

10. Work closely with 4-H adult leaders for better community 4-H club programs.

11. Take advantage and use fully the sponsored funds in the forestry improvement contests, Sears Poultry Chain, Halifax 4-H Pig Chain, electric contest, tractor school and dairy calf chain.

12. Work closely with local sponsors, businessmen and community leaders to develop good public relations to sell 4-H club work in Halifax County.

13. Give publicity to club members, leaders, and sponsors in the form of news articles, letters, and radio.

13. Encourage the club member to give at least one well-planned demonstration during the club year.

14. Work toward 85% completion of boys' projects.

15. Work to have six 4-H boys submit achievement records and all boys form 4-H scrapbooks.

16. Increase the number of 4-H dairy calf and heifer projects to 50 and have 25 of these animals exhibited at four dairy shows.

17. Encourage 25 additional 4-H members to take swine, beef and sheep as a project as a possible future supplemental income to tobacco. Also have more record completions in these projects.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Step up the communication to 4-H members with timely news articles, 4-H radio program once a week, personal and circular letters, and more individual visitation during the summer months.

2. Hold monthly 4-H in-school club meetings with agents conducting and supervising well-planned demonstrations.

3. Conduct a county 4-H forestry demonstration and judging contest stressing the importance of forestry improvement, how to thin stands of pines, how to kill undesirable hardwoods, and how to properly plant pine seedlings. Hold three forestry tours and picnics with community 4-H clubs.

4. Hold an electric school on how to care for electric appliances and record keeping; also, an entomology school on how to build collecting equipment and prepare insect collections. Both schools will be designed to interest more non-farm youth.

5. Assist 4-H club members in selecting beef, swine and dairy animals for their projects.

6. Hold two 4-H livestock fitting and grooming schools and two 4-H dairy clinics.

7. Hold three community fairs to educate 4-H club members in how to prepare exhibits for three nearby fairs.

8. Assist 4-H members with preparation of demonstrations, achievement records and have well prepared judging team workouts.

9. Contact rural ministers and help arrange Rural Life Sunday programs and urge 4-H members to attend.

to more fully meet the needs of urban and non-rural farm youth. Serve and train more adult leaders to further 4-H work in the county. Promote more specialized project work such as forestry improvement, baby beef, dairy heifer chain, poultry chain, pony project, pig chain, and tractor program. Work toward an active county community 4-H club program.

Goals

1. Organize 3 community 4-H clubs supervised by leaders trained in leader training meetings by agents.
2. Form an active 4-H adult leaders council.
3. Hold county-wide 4-H picnic and share-the-fun program to involve at least 600 club members, parents and friends of 4-H.
4. Hold at least two honor club and two youth committee meetings to plan the year's 4-H program.
5. Have four community 4-H clubs observe Rural Life Sunday programs.
6. Have 4-H forestry members plant 60,000 loblolly pine seedlings, and have 60% of all 4-H members to take forestry appreciation to complete the county-wide 4-H project, forestry.
7. Have 25 4-H members thin a half acre or more of established pines.
8. Participate in the second annual baby beef show and sale in South Boston. Twenty-one 4-H steers and five purebred heifers will be shown.
9. Establish the third link in the locally sponsored pig chain with five registered Hampshire gilts.
10. Have a county 4-H demonstration contest and have winners enter the following: Egg grading, electric, home grounds, forestry, livestock conservation, public speaking, tractor operator, livestock judging, dairy judging, and land appreciation.
11. Create an organized 4-H tractor club with adult leaders giving instructions and sponsored by local tractor dealers.
12. Encourage 50 4-H boys to attend camp at Holiday Lake, one to Conservation Camp, two to Forestry Camp, four to Senior 4-H Camp, one county electric winner to Electric Congress and the allotted quota to attend State Short Course at VPI.

Objectives

Assist home owners with information on grading, securing of lawns, shrubbery and shade tree identification, and planning the farmstead.

