

PLAN OF WORK

CRAIG COUNTY

1955

L. Y. Fields, County Agent

I. GENERAL SITUATION IN CRAIG COUNTY

The area of Craig County is 333 square miles. It is composed of six valleys of varying size with winding roads through each valley and over divides. Going from one valley to another requires considerable travel since the roads are winding and zigzagging up and over the mountains.

More than fifty per cent of the county is in forests and owned by the federal government. About one-fourth of the remaining area owned by farmers is in woodland. Practically every farmer has some woodland.

There are only 449 farms in the county but they are scattered over the entire county in all of the valleys. The farms vary in size from twenty-five acres to one thousand. Most farmers in the county live in valleys with their line fences running from mountain to mountain through the valley. Generally speaking, this gives each farmer a slice of the valley bottom land, a portion of the creek through the valley, second bottoms, and upland with the grade increasing to the mountain tops. Such an arrangement gives the farmer a convenient place for the homestead on the highway through the valley, some land with recommended tillable slope for crops and meadows, and land suitable for grazing of heavy cattle, light cattle, and sheep as the grade increases.

Three of the valleys have natural limestone soil with the other three containing sandy loam soil. Many farmers in sandy valleys formerly owned grazing farms in the limestone valleys. Now, with the improvement of sods in all of the valleys, the trend is toward selling their distant limestone grazing farms and further improving grazing on the home farm.

The livestock produced in the county is beef cattle, sheep, milk cows, and hogs. Every farm has some poultry for home use but there are only three or four managed properly for financial success. The principal crops are pasture, hay, corn, small grain, and forestry products.

The entire population of the county is only about 3,500 inhabitants. There is one small town in the county with only enough industry to employ around one hundred workers. With the increase in industry in the adjoining counties, many citizens are building homes in the county and seeking employment outside of the county. This trend will increase the population but doesn't seem to effect farming practices very much.

II. CONDITIONS INFLUENCING 1955 PLAN OF WORK

The price of products purchased by farmers are holding steady while prices received are fairly steady but they have experienced considerable drop in prices during the past few years. The drouth has caused a scarcity of many farm essentials such as clover seed and as a result farmers are required to pay unreasonable prices and in many cases are forced to do worse - no reseeding.

The numbers of livestock have been reduced on practically every farm and to an extreme on many farms due to the drouth. In our plan of work it will be necessary to include practices for recovering from the effects of the drouths as well as prepare for meeting a possible future drouth.

In view of these conditions it looks as if farmers who take advantage of the Agricultural Conservation Program and improve pastures and meadows so severely injured by drouths will be the farmers who recover to normal conditions quickest. Since costs attached to the Soil Conservation Program are so light compared with value received, it is advisable for farmers to take advantage of this service. It will help to rebuild the land that has been so badly injured from drouths. The farmers who do these improvements with the least waste of labor and materials will find themselves ahead in the long run. For a long-time improvement program, many farmers in Craig can find areas of undesirable land for cultivation, meadows or pastures, which they can plant in trees since the forest service will furnish the plants at a nominal cost.

III. OUTLINING THE COUNTY EXTENSION PLAN

In developing the 1955 County Extension Plan, commodity committees, questionnaires, specialists, and information from specialists were used. The Board of Agriculture was given information and recommendations from these sources. From this, together with their own ideas, recommendations were selected in developing the county plan.

Commodity Committees:

Soil Conservation and Forestry - R. W. Goode, Chairman,
Robert L. Givens, Chas. Leslie Ross, J. W. Hypes, O. H. Bostic

Astronomy - Chas. M. Ross, Chairman, R. W. Goode,
Geo. V. Jones, Roy R. Bell, O. H. Sublett, Cecil Rose,
B. O. Carper

Livestock - W. P. Taylor, W. L. Farrier, J. F. Ross,
R. L. Sizer, W. G. Whitlow, Denny W. Jones, Max J. Tappero,
L. R. Givens

IV. PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

1. Shortage of good quality hay is the biggest problem facing Craig farmers.
2. Poor quality hay due to late cutting, over curing, or sunburning and improper storing.
3. Poor stands of pasture due to drouth is a problem facing most farmers in Craig.
4. Late harvesting of corn due to the use of the picker has created the problem of soil erosion because of lack of cover crops.
5. Erosion problems will always face farmers in Craig due to the lack of conservation practices and topography of the land.
6. Farmers fail to realize that land too steep and rough for machinery should be converted to trees.
7. Controlling parasites.
8. Meeting health requirements for marketing livestock.
9. Cooperative lamb marketing.
10. Housing for laying hens, parasite control, improper feeding, and no system in marketing eggs compose the problems of the poultry industry of the county.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Soil Conservation and Forestry

Situation

Organized soil conservation work has been going in the county since 1945. Craig is a part of the Natural Bridge

Soil Conservation District. The county has one supervisor in planning a soil conservation program and two part-time technicians.

