

PLAN OF WORK

1959

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

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INTRODUCTION

I. APPOMATTOX COUNTY

This is a county that consists of 342 square miles, comprising 141,476 acres, of which 48,000 is cropland. More than 5,000 acres are idle land, and approximately 60% is in timber. The average size farm is 136 acres, of which there are 850. The population of the County is approximately 8,000. The trend is that more young people are leaving the farm to find work in industry in cities which would provide a more lucrative income.

This is basically an agricultural county with tobacco being the primary source of income on many of the farms. In recent years, dairying, livestock and poultry have become a more important part of the total farm income. With a continual decrease in the number of acres of tobacco that may be planted, farmers are seeking new ways of increasing the net income for their farm family.

II. COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEES

An effort has been made to rotate the membership of the several committees listed. It was noticeable that in the planning sessions this year, members had a little better idea as to how they should approach the problems and arrive at possible solutions through education. Members of the County Extension Committees were selected by the County Agricultural Council after reviewing the cooperation and participation of the committee members in 1958. Committees used in county planning are as follows:

1. Agronomy
2. Tobacco
3. Livestock
4. Dairy
5. Forestry
6. Poultry (Commercial)
7. Lighting

III. PROMOTIONAL METHODS

The contents of this Plan of Work in many cases, will not be specific in designating the medium by which information thought to be important will be disseminated to the public. However, it is understood that newspaper, radio, television, distribution of bulletins, tours and demonstrations will be used to the fullest extent to bring before the public, information that is of interest to the farmers of this county.

IV. AGRONOMY

1. Conduct three soil insecticide demonstrations in corn. These demonstrations are to be set up on the farms of Jim Franklin, William O'Brien and the Hix Brothers.
2. Conduct four corn variety demonstrations. VPI 639 will be used on the farms of J. S. Caldwell, Jr., and B. C. Richardson. Six varieties given by the Pioneer Corn Company will be used on the farms of B. C. Massie and Fred Jonas.
3. Soils school will be conducted during the spring with the help of G. R. Epperson. The tour to be divided into two sections, one in the Red House Community and the other in the Hixburg Community.

4. Conduct a three-year fertility test on the farm of C. S. Rush. Rotation consists of corn, small grain and red clover. A three-acre field will be selected and divided into six sections; one acre fertilized as the farmer would do normally; one acre by soil test and the third acre at a higher rate than #2. These three sections will be sub-divided into two groups using two different rates of planting corn; one at 10,000 plants per acre, and the other at 15,000.
5. Provide an opportunity for silage producers to enroll in the county silage club which is designed somewhat similar to the old 100-bushel corn clubs.
6. In late July tour the Beltsville Experiment Station, Beltsville, Maryland.
7. Continue the five TVA test demonstration farm work.

V. TOBACCO

1. Develop interest in a new crop for this area - aromatic tobacco - with the hope of getting two or three growers to produce some for the current year.
2. Publicize results of 1958 varietal demonstration work.
3. Continue varietal demonstration experiment at farm of T. H. Tanner and Son, and tour the plots if reasonable weather permits.
4. Encourage fire-cured tobacco growers to attend the varietal sale in Farmville during December.

VI. FORESTRY

1. Plan a Jr. Forestry Contest for the 1959-60 planting year.

2. Set up a demonstration showing the use of several materials to eliminate undesirable hardwoods. This demonstration will be conducted on the farm of D. M. Wood.
3. Conduct a thinning and estimation demonstration on the farm of Hugh Tanner.
4. Hold a county-wide evening Forestry meeting with Carl Holcomb to discuss why forestry management is important to the small operator.

VII. LIVESTOCK

1. Hold 4 livestock meetings at country stores throughout the county with emphasis on feeder calf sales and performance testing.
2. Hold one county-wide evening meeting with Dr. Coy Brooks on profitable swine management.
3. Hold 1 county-wide evening meeting on sheep production and how they will balance the farming operation with George Allen.
4. Examine cattle herds treated for grub control in the Fall of 1958.
5. Encourage the beef producers to market cattle through one of the three feeder sales.
6. Renew interest in the selection and use of quality purebred sires.
7. Survey the county to determine the feasibility of beginning a feeder pig sale patterned after the feeder calf sales.

VIII. POULTRY - Commercial

1. Hold a county-wide evening meeting with D. D. Bragg presiding on the subject of egg production.
2. Hold a county-wide evening meeting with A. T. Ringrose discussing broilers.

IX. DAIRY

1. Hold a county-wide meeting for manufactured milk producers with Frank Ellmore speaking.
2. Hold the annual Dairymen's Banquet in April for dairymen and their wives.
3. Hold a meeting of the Grade A producers shipping to Norfolk Market on the subject of Federal milk order.
4. Hold a meeting on the subject of dairy replacements.
5. Develop work on educational phase of mastitis control.

X. LIGHTING

1. Select three homes for conducting lighting demonstrations in the home and on the farm.

XI. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a Bee School for county Bee Keepers.
2. Hold a county-wide meeting on small fruits with particular emphasis on production of strawberries.
3. Develop interest among a small group of farmers in the electronic record keeping system.
4. Contact the State Veterinarian on the possibilities of this county coming under the brucellosis testing program.
5. Cooperate with the County Ministerial Association in holding a Town and Country Institute.
6. Hold a meeting for those interested in more information concerning taxes and how to compute such items.
7. Put on two demonstrations in the use of concrete for lining trench silos.

8. Develop some interest in certified seed with at least one farmer entering the program of certified seed production this year.

XII. 4-H

Appomattox County has a total of 503 club members enrolled and taking a total of 1,020 projects. There are three old established community 4-H Clubs and two new clubs have been organized with community leaders.

The special interest project for the fifth, sixth and seventh grade clubs is Wildlife and two or more species of local animals are discussed each month. Most of these discussions are given by the club members from material furnished by extension personnel. The eighth grade clubs are taking Junior Leadership.

All club members in this county have extensive possibilities to exhibit their project work in the Lynchburg Farm Show and Farmville Five County Fair.

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1. Visit as many projects as possible and encourage club members to exhibit outstanding products from their projects.
2. Check members record book when making home visits and stress the importance of completions.
3. See as many 4-H parents as possible and discuss opportunities for their children through 4-H work.
4. Have a most educational and enjoyable 4-H camping program, and again stress the importance of good project work.

5. Have a county-wide Share the Fun Contest and let only club members who have completed their project record book, enter.
6. Organize at least one new community 4-H Club during 1959.

XII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

When the Farm and Home Development work was first started in Appomattox County, six farms were selected with which to work. These six farms still exist and work with these farms has not been completed as of this date.

Lack of personnel and time prevents the completion of this work.

XIII. OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

As has always been the policy, the Extension Service of Appomattox County will render complete cooperation with other Agricultural Agencies in their endeavors in this county.