

Meet with committees to plan work in 1961.

Plan County Board of Agriculture meetings to fill current needs of farmers attending.

Work with committees to provide assistance to farmers in forestry work.

Assist Soil Conservation District which wishes to promote forestry work on lands needing conservation measures.

Make a tour of livestock farms to observe shelter and other facilities.

Place emphasis on providing better farrowing houses and shelter, and other facilities for all livestock.

Specialist are to be asked to assist with all programs.

Tour Experiment Station with farmers during March.

Schedule general weed control meeting in March to outline methods of controlling most common weeds causing problems.

Specialist and commercial company representative will assist in the weed control meeting.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Meet with program committee to plan monthly meetings of County Board of Agriculture.

Arrange for varietal, fertilizer and other demonstrations to be conducted with farmers.

Hold training sessions for 4-H members who will enter District Contests.

Hold meeting with Civil Defense officials to inform farmers of need for action on this program; also, have representatives of Virginia Department of Agriculture discuss proper use of pesticides, herbicides, etc. with farmers of the county.

Conduct tours of grain drying and storage facilities, and hold panel discussions to inform farmers of costs of installation and advantages or disadvantages of the facilities.

July, August, September

Hold monthly County Board of Agriculture meetings and plan programs according to current topics of interest and problems facing farmers at the time.

Attend 4-H Camp during one week.

Attend Institute of Rural Affairs with farmers from the County.

Through tours and individual contacts inform farmers of the need for constant inspection of fields to control insect and disease infestations, especially on soybean crops.

Utilize mass media in emphasizing need for adequate pastures, and improved practices in fertilizing, liming, soil preparation, seeding, etc.

October, November, December

Summarize data on crop contests, field demonstrations of varieties, fertilization or chemical tests in county.

2. Complete forest improvement work as demonstrations on five farms in different locations of the county.
3. Secure ASC Cooperation in five demonstration projects.
4. Ten farms to conduct improvement practices on farm woodland.

3. Dairying

(a) Situation

There are ~~seven~~ dairy farms in James City County with approximately one thousand cows.

Six of the dairies belong to D.H.I.A.

Dairying accounts for approximately twenty-five per cent of total farm income in the county.

Mastitis is a problem in most of the herds, however, much has been done to improve the situation.

Dairymen are using every available means to educate themselves in order that a quality product will be produced.

(b) Goals

1. Improve practices on five dairy farms to reduce mastitis and other problems which lower production
2. Increase production on eight farms through better quality feeds, increased production of feeds, and increasing amounts of feed for animals capable of higher production.

VII CALENDAR OF WORK

Activities by months

January, February, March

Hold general agronomy and livestock meetings to discuss new varieties, fertilization and lime recommendations, and breeding, feeding and marketing of livestock. Specialist, Experiment Station personnel and commercial company representatives to assist in discussion of these topics.

Meet with farmer committees to outline problems, methods and goals.

Meet with 4-H clubs each month for regular and special project meetings.

5. Send 4-H delegates to Conservation Camp, State 4-H Short Course and 4-H Electric Congress.
6. Award three scholarships to worthy delegates attending out-of-county events.
7. Increase participation in District 4-H Contests by ten per cent.

VI OTHER PROJECTS

1. Farm and Home Development

(a) Situation

Most farmers have arrived at the decision that records are a must, and evaluation each year is a necessity to plan ahead for each new year.

More farmers are asking for assistance in analyzing farm resources and outlining alternatives which they might follow in farming.

(b) Goals

1. Add five new families to Farm and Home Development Program.
2. Inventory resources and evaluate present situation on these five farms.
3. Outline alternatives and services available to these family farms through the assistance of appropriate specialist.

2. Forestry

(a) Situation

Forest improvement work was done on two farms in co-operation with ACP Program in 1959. With approximately 60,000 acres of land in forestry in the county, much of this land is in need of improvement practices. Over 25,000 acres of the woodland is on farms.

Forestry work has generated little interest among farm owners, principally due to lack of labor and costs involved in completing the work.

(b) Goals

1. Promote forestry work as one 4-H community club project.

3. 4-H Club Work

(a) Situation

4-H members are being organized into community clubs at this time in order to reach more effectively boys and girls interested in project work.

School clubs were **previously** organized in two locations, however, many members attended club meetings primarily to miss classes. Three community clubs have now been organized and three communities have inquired about clubs being organized.

