

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK FOR CAROLINE COUNTY

From December 1, 1953 through November 30, 1954

R. G. Eagar

County Agent

Katherine Salmon

Stenographer

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Brief Description of County

Caroline County is a rural County with 1236 farms and according to the 1950 census the average size of the farms is 130 acres. General farming is the chief type of farming in the county with corn, wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, lespedeza hay and seed, alfalfa, tobacco and commercial vegetables being the chief crops.

Pastures have been greatly improved which has resulted in increased numbers of beef cattle and hogs. Dairy farmers and dairy cow numbers have also increased.

The chief commercial vegetables grown in the county are cucumbers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes, cabbage and sweet corn.

About 79% of the surface area in Caroline County is in forest trees and every year a considerable sum is added to the farm income from forest products such as excelsior wood, lumber and cross ties.

Changing Situation Influencing Plans

Caroline County has experienced a drought for the past two years and the crop yields for most crops have averaged more than fifty (50) percent below normal for these two years. Farm prices for most crops grown in the county were also falling during these two years and the result is a greatly increased farm debt. A good farming year with fair prices is needed to place Caroline County farmers on a sound financial footing. The acreage of wheat was cut by allotments, but the deficiency in this farm income can be made up with soybeans if the present price of soybeans could be maintained, but most farmers are expecting the price of soybeans to fall.

How County Program Was Developed

A county Board of Agriculture as such is not active in Caroline County, but the agent has been working very closely with the Board of Directors and Program Committee of the Caroline County Farm Bureau in planning the county Agriculture Program. In fact, the agent considers this group as his county Board of Agriculture.

The agent met with this group and assisted in setting up their agricultural objectives for the year. Programs for each meeting were also planned at this meeting and a large majority of the meetings will be devoted to the Extension Program with Extension Specialist from VPI being invited to appear on the program.

The agent also serves as chairman of the Agricultural Committee

for the Caroline Ruritan Club and an Extension Service Program has been developed into the Ruritan objectives. VFI Extension Specialists will appear on county Ruritan Programs to discuss Forestry and Agronomy projects.

The agent met with a vegetable group in the county to plan the vegetable program for the year. S. B. Fenne and L. C. Beamer of the VFI Extension Service also met with this group and assisted with the development of a county program.

General Problems and Needs of the County

In too many instances the farms in Caroline County are too small for efficient use of machinery and labor and to supply the family with an income for the family needs. More and more farmers will be forced to take other jobs to supplement the farm income or to increase the size of the farm.

The drought of the past two years did considerable damage to the pastures in the county and pastures will need reseeding to meet the feed shortage.

Some farmers may not be able to get the credit needed to do an efficient job of farming this year due to the fact they have lost money two years in succession due to the drought.

Grain marketing and storage has been a problem among Caroline County farmers and still is a problem; although, some progress has been made during the past several years.

Project Activities

A. Agronomy

1. Corn Production

- a. Situation: The drought of the past two years have caused the corn yields to be reduced by more than 50%. This reduced yield caused by the drought has caused farmers to be less receptive to the heavy nitrogen and fertilizer program for corn.
- b. Goal
 - (1) To continue to encourage farmers to follow a heavy nitrogen and fertilizer program for corn.
 - (2) To encourage farmers to use crimson clover and manure to supply nitrogen where possible.

- (3) To encourage farmers to improve the storage for corn.

c. Methods to be used to attain goal

- (1) General educational activities such as news articles, radio talks, circular letters and bulletins will be used to attain goal.
- (2) Result demonstrations will be set up by farmers in each community to demonstrate the value of heavy fertilization and the value of crimson clover as a cover crop.
- (3) A county meeting will be devoted to grain storage and marketing and the agent will assist farmers with the planning of grain storage.
- (4) The Caroline Farm Bureau and Ruritan Club will devote meetings to grain storage and marketing.

