial lamb show and sale.
- d. Help club members to attain higher achievement with encouragement and help of club leaders.
- e. Increase number of baby beef projects in county.
- f. Hold county talent show.
- g. Establish a dairy judging team and a land appreciation team.
- h. Train livestock judging team.
- i. Increase percentage of project completion by turning in record books.
- j. Hold a county sheep shearing contest.

VI. MINOR ACTIVITIES

A. Poultry

There have been four flocks of laying hens added to farm enterprises this past year in the county, with another unit being built. Since this area is deficient in quality eggs the farmers have

the Sears Roebuck Pig Chain. Plans have been made to continue this project through the coming year.

The fourth annual commercial lamb show for the Southwest District will be held at Tazewell. Premium money will be made up in various counties participating and the show will be sponsored by the Virginia Purebred Sheep Producers' Association. This show has been instrumental in pushing the farm ewe flock project in this area and has aroused much interest among club members. The show will be held in June.

Plans are being made to have a county talent show in April. This show will be a selection of top talent picked from club talent shows held in March. Winners will represent Tazewell county in the District Contest.

Plans for a livestock judging team, a sheep shearing contest, a dairy judging team, and a land appreciation team are underway in order that Tazewell be well represented in the District Contests. These teams will be trained by the agents. We are making every effort to increase participation in these activities.

All club members will be urged to take part in the summer 4-H program such as 4-H camps, tours, etc. The county-wide electric project will be taught in July. A tour in connection with the project is planned.

Two meetings of the 4-H County Council will be held. The spring meeting will include a progress report from each club and

agricultural project work is limited. Project completion is a continual problem due to migratory miners' families and a lack of trained leaders. It is hoped this can be amended through our newly organized honor club, the members of which will act as junior leaders.

2. Extension Methods

The 4-H Livestock Show is held in conjunction with the Richlands Fair and Stock Show in June. The Richlands Businessmen's Association is sponsoring this show and will furnish the premiums. This show will include purebred beef heifers, dairy heifers and cows. The Tazewell County Fair, to be held in August, will also give the members an opportunity to exhibit their project work.

The Annual Achievement Program will be held in December. An honor club was initiated at the Achievement Program this past year and it is planned to be a continued part of the Achievement Program. The program will also feature county award winners, club progress reports, and a speaker from the Virginia 4-H Club Department.

The importance of keeping a memory book and an explanation of achievement awards will be explained to older 4-H club members by someone from the State 4-H Club Department. It is hoped that we can enter more records for state competition this coming year.

The purebred beef heifer and baby beeves in the county will be shown at the Bristol Baby Beef Show and Sale. It is hoped that the number of such projects can be increased in the coming year.

The number of swine projects have been increased through

to requisition their fertilizer. County Extension workers will make farm visits to all demonstrators and give information and help as frequently as they deem advisable.

With the help of the executive committee of the County Test Demonstration Association, the Extension agents will discuss and plan all tours, trips, and meetings involving the TVA demonstrators. The agents will assist the demonstrators in setting up and conducting result demonstrations.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. One family to attend the Valley-wide Association meeting of Test Demonstration Farm Families at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.
- b. Have 100% completion of TVA farm record books.
- c. Hold annual TVA meeting with a guest speaker.
- d. Each TVA unit demonstrator conduct a result demonstration on at least one of his fields.
- e. Send a boy and girl to Fontana Lake Resources Conference.
- f. Have some type of tour or meeting on one or more diversified demonstration farms.

G. 4-H Club Work

1. Situation

We have, at present, 1,206 4-H club members in 35 clubs. This enrollment is a result of much concentration on increasing membership but new ideas of approach in the 4-H program need to be planned to hold interest and enthusiasm among club members. A large percentage of our members are children of coal miners, therefore

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Maintain 30 to 40 active farm and home development families.
- b. Give adequate publicity concerning the program.
- c. Assist each family in setting up a good farm record.
- d. Encourage each dairy farmer in the program to set up production records.
- e. Assist each farmer with seed variety selection and fertilization practices.
- f. Encourage alfalfa seeding on all livestock farms in the program.
- g. Encourage sheep production on farms that are adaptable.
- h. Assist each livestock farmer with sire selection.