Organization of clubs in some areas is complicated by the fact that boys and girls do not know their neighbors and hesitate to attempt to organize a club.

Civic organizations, business concerns, and individuals have expressed interest in assisting with the 4-H Club through leadership and sponsorship of some activities.

(b) Methods

Meet at every opportunity with groups interested in assisting with 4-H Club program in the county. Secure leadership and sponsorship through organizations, business concerns, and individuals.

Publicize 4-H work and activities through news releases, radio, and all other available means.

Work with **individuals** and organization in communities to form new 4-H Clubs.

Enlist the aid of parents and leaders in arranging meeting places and planning programs desired by club members.

Plan a complete county awards program in 4-H.

(c) Goals

1. Organize 4-new community clubs during 1960.
2. Secure leaders for 4 new clubs organized.
3. Increase member and project completions by ten per cent in 1960.
4. Increase 4-H Camp attendance by fifty per cent in 1960

Inadequate farrowing facilities, poor rotational plans with livestock on dry lots and pastures, and the practice of moving breeding stock from farm to farm have all contributed to the losses from diseases in the county. Replacing breeding stock with better sires and dams has helped the type of animal being moved to market, however, much still needs to be done to replace many females with animals of better type.

(b) Methods

County Board of Agriculture meetings, personal visits, calls, letters, news articles and other means will be used to improve the type of animal produced, and to increase the number of head in proportion to the capability of increased acreage of improved pastures.

Veterinarians and other specialist will meet with farmers to stress practices which will reduce disease losses.

Agricultural engineers will assist in meetings and farm visits in planning adequate farrowing and other facilities for livestock. Agronomist and animal husbandmen will assist in meetings to stress the importance of good pastures and rotational grazing to reduce incidence of disease.

Tours of farms carrying out recommended practices will be held during the year.

(c) Goals

1. Fifteen farms to add boars or females of meat-type to the herd.
2. Twenty farms to improve facilities for livestock production.
3. Fifteen farms to increase livestock numbers in proportion to increased pasture acreage or improved pasture.
4. Fifteen farms to adopt practices which will reduce disease incidence.
5. Ten farms to increase the number of feeder cattle being fed for slaughter using home grown feeds.
6. Improve cattle breeding stock on ten farms.

Farm storage for crops and machinery is needed to efficiently utilize farm grains and forage and for the protection of farm machines from weather. Some progress is being made in this area of work, however, more is needed on most every farm.

Crop and pasture acreage is at a premium, however, due to the inability to secure land easily a better job is being done by most farmers in the county.

(b) Methods

Latest recommendations from Experiment Stations are presented by specialists at County Board of Agriculture meetings. Discussions are held at these meetings bringing out experiences of local farmers testing the latest varieties and practices. News releases, circulars, personal visits, office and telephone calls will be used as means of informing the public.

Farmers will be informed of work being carried on at various farms in the county in order that visits may be made to observe new practices in effect. The size of the county makes it possible for the agent to accomplish much through personal visits or County Board of Agriculture meetings held each month.

(c) Goals

1. Approximately ten per cent of the farmers to make changes in crop production practices during 1960; in land use, liming and fertilization, control of insects, disease and weed control, and varieties.
2. Soil Samples from ten farms not sampled in recent years in order to fertilize and lime according to crop needs.
3. Improved crop and machinery storage facilities on ten farms in the county.
4. Improved pasture and rotational grazing practices on fifteen farms.
5. Increased income from fifteen farms through more efficient land use and crop production practices.
6. Fifteen farms to reduce losses from weeds, insects and diseases through earlier recognition of problems and use of more effective control measures.

2. Livestock

(a) Situation

There are approximately 2300 cattle with about 1,040 being dairy cattle; 1900 hogs and pigs and 240 sheep in James City

There is also a need for more storage space for ensilage since much crop tonnage is lost each year due to the fact that no storage on farms is available. Much of the problem is caused by inadequate capital, and limiting policies of established credit agencies.

Considerable attention must be given to control of **weeds**, insects and disease in all farm crops.

The loss seems to grow each year from these causes and the control measures are many and variable in effectiveness.

Farmers must in some way be taught more completely the control measures in order that they can more quickly and efficiently recognize their problem and put into **effect** the specific practice necessary to control a particular weed, insect or disease.

V ACTIVITIES

1. Agronomy

(a) Situation

There is approximately 14,000 acres of crop land in James City County. This includes about 5,000 acres of pasture lands.