Goals

1. Assist interested home owners in securing and maintaining a good lawn.
2. Increase the desire for improved home grounds and surroundings of the 250 farm families in the five community improvement groups.
3. Work with 8 organized groups on methods of improving home grounds.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Give demonstrations on shrubbery and shade tree planting and pruning.
2. Assist home owners in securing and maintaining good lawns by assisting with soils analysis and supplying up-to-date information on lawn fertilization and other practices that help to establish top-quality lawns.
3. Furnish home owners with a list of desirable shrubs and shade trees for the area also, with methods of insect and disease control.
4. Get this information to home owners through radio, newspapers, personal letters, circular letters, and personal contacts.

XVI. 4-H WORK

Situation

Nine hundred fifty boys and girls are enrolled in 30 in-school and community 4-H clubs from the 4,500 county youth. There are increases of youth in and around South Boston and Halifax, and a decrease in many of the rural areas. There is a trend toward community 4-H clubs and in a few years all clubs may be of this type. The consolidated high school serving the entire county, hampers very active 4-H participation at club meetings, therefore, many senior club members are asking for a club in their community.

Objectives

To establish and maintain a balanced 4-H program to attain a higher degree of leadership and citizenship. To adopt a 4-H program

cooperation in many undertakings that are helpful to the community, the individual family, and ultimately the entire county.

Objectives

To promote community pride, community development, community relations, and a general information program.

Goals

1. Urge the providing of a community meeting place, improving churches, church grounds, cemeterys, mailboxes, etc. in five communities.
2. Increase recreational and community relationships in five communities.
3. Increase corn yields, home grounds beautification, gardens, pasture acreage and quality, forage production, soil sampling, 4-H club work, and home living conditions in five communities.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold one planning meeting in each of five communities in which projects are selected and a year's program of work and recreation is determined.
2. Hold a monthly meeting at which projects selected by the communities are discussed and plans for carrying them out are made.
3. Carry timely information on projects to groups at each meeting through illustrated talks and demonstrations.
4. Assist the five groups with overall planning including score card for judging and working with sponsoring organizations.
5. Supply groups with timely information on production projects through bulletins, leaflets, and mimeograph material.

XV. HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Situation

During recent years home owners have become more and more conscious as well as interested in the attractiveness of the home ground. Most urban and a large percentage of rural home owners are deeply interested in their lawns, shrubbery, shade trees, driveways and other things that make for an attractive home and its surroundings, so many home owners are desirous of help on home grounds.

XIII. WEEDS

Situation

While weeds have always been a problem, the gaining of more information on their control and the fact that there are new weeds coming into the area, means that it is very important that farmers use weed control under many conditions now. Dairymen especially sustain a big loss in money each year from flavors caused by weeds. Weeds take a large toll on most farms in other ways also.

Objectives

Increase the number of farms on which weed control is used and especially under conditions where weeds take the greater toll.

Goals

1. Get 5% of dairymen to apply weed control to pastures on which dairy cows are grazed.
2. Get 3% more corn growers that grow corn on river low grounds to apply either pre or post-emergence sprays to their corn fields.
3. Assist all growers where emergency measures are necessary to save crops from weeds during abnormal conditions.
4. Get 5 corn growers to apply weed control measures against morning glories.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold one county-wide weed control demonstration with help of VPI Weed Specialist.
2. Furnish all dairymen and river low ground corn growers with information on materials and their use in weed control, also, on spray calibration and spray equipment care.
3. Keep all farmers informed by use of radio, newspapers, personal contacts, circular letters, and other means.

XIV. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Situation

With the coming of the consolidation of schools, television, radio, and automobiles, there has developed a lack of community

XII. INSECTS AND DISEASES

Situation

Despite the tremendous strides made in the controlling of insects and sideases, there are new insects, new diseases, and new methods of control appearing each year. In the case of many crops, systematic controls have become an established part of farming in Halifax County. Some insects and diseases that require much attention that were not present a few years ago are alfalfa weevil, Japanese beetles, and an increased amount of damage from saw fly on pine timber.

