

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
1961

COUNTY Richmond

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Local Farm Agent

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The 1961 Agricultural Plan of Work

The County Agricultural Board met in February to review the past year's work and to determine the program for the year. The long time objectives were discussed, and no radical changes were recommended in the direction we were now pursuing. A brief statement of our direction is as follows; (1) To urge consolidation of small farms through purchase or rental agreement for economical operation machinery and man hour utilization.

2. Livestock:

1. Expansion in swine production feeder pigs and market hogs to salvage waste corn, also to feed out more hogs.
2. Improve quality of present livestock.
3. Beef cattle production limited due to high cost of land. However some wintering of feeder calves and steers could be done on the larger farms that produce large quantities of hay and small grains.
4. Limited expansion in poultry egg production and flock replacements.
5. Expansion in contract seed production (small grains chiefly)
6. Expansion in tomato production and processed tomato products. Investigate the possibilities of the following: juice, puree paste, catsup, etc. and production of other truck crops where family labor is available.
7. Greater emphasis on reforestation and management of woodlands.
8. To develop better marketing technique and facilities.

- 34
72
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9. To seek more industries for male workers part time farmers and those that would stop farming if jobs were available

The Agent was instructed to put major emphasis this year on the following: (1) Soybeans, (2) Truck Crops, (3) Forestry, (4) Livestock Production and Marketing, (5) 4-H Club work.

The goals were set and plans for reaching them are as following:

1. Soybeans:

This is our largest crop in acreage; The Board feels that the average yield of 17 bushels per acre can be increased. Weed control is a serious problem, also many farmers are planting Soybeans too late for good yields.

Goal:

To increase the average yield per acre.

How to accomplish:

1. Urge farmers to plant soybeans between May 20 and June 1.
2. Urge farmers to use only the best varieties, hill, hood, odgen, and Lee.
3. Urge farmers to use the Lee variety if planted after June 20th.
4. Urge farmers to have soil tested for lime and fertilizer needs.
5. Urge farmers to plant only on freshly prepared seed bed and start cultivating early to prevent early weed growth.
6. Urge farmers to seed at the recommended rate per acre.

Educational Media:

1. Individual contacts; farm visits; office calls; personal letters.
2. Circular letters; meetings; newspaper publicity.
3. Radio talks by agent.
4. Committee members contact.

Truck Crops

Tomatoes

Tomatoes for "green wrap" and canning were once the main source of income for the majority of our farmers. However, in recent years due to the changing "green wrap" market, consumer preferences, labor supply, and other economic factors the acreage grown has steadily dropped from approximately 2400 acres in 1936 to about 500 acres in 1959. If this trend is to change the canner and grower must work together to formulate an action program by which both may profit. Unfortunately, tomato canning here has been and still is a sideline with the canners and they do not seem to be interested in investing the capital necessary to process tomato products such as juice, puree, catsup, etc. For the past several years tomatoes have not been a very profitable crop for our farmers due to low yield, poor quality and low prices received.

Goals;

1. To increase the yield per acre.
2. To produce a better quality fruit.

How to accomplish;

1. Get growers to plant only the best varieties for canning.

- 2. Urge growers to use the best known cultural and fertilization practices.
- 3. Urge growers to do a better job of picking.
- 4. Urge canners to work out a picking and delivery time table so that the delivery to the plant will be spread throughout the week.

Sweet (Red) Peppers

For sometime we have been investigating the growing of another crop to help fill the void created by the dwindling tomato acreage.

Goal:

To provide information on the cultural and fertilization of sweet peppers.

How to accomplish:

- 1. To contact Experiment Stations growers in other states for information on sweet pepper culture, and to disseminate this to the farmers.
- 2. To urge all farmers to have soil analyzed, and fertilize for maximum yield.

Educational Media:

- 1. Individual contacts
- 2. Radio talks
- 3. Newspaper articles, circular letters, etc.
- 4. Meetings

Forestry:

This county has approximately 76,300 acres of woodland, and of this acreage the Forest Service estimates that about 15,000

acres are pine and the balance mostly hardwoods.

Goal:

To get 250 acres reforested to approved species of trees.

How to accomplish:

1. Urge farmers to retire submarginal land to trees.
2. To urge all woodland owners to do some reforestation each year.
3. To urge all 4-H club boys whose parents own woodland to carry Forestry projects.