Field and vegetable crops constitute about 50% of the total amount of farm receipts.

A high percentage of farmers follow the latest recommendations as to land use, varieties, fertilizer analyses and amounts, etc.

Most of them take soil samples and lime according to the needs of the crop being seeded.

Farmers from all parts of the county attend the regular monthly meetings of the County Board of Agriculture. The recommendations brought out by speakers, and discussions are first put into practice by farmers attending these monthly meetings. Soybean yield contests have shown the need for planting the crop at the proper time, and also the need for fertilizing preceding crops with the proper analysis fertilizer.

Corn, soybean and other crop varieties are tried in test plots prior to full scale planting by county farmers. This has resulted in quicker adoption of adaptable varieties in some instances.

Producers are realizing the need for early recognition of problems in weed, insect and disease control and much work will be necessary to reduce losses occurring each year.

The production of vegetable crops in most areas of the county is taking an increasing acreage since there is a growing need for fresh vegetables on local markets.

Poultry and eggs are in increasing demand, however, prices at present are not encouraging quick expansion by those in production. Improved prices may bring an increase in layer flocks and numbers in present installations.

Forest lands are continually being cut-over with very little being done by land owners in reforestation. It has been said by specialists that the income of the county can be increased by one million dollars through a stepped up forest improvement program.

III DETERMINING PLAN OF WORK

The County Board of Agriculture which is made up of about thirty farmers holds a monthly dinner meeting to discuss current farm problems. All farmers of James City County are eligible for membership in the County Board of Agriculture. Usually a speaker is invited to speak on some subject of current interest; however, the group has a period set up for each meeting when a general discussion period is held to answer questions asked by members of the Board.

Officers are the President; Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer.

Committees are appointed in Agronomy; Swine; Beef Cattle; Dairy; Poultry and Forestry by the President to discuss, analyze and plan for a complete County Extension program.

Each meeting of the County Board of Agriculture is planned to assist in the solving of problems encountered in the management, production, processing or marketing of James City County Agricultural products.

IV GENERAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

A general plan for securing and using most efficiently the capital to expand livestock numbers to utilize pasture and hay acreage, and increase the acreage of grains, pasture and hay must be worked out if land is to go out of field crop production.

Certainly, more fencing, watering, feed and shelter facilities are necessary and a rotational grazing plan must be used to lengthen the life of pasture and hay crops.

Although a few on-farm storage bins and dryers have been installed, there is a need for more capital invested in these facilities in order to store grains grown on the farms.

I DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

James City County covers 182.3 square miles or 94,720 acres of which 40,412 acres or nearly 43% is in farms. The topography is generally level with elevations ranging from sea level to slightly more than 100 feet. Temperatures average 40° in January and 77° in July. Annual precipitation average 47 inches, and the frost free growing season is about 202 days extending from around April 11 to October 30.

According to the latest census figures there were 227 farms in James City County averaging 178 acres in size and \$23,870 in value of land and buildings. Approximately two-thirds of the county is wooded and farms contain about 25,000 acres of woodland.

The average acreage per farm has increased during the past ten years from 162 to 178 acres. The number of full-owners and tenant farmers has decreased and the number of part-owners has increased.

The number of farmers in the middle and higher income brackets has increased by 23 during the past 5 years.

Total County population is 6,317 with 53.5% white and 46.5% negro. Urban people make up 82.6% and farm people 17.4% of the total county population.

Williamsburg, the county seat has a population of 6,735.

Field and vegetable crops constitute about 50% of the total amount of farm receipts with livestock products making up about 47% of the remainder.

Corn, soybean, peanuts, wheat and barley are the most important field crops while sweet and Irish potatoes, melons and snap beans are some of the more important vegetable crops.

Dairy products, hogs and beef cattle are the most important sources of livestock income.

II TRENDS AND OUTLOOK

The use of land in James City County is away from crop production and toward a livestock program. With the surplus in field crop production still controlling the markets more land is being seeded to pastures and hay crops. Approximately ten farms have been placed in the conservation reserve, removing them from production of crops already in surplus.

Farmers are more conscious of the need for moving grain, grass and other crops from the farm in the form of livestock. Even though a decline in swine prices slowed livestock expansion to some extent more farms are increasing the numbers of beef cattle and more sheep are being brought into the county.

PLAN OF WORK
JAMES CITY COUNTY

1960

Melvin W. Bryant, County Agent

Rhoda H. Moyer, Secretary