Seventy-five per cent of the farmers have waste land too rough to crop or mow in controlling filth on grazing land. About twenty-five per cent of the farmers are harvesting their corn crops with a picker. It necessitates late harvesting and increases the problem of soil erosion since picking time is too late for seeding the land to small grains. As a result, erosion is increasing.

Goals

1. Assist technicians in securing twenty-five farms for soil conservation plans.
2. Promote the establishment of practices on all plans.

Methods To Be Used

1. Farmers will be contacted and encouraged to adopt soil conservation practices.
2. The use of cover crops seeded at the last working of corn will be encouraged to prevent erosion.
3. In putting the waste land to best use, farmers will be encouraged to plant trees.
4. Agronomists and conservationists will be asked to assist in holding field trips as a follow-up of the land-use school.
5. Other methods of reaching goals will be through news items, discussion meetings, and farm visits.

Hay

Situation

Most meadow land is being grazed rather late in the spring with one cutting of hay and some fall grazing. Very few make more than one cutting except in the case of alfalfa. Applications of fertilizer and lime are improving meadows but there is room for much more improvement for production as well as in the time of cutting, amount and method of curing, and proper storage.

Goals

1. Place at least one demonstration on alfalfa production in each community.

2. Induce at least one farmer in each community and encourage all others to fertilize old meadows for two cuttings, using a 10-10-10 fertilizer about the time growth starts or after the first cutting.
3. Induce demonstrators to cut on time, cure less in the swath and more in the windrow to save valuable leaves and improve on storing.
4. Encourage the planting of a catch crop for hay or grass wherever there is a likelihood of it being needed.
5. Encourage all farmers on all occasions to establish or increase alfalfa acreage.

Methods To Be Used

1. Assist each farmer in securing all of the ACP materials possible for his farm.
2. Assist in selecting best varieties.
3. Furnish all production information needed in establishing the demonstrations.
4. Use news items.
5. Discuss better hay practices in farmers clubs.
6. Conduct farm tour.

Pasture

Situation

Pastures in Craig County have been improved through fertilization stimulated by the TVA and ASC programs. Due to the drouth in the past few years, pastures have had some set-backs. The grass in the sandstone sections have suffered more than in the limestone valleys on account of the drouths except in the cases where limestone is near the top of the ground. With the return of normal rainfall and the recommended fertilization practices a marked recovery can be expected.

Goals

1. Induce five or more farmers in each community to topdress pastures.
2. Encourage five or more farmers where the stands are poor to reseed pastures.
3. Induce five or more farmers to try to lengthen grazing season.

Methods To Be Used

1. Induce farmers to topdress old stands through agricultural conservation program and personal expense to the limit.
2. Scarify, fertilize, and reseed weak stands with ladino clover, using alfalfa instead of ladino where controlled grazing can be established.
3. Lengthen grazing season by topdressing with 5-10-10.
4. Continue the Plant Food Institute demonstrations to show importance of pasture fertilization.
5. Conduct at least one pasture tour during the season.
6. Use newspaper items when most emphasis can be stressed.
7. Timely discussions will be held in farmers clubs.

Corn

Due to topography of the land and distance from market, very little corn is grown outside of the county needs. Practically one hundred per cent of the farmers in Craig County are using hybrid seed. It is not a job to get farmers to turn to hybrids but it is important to help them in selecting hybrids that are best adapted to their conditions.

Farmers are interested in the one hundred bushel corn club and it will be encouraged and promoted. In news items and farmers meetings, discussions will be made on importance of using lands that are suitable for corn production.

Small Grain

Fall-sown small grain is not recommended for Craig County except where cover crops are needed and can be sown. Early seeding of winter oats is recommended instead of spring oat varieties to aid in soil erosion. The importance of good fertilization will be stressed in order that the best paying yields may be obtained.