F. TVA Unit Demonstrators

1. Situation

There are 21 TVA test demonstrators representing all farming areas of the county on the program. Five of these are long-time demonstrators and 16 are unit demonstrators.

Interest is high in the present program as there is a definite advantage of being in the program.

As a result of the success of the program in the county, the county TVA Demonstration Association has accomplished and promoted other educational program.

2. Extension Methods

Test Jemonstrators have come into the county agents' office for a discussion of some of their farm management problems and also

emphasized in news articles and radio programs.

Farmers will be shown and given information on the benefit and use of silos and silage.

Plans for livestock handling facilities will be made available to farmers.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Building of six buildings for proper hay storage.
- b. Number of silos to be increased by five.
- c. Build adequate holding chutes and pens on farms needed.

E. Farm and Home Development

1. Situation

There are a number of both full-time and part-time farmers in this county who need assistance in analyzing their complete farming operation and, in so doing, need suggestions which will improve their present operation.

2. Extension Methods

The Farm and Home Development program will be publicized by means of newspaper articles and radio programs. Since the individual contact method has been successful in the past for expanding the program and reaching the problems and needs of the farm families, this method is planned again for this year. Farm families will be invited to attend tours and demonstrations to be held throughout the county and area to see the latest agricultural practices.

Grade C milk producers will be worked with in cooperation with the local milk company. One community club has a program planned for dairying.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Organize a dairy committee and supply educational information and demonstrations.
- b. Increase membership in the Tazewell Artificial Breeding Association by 10%.
- c. Hold a tour to Rocky Mount of dairy farmers to visit the Artificial Breeding Center.

D. Agricultural Engineering

1. Situation

Proper hay storage is needed on many farms since baling of hay is a common practice now. In years past most of the hay was stacked out and fed off during the winter. Farmers have been ricking bales in the fields and covering with hay. There is considerable spoilage where a poor job of covering is done. The need for silos and proper use of silage continues to be a need in the county.

Fencing is a need that many farmers have neglected for the past few years. Also, better facilities for handling livestock is needed on the farms, such as holding chutes and holding pens.

2. Extension Methods

The farmers will be encouraged to build proper hay storage and feeding facilities. Mr. G. D. Kite has been requested for help on two problems already in the county and will be consulted when needed. Plans will be made available and hay storage will be

g. Hold 25th Annual Tazewell Hereford Breeders' Sale.

C. Dairying

1. Situation

From the dairy survey there is a need in Tazewell county to improve production per cow, reduce feed costs, and improve efficiency on their farms. The Extension agents plan to organize a dairy committee and find out the exact problems of the dairymen. The Extension specialists will be worked with in setting up the necessary educational meetings and demonstrations to help the farmers.

A new technician has been hired for the Tazewell Artificial Breeding Association and has done a good job in getting this service started back in the county. The annual meeting was held and the Association reorganized to do some effective work in promoting the service this year.

The grade C milk producers will be worked with to improve their income and operations.

2. Extension Methods

The Extension agents will work with interested farmers in setting up a dairy committee to find out their problems. The Extension Dairy specialists will be consulted for information and help on this matter.

The Tazewell Artificial Breeding Association met and reorganized for the coming year. This group will be worked with closely in helping to increase the membership and number of cows bred by the Association.

with the local market and the State Department of Agriculture.

A meeting of feeder calf producers will be held to discuss the situation and decide if they want to have a sale.

A foot-rot control demonstration will be held in the county to show farmers how to control this disease as it is a problem among sheep farmers of the area.

Farmers will be encouraged to dip their sheep for tick and scab control.