Educational Media

1. Personal contacts, farm visits, etc.
2. News stories with pictures of work being done.
3. Talk to civic groups.
4. Radio talks, circular letters

Beef Cattle

The quality of most of the cattle is poor there are many Dairy-Beef cows that produce excellent veal calves which are not suitable for feeders. More attention will also have to be given to selection of the herd sire, and to parasite control. Farmers also need to practice the good rules of animal husbandry.

Goal:

1. To improve the quality of Beef Cattle in Richmond County.
2. To urge farmers to market their beef cattle through organized sales.
3. Where practical urge farmers to market their usable hay through feeder cattle.

How to Accomplish

1. To urge culling of all Dairy-Beef crosses in herds of 10 or more and to replace with good beef type individuals.
2. Urge farmers to purchase good proven bulls if possible, in the Fall, and if not, to purchase young bulls with good RAIG records and grow them out on the farm.
3. Conduct insect control program:
 - a. Urge use of automatic wick lack rubbers.
 - b. Spray cattle as often as necessary to control lice, flies, ticks, and mange.
4. Urge all producers to put good management practices into effect.
 - a. Good feeding programs-pastures, etc.
 - b. Cull the herd by performance testing identify cow and calf by neck chain and lartag numbering.
 - c. Eliminate cow that is a poor producer.

Swine:

Since this is already a grain producing area, it is the feeling of the Agriculture Board that hog numbers should be greatly increased, that an all out effort should be made to produce quality feeder pigs, and to use hogs to salvage the waste on the farm. Some of the pigs being produced are poor quality, and too many are being lost due to poor facilities and management.

Goals

To produce more hogs for sale as Feeder Pigs and Market Hogs.

2. To produce quality hogs and pigs.
3. To produce hogs and pigs at the least possible cost.

How to Accomplish

1. To urge farmers to produce 500 good quality feeder pigs for the Feeder Pig Sales.
2. To assist farmers in purchasing good quality breeding stock.
3. Advise on building and remodeling, brooding facilities, and on brooding pigs.
4. To advise on proper rations for sow and pigs.
5. To urge every corn grower to use hogs to clean up behind corn harvesters where practical.

Dairy Cattle:

There is much room for improvement in the quality of the dairy animals throughout the county. A poor job is being done in growing our replacement stock. Many good cows are lost due to mastitis, and udder trouble.

Goals:

1. To improve quality of Dairy Cattle in county.
2. To decrease the loss to dairymen by mastitis and other diseases.

How to Accomplish

1. Urge farmers to grow out only good quality heifers with high producing back ground.
2. Urge farmers to do a good job in growing out heifers by:
 - a. Proper feeding.
 - b. Control of external and internal parasites.

c. Breeding at the proper time.

- 3. Push "Bangs" vaccination program.

Educational Media for the Livestock Program

- 1. Personal contacts: farm visits, telephone calls, letters.
- 2. Special meetings.
- 3. Radio talks
- 4. 4-H club work

There are nine 4-H clubs in the county with a total enrollment of 289. Of these members 147 are boys and 142 are girls.

The long time objectives of the 4-H program are:

- 1. To develop a 4-H club program which will help to train and develop both rural and urban boys and girls into desirable and useful citizens.
- 2. To develop a 4-H club program that will appeal and interest the maximum number of eligible boys and girls.
- 3. To secure organize and train 4-H adult leaders in all communities throughout the county.

How to accomplish:

- 1. Parents by keeping them informed on all 4-H activities.
- 2. County council through training meetings.
- 3. Schools and other officials by informing them of and having them share 4-H activities.
- 4. Community and project leaders by assigning definite responsibilities.
- 5. Junior leaders thru training and delegating responsibility to them.

6. 4-H club officers, thru more intense training.
7. Individual visits.

Goals:

1. To observe special National 4-H events as 4-H club week, Rural Life Sunday, National Achievement Day.
2. To have five members to attend State Short Course.
3. To have 80% completion of Record Books.
4. To have at least three members for each club to have exhibits at the Northern Neck Fair.

Swine Projects:

We have eight enrolled in this project.

Goals:

1. To improve the quality of hogs now found in the county.
2. To encourage the use of recommended practices in selecting, feeding and raising hogs.
3. To place registered pigs with selected 4-H club members and in communities where most needed.

How to accomplish:

1. Encourage all members to exhibit their hogs at the fair.
2. Have each member keep an accurate record of his project.

Forestry Project:

We have two members enrolled in Forest Appreciation. We are encouraging members to learn to identify trees and know their use.

Electric Project:

We have twenty five members enrolled in this project.

Goals:

1. To give members information on caring for electrical appliances.
2. To make small repairs.
3. To improve lighting in rooms.