Objectives

Give all farmers of the county the latest research information on the identification and control of destructive insects and diseases.

Goals

1. Get 10% of the tobacco growers to adopt a 2 to 3 year rotation as a means of controlling diseases.
2. Get 75% of alfalfa growers to comply with regulations on treating against alfalfa weevil.
3. Supply all tobacco growers with latest information on control of tobacco insects.
4. Help all growers identify diseases and insects as well as giving them up to date control recommendations.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold meetings in all sections of the county at which insects and diseases and their control are discussed.
2. Get to all growers information on detrimental effects that may be had from insecticides when they are not used as recommended.
3. Identify insects and diseases at office and on farms.
4. Use newspapers, radio, personal contacts, circular letters, bulletins, and leaflets and all other means to keep farmers informed on timely insect information.

XI. SWINE

Situation

Swine producers are now experiencing financial difficulties due to the downward trend in the hog cycle. Approximately 20 pig parlors are operating at about one-half capacity. A good market for feeder pigs is very much needed. Many pigs raised in the county are of inferior quality.

Objectives

To help farmers operate on the narrow margin through efficiency, know-how of production and marketing of a quality product.

Goals

1. Strive for nine pigs raised per litter, two litters per year.
2. Have 50% of farmers producing a pound of pork from 3.5 pounds of feed.
3. Have 90% of parlor operators marketing a 200-pound hog in less than five months.
4. Encourage producers to purchase quality breeding stock during this period of low hog prices.
5. Increase acreage of ladino pasture by 10%.
6. Have 80% of the producers feeding an acceptable ration.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Keep farmers informed of new developments and practices through the use of all available mass media and personal contacts.
2. Continue 4-H pig chain as a basis for bringing good breeding stock into a community.
3. Assist the Mecklenburg Livestock producers in the development of a near-by feeder pig sale.
4. Assist growers in the selection of quality meat-type breeding stock.

X. SHEEP

Situation

The number of sheep has remained constant over the past 10-year period with only a slight increase in interest and quality. Dogs and fences continue to be the major obstacles in the way of prospective sheep growers. Those farmers now raising sheep show a profit from the enterprise each year.

Objectives

To increase the number and quality of sheep raised on Halifax County farms. To increase the percentage and quality of lambs marketed. To improve marketing conditions and aid more farmers in properly preparing their wool and lambs for market.

Goals

1. Increase sheep numbers by 200.
2. Have 100% of growers worming four times per year.
3. Strive for 98% lamb crop.
4. Hold five cooperative lamb sales with surrounding counties.
5. Have at least 90% of growers market wool cooperatively through the South Boston wool pool.
6. Have growers properly castrate and dock 100% of lamb crop preparatory to marketing.
7. Have ten producers purchase quality registered rams.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a marketing meeting.
2. Set up committees to handle the marketing of the wool and lambs.
3. Use circular letters, radio and newspapers to make growers aware of worming dates and necessity of docking and castrating.
4. Distribute to all growers a monthly sheep schedule.
5. Make all producers aware of the necessity of having quality rams through personal contacts, radio, and newspaper.

4. Send out monthly mastitis sheets to all producers and distribute barn charts.

5. Work with DHIA supervisor in securing new members and providing a better understanding of DHIA work of those now participating.

IX. POULTRY

Situation

Some five years ago practically every farm family kept a poultry flock for a home supply of meat and eggs. The practice is rapidly changing. Many families now either keep no poultry or maintain larger units for broilers and laying hens.

Objectives

Due to the need for more farm income, farmers that are increasing their poultry enterprise are being urged to increase their units to commercial size.

Goals

1. Give all commercial growers whenever possible, assistance in marketing eggs.
2. Supply all producers with the latest information on management, feeding, chick replacement and production problems in general.
3. Increase the efficiency of 10% of the home flock owners by supplying them with timely information on management, feeding and other problems that make for efficient production.