The yearling steer producers and the local market will be worked with in cooperation with a fall yearling steer sale. The quality of cattle last year in this sale was improved over the last year.

The Tazewell Hereford Breeders' Association will hold their 25th Annual Sale this October. The Extension agents will work closely with this group in helping them operate their sale.

Good livestock management practices will be stressed by means of radio, news articles, and personal contacts.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Work with two local wool pools, Burkes Garden and Tazewell.
- b. Hold fourth annual yearling ewe sale.
- c. Meeting of feeder calf producers to discuss situation.
- d. Foot-rot control demonstration.
- e. Dip 2,500 sheep for ticks and scab.
- f. Continue to improve quality of cattle in yearling steer sale.

- c. Conduct 100-Bushel Corn Club.
- d. Conduct silage contest.
- e. Send agronomy letter to all farmers.
- f. Send letter to tobacco growers.
- g. Increase number of silos by six.
- h. Hold high elevation corn varietal tests in Burkes Garden.
- i. Alfalfa top-dressing demonstration.
- j. Tobacco grading demonstration.

B. Livestock

1. Situation

There is a need for better marketing of livestock and livestock products in the county. Most farmers are doing a good job in producing their livestock but are not selling for the most dollars. Some of the needs are to keep better quality yearling cattle, do an improved management job on preparing cattle for market, and increase quality of market lambs.

2. Extension Methods

The livestock committee felt that the agents should direct their efforts to improving livestock quality and livestock products for market.

Extension agents will work with the two local wool pool sales committees this spring.

The fourth annual yearling ewe sale will be held at the Tazewell Livestock Market in June. This will be held in cooperation

experiments will be conducted on brush and weed control in pasture.

The 100-Bushel Corn Club will be sponsored by the Taze-well Lions Club. This proved an excellent teaching method as well as an interesting project for all who entered this activity.

A silage contest will be sponsored in the county this year with a limited number of participants. This will help farmers to use more silage and increase the number of silos on farms, thus reducing feed costs.

An agronomy letter will be sent to all farmers in the county stressing recommended varieties, seeding dates, and fertilizer recommendations.

A tobacco letter will be sent to all tobacco growers giving them the latest information. Some new varieties will be tried on one farm. A grading demonstration will be held in at least one community this fall.

The high-elevation corn tests will be continued in Burkes Garden this year in cooperation with the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

Two result demonstrations on top-dressing alfalfa will be established in the county this year for observation and comparison as to the rate of fertilization farmers are using to top-dress alfalfa.

3. Goals for 1959

- a. Increased fertilization of permanent pasture.
- b. Set up demonstration in cooperation with Dow Chemical Co. on the use of new chemicals for weed and brush control in pastures.

8. Take steep land out of cultivation and put into pasture or trees.
9. New means of creating interest in 4-H club program.
10. Weed control in pastures.
11. Increased fertilization of permanent pasture.

V. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy Problems

1. Situation

This is a natural grass area and a sound agronomy program has to be built around forage crops. Many farmers are not fertilizing pastures and if good pasture is not available during the grazing season then the maximum pounds will not be put on the livestock. Some of the steeper land needs to be taken out of crop production and seeded to hay and pasture. The quality and yield of hay crops needs to be increased as these are low. A way of helping to prevent barren land during the winter is needed. There is a need for increased use of silage on all farms in the county.

2. Extension Methods

The agronomy committee met and discussed items that would help to improve this county agronomy-wise.

One of the problems in the county is the fertilization of permanent pasture. Last year two thousand acres of steep pasture was fertilized by airplane. Again this year there will be several hundred acres fertilized. This year some test plots will be fertilized, to see how this is comparing to the unfertilized areas. Also farmers will be urged to fertilize as much pasture as possible. Also, some

The number of farmers has been decreasing through the years but the average size of farms has remained about the same.