How to accomplish:

1. Encourage members to study references.
2. Giving demonstrations.
3. By keeping record up and completing

Corn Production:

We have two members enrolled in this project.

Goal: To increase the number of bushels per acre.

How to accomplish:

1. By using the adopted Hybrid.
2. Using proper cultural methods.
3. Getting a soil test.

Wild life:

We have five enrolled in this project.

Goals:

1. To acquaint the 4-H club members with the value of bird life on the farm.
2. To help members learn the different birds, by identifying song, color, mode of flight.
3. To teach members how to protect and by feeders and houses.

Garden

There are fourteen members enrolled in this project.

Goals:

1. To teach the best method of growing vegetables.
2. To teach the value of a good-home garden by producing a variety of vegetables necessary for a well balanced diet.

Home Ground Beautification:

We have forty two members enrolled in this project.

Goals:

1. To give the member an opportunity to take part in the development and care of the home grounds.
2. To learn how to identify and develop a greater appreciation for some flowers shrubs and trees.

Other projects:

1. Poultry with an enrollment of five.
2. Rabbits with an enrollment of three
3. Health with an enrollment of seventy four
4. Safety with an enrollment of ninety one
5. Career Exploration unit one with an enrollment of thirty five.

1961 Calander of Work

January:

1. Hold county Advisory Board meeting to discuss program for the year.
2. To appoint committees
3. Prepare radio program on livestock parasites, winter feeding, also timely farm work, top dressing small grains.
4. Help Livestock owners with feeding problems.
5. Help swine growers with brooding, feeding and selling.
6. Attend 4-H meetings and give project instructions.
7. Assist 4-H members with projects.
8. Develop plans for Tractor maintenance course.

February.

1. Write plan of work for the year.
2. Get soil samples sent to laboratory
3. Attend 4-H club meeting
4. Hold Advisory Board meeting to make farther plans for year.
5. Give project instruction to 4-H club members.
6. Radio Program

March:

1. 4-H Club work: Hold regular meetings, make plans for National 4-H club week.
2. Do field work on corn, truck crops, livestock and forestry.

3. Assist Tractor maintenance leader with classes.
4. Stress control of internal and external parasites of livestock.
5. Work with swine producers on pastures.
6. Urge farmers to treat seed corn with insecticides
7. Urge farmers to order graded tomato plants.
8. Hold farmers annual banquet.
9. Attend agronomy school.

April:

1. Do field work on corn, soybeans, livestock and forestry.
2. Urge tomato and pepper growers to prepare good seed bed and to have soil analyzed for proper fertilization.
3. 4-H club work; Hold meetings
4. Radio program.

May:

1. Work on pasture management, utilization supplement pastures, etc.
2. Work on soybean program, lime, etc.
3. Weed control program
4. Attend 4-H club meeting
5. Visit 4-H club members
6. Prepare for State Short Course
7. Home gardens
8. Getting plots ready for sweet potato

June:

1. Pasture management, supplemental pastures fertilization, etc.
2. Corn program, fertilization, weed control etc.
3. Livestock program, fly control, salt boxes etc.
4. Work on forestry program, woodland management.
5. Home gardens.
6. Radio programs, livestock program, forestry, soybeans etc.
7. Attend 4-H State Short Course.
8. Set plants in sweet potato plots.

July:

1. Pasture management control grazing.
2. Work forestry program.
3. Work on Tomato program.
4. Visit 4-H club members projects.
5. Radio program, livestock work, pasture management.

August:

1. Pasture seeding permanent pastures, winter pastures.
2. Alfalfa orchard grass seeding
3. Work on tomato and peppers program harvesting, etc.
4. Attend wild life conference.
5. Visit 4-H projects.

September:

1. Northern Neck Agricultural Fair Exhibits etc.
2. Seed permanent pastures, winter pastures.

3. Get out small grain letter.
4. Assist 4-H members at Northern Neck Fair
5. Urge farmers to use hogs to salvage waste corn.
6. Attend State Advisory Board meeting.
7. Work on pepper program

October:

1. Hold 4-H club meetings.
2. Collect project book by 10th of month.
3. Attend Agents Conference.
4. Hold officers training meeting.
5. Visit members project.
6. Make plans for 4-H Achievement Day.

November:

1. 4-H club work, meetings, home visits.
2. Work on Annual report.
3. Livestock winter management.

December:

1. Hold 4-H meetings.
2. Livestock, swine management problems
3. Information on curing meat.
4. Planning meeting of Advisory Board.
5. Sweet potato show and sale.