Beef Cattle

Situation

Practically one hundred per cent of the farmers in Craig County receive some income from beef cattle. More beef

cattle are marketed from this county than any other class of livestock. There are twenty-eight purebred breeders of cattle. Nineteen farmers own more than 500 purebred Herefords. Seven farmers own around 300 Angus, and two farmers have about thirty-five purebred Shorthorns. Around 10,000 grade cattle are kept in Craig County. The number of cow and calf herds are on the increase.

Goals

1. Assist in promoting purebred Hereford, Angus, and Shorthorn sales.
2. Promote one or more feeder calf and yearling sales.
3. Promote brucellosis vaccination and testing program contributed to by the state and federal government.
4. Help in promoting an area 4-H baby beef and farmers fat steer show.
5. Start at least one farmer on artificial breeding of cattle.
6. Encourage each purebred breeder to exhibit at fair.
7. Control parasites.

Methods To Be Used

1. Assist individual breeders in finishing and fitting for sales and exhibiting at the fair.
2. Contact individual feeder calf producers in promoting the feeder calf and yearling sales.
3. Schedule programs of vaccination and testing for Bangs between veterinarian and farmers.
4. Contact individuals and discuss at 4-H meetings the possibilities to be gained in exhibiting at the area fat stock show.
5. Talk to individuals personally and give assistance in every way possible toward exhibiting and assist in artificial breeding.
6. Demonstrate the use of DDT or lindane and rotenone in the control of flies, lice, and cattle grub.
7. Prepare timely news items and hold demonstrations at farmers club meetings to promote beef cattle goals.

Sheep

Situation

There are about 2,500 ewes in Craig County. This number could be doubled if the increase is properly placed without

beginning to over stock with sheep. The increase is needed because much of the grazing land is better suited for sheep than any other type of livestock. Practically all the feed needed for sheep can be produced on the farm.

Many farmers going out of sheep raising did so during high beef prices and not because of low prices of lambs. The outlook for sheep is good because prices fluctuate less than beef and hog prices. By looking after small details, the sheep farmer can make more profit on a given amount of expenditure than any enterprise on the farm.

Goals

1. Induce three or more farmers to start flocks.
2. Assist one flock owner in each community to replace ewes showing age by native or good type western ewes.
3. Control internal parasites.
4. Select four farmers who will raise early lambs as a demonstration to show advantage in price and to show less needs for midsummer pastures.
5. Improve quality of market lambs.

Methods To Be Used

1. Hold sheep culling demonstration.
2. Give worming demonstrations and stress importance of a four times a year schedule.
3. Make personal contacts.
4. Stress early lambing, good winter feeding, early docking and castrating, creep feeding, spraying and dipping in news items and discussions in farmers gatherings.
5. Give docking, castrating, and shearing demonstration.
6. Encourage farmers to wean late lambs, treat for worms, and grain feed for quality lambs.

Swine

The number of brood sows in Craig is small - only 150 sows are kept. The small number of hogs is due to the small acreage of corn in the county. A majority of the pigs are sold outside of the county. Most farmers finish two or three hogs for home use. A few are sold as fat hogs where there is surplus corn as it is better to transport hogs to market than corn.

The 4-H Sears breeding pig project will be continued. It is a means of spreading better quality hogs throughout the county. Farmers and boys will be urged to participate in the Roanoke area pig show as it helps to demonstrate desirable type and finish of market hogs. Pastures suitable for hogs will be promoted for economical production.

Poultry

Nearly every farmer has some poultry but very few realize any profit. There are about 20,000 hens in the county and only 96,000 dozen eggs sold. The production is less than five dozen per hen in addition to eggs consumed on farms. It shows that more efficient management practices should be established on most farms. A better system of marketing eggs will be attempted.

Dairying

There are no grade A commercial dairies in the county. About forty thousand dollars worth of grade C milk and cream is sold annually from about 1,500 cows. The amount is in addition to the amount consumed. It shows definite need for the establishment of improved practices and better management of dairy cows. The market demand for cream and grade C milk is good.

Rural Organizations

The rural organizations in the county for which the Extension agent has most of the responsibility are six 4-H clubs, four farmers clubs, and one young men and women's club. The community improvement contest will be given careful consideration and promotion - a contest which is sponsored by the only local service club in the county.

The 4-H and farmers clubs are clubs of rather long standing while the young men and women's club is of shorter duration. This club is only about five years old but very active - assisting other organizations such as community improvement, county fair, and county health programs. Members will be given a chance to assist with 4-H clubs as leaders and promoters.