2. Pastures

a. Situation

Great progress has been made by county farmers during the past several years in the establishment of pastures, but the drought of the past two years has greatly retarded this program. Many of the pastures were over grazed during the hot, dry weather and it is now necessary that they be reseeded.

b. Goal

- (1) To encourage farmers to continue the pasture seeding and fertilization program and to reseed the pastures where necessary.

c. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- (1) General educational activities such as news articles, radio talks, circular letters and bulletins will be used to promote the pasture program.
- (2) The county pasture program will be included in the Farm Bureau and Ruritan Club objectives.
- (3) Pasture fertilization, reseeding, etc will be discussed at a county farm meeting by the agent and a Specialist from the VPI Extension Service.
- (4) A County Pasture Committee will help to carry the information to the farmers.
- (5) The agent will make farm visits to advise with farmers on pasture establishment and maintenance.
- (6) Result demonstrations on pasture fertilization will continue.

3. Tobacco

a. Situation

The acreage of sun-cured tobacco has been decreasing in Caroline County for many years because the farms are becoming more mechanized and farmers can get a greater return per man hour from other crops. Tobacco yields more income per acre than any crop grown in the county and for this reason it is mostly grown on the small farms. Acreage allotments has also caused the acreage to decrease.

About two years ago the growers of sun-cured tobacco greatly improved the marketing conditions of sun-cured tobacco by building a cooperative warehouse for selling the tobacco. The sun-cured tobacco growers are very proud of that accomplishment.

One of the great needs of the tobacco growers is labor saving devices. Mineral oil for sucker control will save labor. Calcium Cyanamid for weed control in the plant bed will save labor. Mechanical transplanters will save labor.

b. Goal

- (1) To encourage farmers to use labor saving devices in the production of tobacco.
- (2) To continue educational programs on disease, and insect control for tobacco and other accepted cultural practices.

c. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- (1) A method and result demonstration will be conducted on the use of Calcium Cyanamid to control weeds in the plant bed. Tobacco farmers will be invited to observe the method demonstration and also be requested to visit the beds later to observe the results.
- (2) Method and result demonstrations will also be held on the use of mineral oil for sucker control.
- (3) Many of the farmers have mechanical transplanters and others will be encouraged to purchase them.
- (4) General educational activities such as bulletins, news articles, circular letters and meetings will be used to inform the tobacco growers on accepted cultural practices, insect and disease control.
- (5) The agent will visit tobacco farmers to assist them with individual problems.

4. Small Grains

a. Situation

The sale of wheat offers one of the chief sources of income to Caroline County farmers. Some progress has been made in the storage and marketing of grain, but storage and marketing is still a problem among the grain farmers.

b. Goal

- (1) To encourage the farmers to improve and increase the grain storage capacity on the farm.
- (2) To encourage farmers to follow accepted cultural practices in grain production.

c. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- (1) A Grain Committee will be organized to study grain marketing and storage and a special effort will be made to increase the capacity of farm storage. The agent will assist farmers in securing plans for a grain storage.
- (2) General educational activities such as bulletins, news articles, and letters will be used to keep the grain farmers informed on accepted cultural practices.

B. Poultry

1. Situation

Most of the poultry in Caroline County is family size flocks and about the same numbers are maintained each year.

2. Goal

- a. To keep poultry producers informed on accepted practices.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. Invite an extension Poultry Specialist to the county to assist with production through farm visitation and meetings.
- b. Send circular letters to poultry producers.
- c. Farm visits will be used as a method to improve poultry production.
- d. General educational activities such as news articles and circular letters will be used to promote the poultry program.
- e. County poultry farmers will be invited and urged to attend the Fredericksburg area poultry meeting.
- f. Poultry production will be discussed at county meetings.

C. Dairying

1. Situation

The number of dairy farmers producing grade A milk has remained about the same until this past year when four new farmers went into the business and others are planning to go into the business. The milk prices will be cheaper and dairy farmers will be caught with less profits. The drought also affected the dairy farmer's profit because they were forced to purchase hay. In fact, many of the dairy farmers operated last year at a loss.

The chief need among the dairy farmers is an early supply of hay and pastures.