Through the use of good management practices plus wise buying and selling, farmers should be able to make some money this year provided cattle prices stay up.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1959 EXTENSION PROGRAM

The 1959 County Extension Program developed from meetings and ideas expressed by the following committees: Agronomy, Livestock, Forestry, Tazewell Hereford Breeders, and the Artificial Breeding Association. These groups will furnish the basis for this report. Also, contributions were made by the 4-H County Council, TVA Executive Committee, fair committees, and the ASC County Committee, the Soil Conservation Board of Directors and the Community Clubs' program committees.

The Extension agents plan to organize a dairy committee with the assistance of the dairy specialists.

IV. GENERAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF TAZEVELL COUNTY

1. Better use of plant food and lime.
2. Increased acreage of alfalfa.
3. Increased use of silage.
4. Wise buying and selling of livestock.
5. Proper hay storage to prevent loss of hay to weather conditions.
6. Increased production per dairy cow on dairy farms.
7. Some type of regular cash income to help meet expenses and in turn increase total farm receipts.

II. CHANGES IN THE SITUATION

The farmers in Tazewell county felt some relief from the increased prices of beef cattle last year. However, some of the farmers who are still producing 1,500-pound grass fat cattle felt less demand and also lower prices for their cattle. These farmers are having to change their type of farming systems with the trend of agriculture. Farmers are looking for ways and means of increasing their gross farm income and reduce expenses.

One of the best growing seasons has supplied farmers with an abundant winter feed supply. Corn yields were the highest recorded in the history of the county. The winter so far has been cold but not as severe as the past one and there is sufficient feed supplies left to carry all the livestock through the season and have a little reserve for some dry year in the future.

Farmers have been interested in some ways to supplement their farm income, especially a cash income at least once a month, and have added poultry, grade C milk, and other enterprises.

There has been increased interest and participation in the ASC program, especially seeding alfalfa, treating permanent pasture, and spring development.

Some farmers with low income are seeking off-farm employment and still retaining their home and farm.

The coal mines have laid off some men but have been working more this winter than the past and the outlook for the coal market is improved.

I. DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Tazewell county is located in the southwestern part of the state, lying in the Appalachian Valley with its northern boundary adjoining the state of West Virginia. The county is oblong with its greatest length about 33 miles and ranging from 10 to 20 miles in width. The general surface features consist of sharp, elongated ridges, between which lie comparatively narrow deep valleys. The elevation in the valleys ranges from 1,900 to 3,000 feet and up to 4,500 feet on top of the mountain ranges.

The county leans toward a natural bluegrass area with general livestock farming being one of the chief enterprises. Beef cattle and sheep are the source of three-fourths of the farm income. Dairying provides about a half million dollars income for Tazewell county farmers. Corn, small grain and forage crops are the main crops grown in the county. Most of these are produced for wintering and fattening livestock. There are approximately 100 acres of burley tobacco grown in the western part of the county giving a cash income to the farmers.

There are 1,531 farms in this county with an average size of 126.6 acres, according to the latest census. There are 47,512 people in the county with approximately 5,000 directly connected with farming. Coal mining is the big industrial concern in the county with one-half of this county primarily concerned with the coal operation. There is some part-time farming done in this area also.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	1
I. Description of County.....	2
II. Changes in the Situation.....	3
III. Development of the 1959 Extension Program.....	4
IV. General Problems and Needs of Tazewell County.....	4
V. Major Activities.....	5
A. Agronomy Problems.....	5
B. Livestock.....	7
C. Dairying.....	9
D. Agricultural Engineering.....	10
E. Farm and Home Development.....	11
F. TVA Unit Demonstrators.....	12
G. 4-H Club Work.....	13
VI. Minor Activities.....	16
A. Poultry.....	16
B. Horticulture.....	17
C. Forestry.....	17
VII. Miscellaneous Activities Suggested by Advisory Groups..	18
VIII. Calendar of Work for 1959.....	18

PLAN OF WORK
TAZEWELL COUNTY
1959

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