The 4-H club members will be encouraged to improve project work by selecting better projects and doing better work with the ones selected, thereby having a higher percentage of completions. The 4-H short course will be called to their attention from time to time in order that the county's quota will be filled. More club members will be encouraged to attend the 4-H camp during the summer. They have done well with exhibits at the fair in the past but will be encouraged to improve in the future.

Farm And Home Development Program

The possibilities for the farm and home development phase of Extension are good in Craig County. Many farmers have lacked a chance to do a thorough job of analyzing records and management problems. If handled properly, they will appreciate the possibilities in such planning.

With the heavy work load on one agent the goal in this phase of the program will have to be kept at a minimum. The agent feels that he should attempt to help at least six farmers in collecting material necessary in planning their farm and home development program.

Calendar of Work

December

- SCS - Promoting farm plans
- ACP - News items and personal contacts concerning practices
- Poultry - Area Egg Marketing Project
- Beef Cattle - Roanoke Area Fat Stock Project
 - Artificial insemination promotion
- Swine - Encourage marketing at 180 to 240 pounds

January

- Fair - Planning with directors
- SCS - State Convention, district planning, promoting practices
- YW - Assimilating records for entering state contest, organizing group for discussion series in national experimental discussion work
- Social Security - Discussion meeting for farmers
- Poultry - Area Egg Marketing Project
- Farm and Home Development School

February

Plan of Work - Committee meetings and developing plan
Plant Food Institute - Visited demonstrations
Beef Cattle - Area Fat Stock Project
 - Feeder Calf Sale
 - Brucellosis control program
 - Control parasites
 - Promoting purebred sale
Sheep - Docking and castrating demonstrations
Poultry - Area egg marketing project

March

Beef Cattle - Area Fat Stock Project
 - Promoting purebred sale
Sheep - Parasite control demonstration
 - Creep feeding
Poultry - Start early chicks
Pastures and Meadows - Topdress old stands, reseed
 thin stands
Corn - Select land and variety of seed
Community Improvement - Promote the contest

April

Beef Cattle - Area Fat Stock Project
 - Promoting purebred sale
Hay - Stress proper haying practices
Swine - Encourage marketing at 180 to 240 pounds
Dairy - Encourage quality hay for milk production
Corn - Encourage one hundred bushel corn club
Farm and Home Development Plan

May

Beef Cattle - Area Fat Stock Project
 - Encouraging Fair Exhibiting
Sheep - Shearing demonstration
 - External parasite control
Swine - Control parasites
Hay - Encourage sowing catch crop
Farm and Home Development Plan

June

Beef Cattle - Brucellosis vaccination
 - Promoting feeder calf sale
Sheep - Work for new flocks
 - Selecting replacement ewes
 - Wool Pool
Swine - Place Sears breeding pigs
Farm and Home Development Plan

July

Fair - Encouraging Exhibiting
Sheep - Work for new flocks
- Controlling parasites
- Encourage early lambing
Beef Cattle - Promoting feeder calf sale
Corn - Seed cover crop at last working
Farm and Home Development Plan
Institute of Rural Affairs

August

Pastures and Meadows - Topdress old stands
- Sow alfalfa
Beef Cattle - Preparing for feeder calf sale
Swine - Market at best weights
Sheep - Controlling parasites
Fair - Encourage Exhibiting
Poultry - Better housing project
Farm and Home Development Plan
Extension Conference

September

Fair - Assisting with management and exhibits
Beef Cattle - Feeder calf sale
Small Grain - Stress sowing of all corn land to be
left bare
Farm and Home Development Plan
Field Day at VPI

October

Beef Cattle - Assist with preparations for purebred
sale
Swine - Control parasites
Poultry - Culling demonstrations
Community Improvement - Work with committees
Forestry - Stress tree planting
Farm Tour

November

Beef Cattle - Assisting with purebred sale
- Brucellosis vaccination
Dairy - Culling and selecting better individuals
Sheep - Controlling parasites
Annual Reports

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GENERAL SITUATION IN CRAIG COUNTY

The area of Craig County is 333 square miles. It is composed of six valleys of varying size with winding roads through each valley and over divides. Going from one valley to another requires considerable travel since the roads are winding and zigzagging up and over the mountains.

More than fifty per cent of the county is in forests and owned by the federal government. About one-fourth of the remaining area owned by farmers is in woodland. Practically every farmer has some woodland.