2. Goal

- a. To encourage farmers to top dress pastures and alfalfa for an early supply of hay and pastures.
- b. To encourage more efficiency in dairy production.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. Information on top dressing pastures and alfalfa will be sent dairy farmers and they will be urged to top dress pastures and alfalfa.
- b. Dairy farmers will be urged to use the DHIA method of record keeping in order that low producing cows can be sold.
- c. Dairy farmers will be encouraged to use labor saving devices and produce milk as cheap as possible per man hour of labor.
- d. Dairy farmers will be urged to produce the highest quality feed and preserve it with hay driers.
- e. General educational activities such as news articles, circular letters, bulletins and meetings will be used to promote the dairy program.

D. Beef Cattle

1. Situation

Beef cattle numbers have been increasing since the beginning of World War No. 2, but the last year price has caused numbers to level off.

Farmers have learned to produce beef cheaper through our pasture and good breeding programs and the agent feels that Caroline County farmers will continue to grow

beef at the present prices.

Still some improvements are needed in breeding management and feed production.

2. Goal

To increase efficiency in beef cattle production and marketing.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. To encourage farmers to cull their herds and replace with animals of better breeding.
- b. The agent will cooperate and work with pure-bred sales and all farmers will be encouraged to use pure-bred males.
- c. 4-H club members will be encouraged to use pure-bred animals for their project work.
- d. The agent will help to promote a Feeder Calf Sale in Fredericksburg.
- e. The agent will help to promote a Baby Beef Show and Sale at Fredericksburg.
- f. Beef cattle farmers will be encouraged to use winter grazing crops and to allow the cattle to harvest as much of their feed as possible.
- j. County farmers will be invited and urged to attend a livestock school to be held at Tappahannock.
- k. Beef cattle Specialist from VPI will be invited to the county to discuss beef cattle production at a county meeting.
- l. General educational activities such as news articles, bulletins, letters and radio talks will be used to promote efficiency in beef cattle production.

E. Swine

1. Situation

Hogs are grown on practically all farms in the county for home use and a large number of farmers produce hogs for market.

Some few farmers are grazing hogs on ladino clover, but there is a great need for more grazing crops for hogs. Still a great majority of farmers think hogs should be grown in a dry lot and the feed hauled to them two or three times a day.

2. Goal

- a. To encourage farmers to graze hogs on ladino clover

B.

as a source of protein feed.

- b. To encourage better feeding, management, disease and insect control.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. Result demonstrations with the use of ladino clover as a pasture for hogs will be established in each community in the county to show farmers the value of ladino clover pasture for hogs.
- b. The value of ladino clover pasture will be discussed with all 4-H club members and they will be urged to use ladino clover pasture for their pig projects.
- c. One radio talk, news articles and farm meeting will be devoted to ladino clover as a hog pasture.
- d. When the agent is visiting farmers he will encourage them to use ladino clover pasture for hogs.
- e. The agent will vaccinate pigs whenever called to control cholera.
- f. General educational activities will be used to inform hog producers on management, insect and disease control.

F. Vegetables

1. Situation

The acreage of vegetable crops has been decreasing for the past several years due to falling prices and increased demands on the labor supply.

Cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers are the chief vegetable crops growing for canning and fresh market.

2. Goal

- a. To increase quality and yield of vegetable produced for the fresh market and cannery.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. Encouraging farmers to spray their vegetables to control diseases and insects.
- b. Encouraging farmers to adopt improved cultural practices in the production of tomatoes, cucumbers, and sweet potatoes.
- c. General educational activities will be used to attain goal.
- d. L. C. Beamer, Extension Vegetable Specialist and S. B. Fenne, Extension Plant Pathologist, will be invited to a county-wide meeting to discuss tomato, sweet potato and

cucumber production.

- e. Agent will assist farmers with vegetable production by farm visits.

G. Forestry

1. Situation

Approximately 79% of the surface area in Caroline County is or was in forest trees. Of course, much of this area has been cut over and there is a great need for re-forestation. There is also a need for better management of the forest.

There is a great demand for pine timber because of the large excelsior and lumber industry in the county.

2. Goal

- a. To teach and encourage farmers and 4-H club members to carry out a sound Forestry program and to set up pine trees in the cut over areas and badly eroded areas.

3. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. The agent will discuss forestry with 4-H club members.
- b. The agent will invite forestry specialist to come to the county to discuss a forestry program with farmers.
- c. Three result demonstrations will be set up on forestry management.
- d. General educational activities such as farm meetings will be held to discuss forestry with farmers. News articles will be published on forestry.

H. Farm Management

1. Goal

- a. To inform farmers of Income Tax Law as it applies to farmers.
- b. To encourage farmers to keep accurate farm records.
- c. To inform farmers on the Agricultural Outlook.

2. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. A bulletin on Income Tax will be sent to leading farmers, businessmen, and professional workers.
- b. Leading farmers will be sent a farm record book.

- c. Publicity will be given farm record keeping.
- d. General educational activities such as news articles, farm meetings, circular letters, bulletins and visitation will be used to inform the farmers on farm management problems.
- e. The agricultural outlook for 1954 will be discussed at a farm meeting and a bulletin on agricultural will be sent to the farmers. News articles will also be published on the agricultural outlook.

I. Agricultural Engineering

1. Goal

- a. The agent to secure plans for agricultural buildings and equipment for farmers and advise with them on planning the buildings and equipment.
- b. To assist and advise with farmers on irrigation drainage, etc.

2. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- a. The agent will secure the desired plans for farmers and assist them with the planning.
- b. An Extension Agricultural Engineer will be invited to the county to assist with planning irrigation systems.

II. 4-H Club Work

1. Situation

4-H clubs are operated in each of the five schools in the county. The Assistant County Agent who carried on the 4-H club program resigned to become a County Agent in another county on January 1, 1953 and since then the County Agent has been attempting to carry on a club program in addition to a full time adult program and the result is the 4-H club has not received the attention necessary.

There is considerable interest among Caroline County farmers in the 4-H club program and more personnel is greatly needed to carry on an effective 4-H club program.

2. Organization

a. Goal

- (1) To organize five 4-H clubs.

- (2) To enroll 150 members.
- (3) To strengthen county council organization.
- (4) To add 5 additional adult leaders.
- (5) To have 2 delegates from county attend h-H short course.

b. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

- (1) Organize club in each school of county.
- (2) Offer variety of projects.
- (3) Place importance on County Council.
- (4) Personal contact of prospective leaders.
- (5) Use influence of previous delegates.

3. Project Work

a. Goal

- (1) To have each member carry at least one agricultural project.
- (2) To have members of each club exhibit outstanding projects at Fredericksburg Fair.

b. Methods to be Used to Attain Goal

Notify all members that project work is one requirement of club membership. Relate personal success stories of former and present members. Also make farm visits to aid members in selecting suitable projects. Distribute catalogues of the Fredericksburg Fair as soon as possible and talk with members concerning exhibits during summer visits. Organize transportation for taking exhibits to and from fair.

K. Cooperating With Other Agencies

1. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation

- a. The county agent through personal contacts, letters, news articles and meetings will help to carry on the educational program.
- b. The agent will help with a community meeting to explain the program.
- c. The agent will attend county committee meetings whenever requested.

2. Credit and Loaning Agencies

- a. The agent will cooperate with loaning agencies by recommending farmers needing credit to the proper loaning agency.

- b. The agent will work with the FHA Supervisor and help where necessary in making recommendations.
- c. The FHA Supervisor will be informed of new developments by circular letters, meetings and bulletins.
- d. The agent will cooperate with the local bank and keep the personnel informed on agricultural programs.
- e. The agent will attend Agriculture Credit Conference held at Natural Bridge.

3. District Soil Conservation Service

- a. The agent will work with the county SCS personnel in helping farmers conserve soil and water.
- b. The agent will assist the Tidewater Soil Conservation District in formulating and executing district plans.
- c. The agent will attend Tidewater Soil Conservation District Supervisors meetings.
- d. The county planning technician will be informed of new developments in Agriculture in the county.
- e. The agent will assist the local soil conservationist whenever requested in making recommendations for his farm plans.
- f. The agent will give the local soil conservationist the names of farmers requesting soil conservation help.