There are only 449 farms in the county but they are scattered over the entire county in all of the valleys. The farms vary in size from twenty-five acres to one thousand. Most farmers in the county live in valleys with their line fences running from mountain to mountain through the valley. Generally speaking, this gives each farmer a slice of the valley bottom land, a portion of the creek through the valley, second bottoms, and upland with the grade increasing to the mountain tops. Such an arrangement gives the farmer a convenient place for the homesite on the highway through the valley, some land with recommended tillable slope for crops and meadows, and land suitable for grazing of heavy cattle, light cattle, and sheep as the grade increases.

Three of the valleys have natural limestone soil with the other three containing sandy loam soil. Many farmers in sandy valleys formerly owned grazing farms in the limestone valleys. Now, with the improvement of sods in all of the valleys, the trend is toward selling their distant limestone grazing farms and further improving grazing on the home farm.

The livestock produced in the county is beef cattle, sheep, milk cows, and hogs. Every farm has some poultry for home use but there are only three or four managed properly for financial success. The principal crops are pasture, hay, corn, small grain, and forestry products.

The entire population of the county is only about 3,500 inhabitants. There is one small town in the county with only enough industry to employ around one hundred workers. With the increase in industry in the adjoining counties, many citizens are building homes in the county and seeking employment outside of the county. This trend will increase the population but doesn't seem to effect farming practices very much.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Organized soil conservation work has been going in the county since 1945. Craig is a part of the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District. The county has one supervisor in planning a soil conservation program and two part-time technicians.

Goals

1. Assist technicians in securing twenty-five farms for soil conservation plans.
2. Promote the establishment of practices on all plans.

Methods Used

1. Farmers were contacted and encouraged to adopt soil conservation practices.
2. The use of cover crops seeded at the last working of corn was encouraged to prevent erosion where small grains could not follow.
3. In putting the waste land to best use, farmers were encouraged to plant trees.
4. Soil technicians in cooperation with machinery dealers assisted in planning and putting on a strip cropping demonstration.
5. News articles, farm visits, discussion meetings, and movie "Planning to Prosper" were used in reaching goals.

Results

Twenty farmers had soil conservation plans made for their farms. Fifteen farmers used summer and winter cover crops to hold moisture and prevent erosion, and practically one hundred per cent used small grain, crimson clover or other cover on corn stubble. Fourteen farmers and farm boys planted trees.

The County Agent and Soil Technicians took advantage of an opportunity to stage an all-day demonstration of establishing soil conservation practices. Such practices were demonstrated as plowing alternate strips on the contour, turning sod uphill, preparing seed beds, seeding, and mulching. Around fifty farmers attended this demonstration.

HAY

Farmers have been struggling with the uphill problem of producing feed under drought conditions until they are more conservation minded than they realize. Buying hay has been the biggest expense of Craig farmers. On account of the expense, farmers have sold off livestock and adopted the conservation practices that would aid in producing more hay.

The Agronomy Committee invited a specialist from VPI to advise as to practices to promote.

Goals

1. Place at least one demonstration on alfalfa production in each community.
2. Induce at least one farmer in each community and encourage all others to fertilize old meadows for two cuttings, using a 10-10-10 fertilizer about the time growth starts or after the first cutting.
3. Induce demonstrators to cut on time, cure less in the swath and more in the windrow to save valuable leaves and improve on storing.
4. Encourage the planting of a catch crop for hay or grass whenever there is a likelihood of it being needed.
5. Encourage all farmers on all occasions to establish or increase alfalfa acreage.

Methods Used

1. Urged all farmers to secure all of the ACP materials possible for farms.
2. Assisted in selecting the best varieties.
3. Furnished all production information needed in establishing the demonstrations.
4. Fourteen news items were published in promoting goals.
5. Better hay practices were discussed in farmers' meetings and movies shown.

Results

An alfalfa demonstration was started in all the communities. The demonstration helped to encourage other farmers to seed alfalfa. In one community, ten farmers seeded fifty acres of alfalfa.

To find reasons for poor stands, samples of soil from seventeen stands of alfalfa were taken in one month and results analyzed. Ten of the seventeen were poor stands. Only three of the ten poor stands were low in lime. Nine of the poor stands were low in potash. The good stand, low in potash, had just been seeded. Most of the poor stands of alfalfa had high or very high tests for phosphate. None were low. It showed the farmers that lime and potash were more important in securing good stands of alfalfa than phosphorus since three of the seven good stands were only medium in phosphorus.

Farmers increased yields of hay one-third by using 10-10-10 fertilizer topdressing. Some reported two cuttings or extra grazing. The dry weather helped in getting farmers to cure in windrows instead of the swath.

More than twelve farmers sowed catch crops consisting of sudan grass or millet and soybeans. Some who didn't need the grazing reported big yields of good quality hay.

As a result of the goals reached, very few farmers will have to buy hay while some have hay to sell. With increase to normal rainfall, farmers can increase livestock again. At the same time it seems they will continue to use conservation practices.

PASTURES

Pastures in Craig County have been improved through fertilization stimulated by the TVA and ASC programs. Due to the drouth in the past few years, pastures have had some set-backs. The grass in the sandstone sections have suffered more than in the limestone valleys on account of the drouths except in the cases where limestone is near the top of the ground. With the return of normal rainfall and the recommended fertilization practices a marked recovery can be expected.

Goals were adopted for pasture improvement along with the hay as the problems and needs were so similar.

Goals

1. Induce five or more farmers in each community to topdress pastures.
2. Encourage five or more farmers, where the stands are poor, to reseed pastures.
3. Induce five or more farmers to try to lengthen grazing season.

Methods Used

1. Urged farmers to topdress old stands through Agricultural Conservation Program and personal expense to the limit.
2. Encouraged farmers to scarify, fertilise, and reseed weak stands with ladino clover, using alfalfa instead of ladino where controlled grazing could be established.
3. Urged farmers to topdress with 5-10-10 to lengthen grazing season.
4. Plant Food Institute demonstrations were continued to show importance of pasture fertilization.
5. Eleven news articles published.
6. Pasture improvement discussions at farmers' meetings and educational movie.

Results

These objectives were met by inducing around three hundred farmers in the county to topdress old pastures through ACP and personal expense. Sixty or more farmers reseeded weak stands. Three farmers continued their Plant Food Institute pasture demonstrations.

CORN

Due to topography of the land and distance from market, very little corn is grown outside of the county needs. Practically one hundred per cent of the farmers in Craig County are using hybrid seed. It is not a job to get farmers to turn to hybrids but it is important to help them in selecting hybrids that are best adapted to their conditions.

The greatest need of corn in Craig is for hogs, poultry, and in a few cases for beef animals. Corn yields were high except

where the drouth didn't let up in time to cause corn to ear out. Many farmers requested assistance in measuring yields. None that were measured went under one hundred bushels per acre.

Two corn hybrid demonstrations were held to stimulate interest in selecting best adapted varieties as improvements are being made on hybrid seeds. Recommended varieties and best methods for cultivating corn were discussed at farmers' meetings with the Agent using flannel board to help illustrate.

Results and opinions of the demonstrators of the new varieties were used in news articles and also displayed with ears of each variety in a local store at the county seat.

BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle being the major livestock to consume pastures and hay, this enterprise was given major consideration. Goals were set up for the year with the help of committee and specialists.

Goals

1. Assist in promoting purebred Hereford, Angus, and Shorthorn sales.
2. Promote one or more feeder calf and yearling sales.
3. Promote brucellosis vaccination and testing program contributed to by state and federal government.
4. Help in promoting an area 4-H baby beef and farmers fat steer show.
5. Start at least one farmer on artificial breeding of cattle.
6. Encourage each purebred breeder to exhibit at fair.
7. Control parasites.
8. Cull out herds to meet drouth conditions.

Methods Used

1. Assisted individual breeders in finishing and fitting for sales and exhibiting at fairs.
2. Contacted feeder calf producers in promoting the feeder calf and yearling sales.

3. Scheduled programs of vaccination and testing for Bangs and TB between veterinarian and farmers.
4. Contacted individuals and discussed at 4-H meetings the possibilities to be gained in exhibiting at the area fat stock show.
5. Talked to individuals personally and gave assistance in every way possible toward exhibiting.
6. Encouraged farmers to breed cows artificially.
7. Demonstrated the use of DDT, lindane, and rotenone in the control of flies, lice, and cattle grubs.
8. Prepared forty-one news articles and discussed goals at farmers' meetings.

Results

Farmers and club boys fitted and showed around seventy-five animals in the sales and at community, county, and area fairs. One 4-H Club heifer won first in its class and grand champion among all clubs which meant about \$136.00 in cash, scholarships, and other awards.

Craig farmers and farm boys won first in the five pen exhibit of fat cattle, first on three pen, and third on three pen class. Four-H members won third, fourth, sixth, and ninth placings in the area show of sixty-eight baby beebes by club members.

Three days were scheduled for vaccinating calves against Bangs which helped to reach about 300 calves in the county. The Agent assisted the veterinarian in contacting and scheduling farmers for TB testing in order to meet state requirements. Testing for Bangs was included in the program.

Farmers in Craig fitted and consigned cattle in three pure-bred Hereford sales, one Angus sale, and one Shorthorn sale. Thirteen farmers consigned eighty-two calves in the feeder calf sale. Better calves and better demand caused top calves to sell one and one-half cents per pound higher than a year ago.

The drouth caused emergency culling which should further improve the quality of calves next year. One of the biggest objectives next year should be to select the best replacement calves and discard bottom cows.

SHEEP

Sheep are important in Craig because there are over 2,500 ewes in the county and they find pasture land on many farms that is not suitable for heavier animals. The feed needed for sheep can be produced on the farm except minerals and very little supplements.

Goals

1. Induce three or more farmers to start flocks.
2. Assist one flock owner in each community to replace ewes showing age by native or good type western ewes.
3. Control internal parasites.
4. Select four farmers who will raise early lambs as a demonstration to show advantage in price and to show less needs for midsummer pastures.
5. Improve quality of market lambs.

Methods Used

1. Three sheep culling demonstrations.
2. Four worming demonstrations held for new farmers.
3. More than one hundred individual contacts were made concerning sheep goals.
4. Seventeen news items were prepared on early breeding, good winter feeding, docking and castrating, creep feeding, spraying, dipping, shearing, tying and pooling wool.
5. Nine discussions were held in farmers' meetings and a movie shown "The New Story of Phenothiazine."

Results

More high grade lambs were produced this year than any time during the past six years. Craig farmers pooled 13,740 pounds of wool. This was 712 pounds over the amount pooled last year.

Two new breeders were started this year as well as four new five-ewe flock projects.

SWINE

The swine enterprise in Craig is small due to limited corn land in the county but very well developed. A large number of

breeds and crosses have disappeared. The 4-H projects of Sears Berkshire pigs with registered sows moving from community to community have changed the situation.

Few farmers have any hogs other than purebred Berkshire. Some few have turned to Hampshire which is recommended, and others have Berkshire-Hampshire crosses - also recommended.

This year, after several years of talking and planning for the Beltsville bacon strain, one farmer moved a herd of Beltsville sows into the county. Two or three farmers purchased pigs to try out as bacon type. The trend is toward bacon type hogs. More Beltsville hogs will be tried next year.

POULTRY

Nearly every farmer has some poultry but very few realize any profit. There are about 20,000 hens in the county and only 96,000 dozen eggs sold. The production is less than five dozen per hen in addition to eggs consumed on farms. It shows that more efficient management practices should be established on most farms. A better system of marketing eggs were attempted.

In making an attempt toward improving the marketing of eggs in Craig, a survey was made of the situation of fourteen of the largest producers. The survey revealed that the average size flock was 109 hens. Two owners sold eggs for hatching purposes. The group produced an average of thirty-eight cases per month.

Nine out of fourteen were satisfied with their present system of marketing. Only one gave no answer to the questionnaire. Four sold eggs in country stores, four sold to hucksters, and six sold direct to consumers.

Representatives of the Craig County group attended area meetings with representatives from groups of other counties to plan for an egg grading station.

Farmers will be encouraged to follow through in supporting an egg grading station in the area since a large percentage of the eggs consumed in the area is shipped from outside the area, and in many cases from long distances.

DAIRYING

At the beginning of the year there were no grade A commercial dairies in the county. About forty thousand dollars worth of grade C milk and cream is sold annually from about 1,500 cows. This is in addition to the amount consumed. It shows definite need for the establishment of improved practices and better management of dairy cows. The market demand for cream and grade C milk is good.

One large grade A dairy with modern equipment has been started in the county. Another dairyman has built a milking parlor with extra room for refrigeration and the installation of running water.

RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The rural organizations in the county for which the County Agent had most of the responsibility are six 4-H clubs, four farmers' clubs, and one young men and women's club. The community improvement contest is given careful consideration and promotion - a contest which is sponsored by the only local service club in the county.

Two communities entered the area community improvement contest. In the winning community the people really surprised themselves when they collected information on how much improvement had been done. The Agent attended about half of their meetings and gave such information as would help them in reaching their goals, particularly farm goals. The contest has meant a lot to the people in forming new habits of working together as well as the physical improvements so noticeable.

The contest will be encouraged next year as it means reaching more people with extension information and each year the people become more self-reliant in carrying on their program.

The young men and women's club has carried out more objectives this year than has been the case since organization in 1950. The membership and officers have been more permanent.

In addition to their program adopted for the year, they paid fees for a discussion series of ten meetings entitled "Thomas Jefferson and Our Times." They had representatives at

the State Leadership Training Camp. The club members sent out letters for the polio drive and sponsored a movie for the March of Dimes. They earned \$100.00 for the club by voluntary working at the county fair, donated and operated a penny board for the benefit of the fire department; conducted a picnic tour to one of the state parks; donated five dollars to the local basket ball team; and ordered and distributed mail box name plates for members of community improvement clubs. They also prepared a scrapbook and entered a state contest, tying for second place.

Mr. William P. Bradley, Associate Extension Editor, accompanied Dr. J. A. Duncan, Older Youth Specialist, to the October meeting of the club. They observed the club program, took pictures and obtained records of the year's work for a feature article on the club.

Four-H clubs were continued as in the past except a wider variety of projects could be offered since the county hired a Home Demonstration Agent for the first time. The six clubs carried 153 projects with 119 completions.

The quality of project work improved. The baby beef, breeding pig, and five-ewe flock projects all showed improvement. One 4-H member of the county won grand champion on his purebred breeding heifer in a class of fifty heifers. His heifer won first in its class, grand champion in the Junior division, and seventh place in all classes at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in Richmond. Other members won third, fourth, sixth, and ninth places in the Roanoke Area baby beef show.

Five members attended 4-H Camp, four picnics were held, and one electric field day. Two members qualified for and attended Electric Congress at Richmond. Three Craig County 4-H clubs won fifty dollars in the WSLS 4-H Club contest.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The possibilities for the farm and home development phase of Extension are good in Craig County. Many farmers have lacked a chance to do a thorough job of analyzing records and management problems. If handled properly, they will appreciate the possibilities in such planning.

With the heavy work load on one Agent, the goal in this phase of the program will have to be kept at a minimum. The Agent planned to help six farmers in collecting material necessary in planning their farm and home development programs.

Six farmers have been selected for the farm and home development program. They were selected in all cases where an active member of the young men and women's club resided. It was thought the club members would be receptive toward the program since they were young and doing good work in their club.

All inventories have been completed and forty-one visits made toward completing plans, alternate plans, and making improvements.

HEALTH

Rabies has caused an emergency health program to be organized in order to do all possible to check loss of livestock and danger to individuals. The Board of Supervisors advised the formation of a County Rabies Control Committee. The committee was organized with the County Agent as chairman.

The committee has recommended certain control measures. A bounty has been placed on foxes. The Supervisors have ordered twenty dozen traps to furnish farmers at cost. A trapping expert from the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has been secured to put on trapping demonstrations for catching foxes in early December. After the hunting season is over trapping will start throughout the county.

Planning meetings of the committee and newspaper articles have been published to promote the trapping program. Three persons in the county have been treated for bites by rabid animals. The program is also considered important on account of livestock. One farmer has lost ten purebred Herefords. Others have lost one to three animals.

A movie entitled "Rabies Can Be Controlled" was shown in farmers' clubs and 4-H club meetings of the county.

The gardeners of Craig requested around 500 bulletins, circulars, and leaflets on gardening as a result of eighteen news articles on gardening. Latest recommended varieties were furnished gardeners.

A list of varieties of sweet corn of different maturing dates were listed. The object was to plant several different varieties at one date and then have corn maturing from early to the latest date depending on number of days in which a variety would mature. A second planting date for three or four varieties was necessary to use all the season.

The list will be used next year since it seemed to be popular. It seems to help avoid delayed plantings due to weather conditions.

Varieties of meats were stressed during the year and farmers were encouraged to butcher lambs and beef animals as well as hogs. Further emphasis will be placed on varieties of meats in connection with the freezer next year.

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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

NEW COUNTY BEGINS

DESCRIPTION TARGET