Methods of Extension Education

1. With the help of VPI Poultry Specialists, hold a meeting for both egg and broiler producers at which up-to-date poultry production information will be given.
2. Encourage growers to use plans supplied them through the Extension Service for up-to-date houses and other facilities.
3. Keep all commercial egg producers informed throughout the year with market information as well as with new findings through research.

VIII. GRADE A DAIRY

Situation

Grade A dairy farmers continue to be the better farmers of the county from the standpoint of crop rotations, soil conservation, and efficiency in farming. They experience a need for more and better records, source of replacement stock, and a 12-month forage program.

Objectives

To have all producers go on some type of record plan, and feed on the basis of production. To have all dairy farmers work toward a 12-month dairy forage plan.

Goals

1. Have 100% Grade A producers on some system of record keeping.
2. Increase quality of replacement stock through the use of artificial insemination by all producers on their best cows.
3. Get three additional producers to join DHIA.
4. Start five producers on the Owner-Sampler plan.
5. Have producers grow out 75% of their replacements.
6. Increase production per cow 200 pounds.
7. Make 100% aware of the need for a top-quality 12-month forage program.
8. Have 75% of the producers develop a 12-month forage program to meet their individual needs.
9. Have 100% develop a more effective mastitis control program.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a pasture and forage tour to farms doing an outstanding job.
2. Assist 4-H members to secure good breeding stock and increase number of animals in dairy show by 10.
3. Use all mass media to get all helpful information to the farmers.

Goals

1. Increase the number of superior registered bulls by 25.
2. Growers use the BCIA index when buying 12 of these bulls.
3. Increase the acreage of improved pasture by 15%.
4. Increase the number of farmers feeding out steers or heifers as a source of supplemental income by 50.
5. Increase the size of the feeder calf sale to 800 head.
6. Get 10 farmers to begin feeding of silage.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Sponsor trip to Virginia BCIA bull sale for livestock committeemen and growers interested in obtaining a tested bull.
2. Tour a feed lot operation.
3. Conduct a school on the feeding of small numbers of steers and the use of BCIA index in herd bull selection.
4. Mail to all beef growers a copy of the county livestock committee report as well as new information when deemed necessary.
5. Write news articles for three county papers on feeding of steers.
6. Conduct a forage tour in the county to at least three farms doing a good job of forage production.
7. Assist growers through personal contacts in locating and selecting quality breeding stock.
8. Discuss advantages of cooperative marketing at livestock meetings, in newspaper articles and radio.
9. Assist local veterinarians in the Federal Accelerated Brucellosis program in the county.
10. Use all mass media to inform farmers of new developments and improving practices.

valuable product. There are considerable forest areas that have been cut over that should be planted back to pine and there are areas of waste land that should be planted.

Objectives

Assist forest land owners by supplying information on profits that may be secured from planting where needed, thinning, and following other improved practices that will result in the growing of a larger volume of high quality timber.

Goals

1. Establish 5 additional forest thinning demonstrations and continue to work with the seven demonstrators already set up.
2. Hold a demonstration on planting, disposing of undesirable hardwoods, and other improved practices.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Give demonstrations on planting, thinning, poisoning of undesirable hardwoods and other improved practices.
2. Assist woodland owners in securing needed forest trees for planting.
3. Carry on an educational program on improved forest practices by discussing at meetings, by radio, news articles, individual letters, and personal contacts.

VII. BEEF CATTLE

Situation

Beef cattle numbers are gaining over the entire county. Cattle are now found in parts of the county which before were mostly tobacco farms. A slight interest in the feeding of steers has developed over the last few years, mainly in groups of three to ten animals. About 25 of the 200 cow-calf herds now participate in the South Boston Feeder Calf Sale.

Objectives

To improve the quality of breeding stock, especially through herd sires. To grow the required amount of roughage necessary to maintain the beef herd. To market animals to the greatest advantage and use cooperative type sales when available.

3. Get at least 20% of farmers to treat and prepare their plant beds by November.
4. Get four farmers to grow Aromatic tobacco.
5. Raise the quality of the tobacco produced on 50% of farms.
6. Strive for 100% participation in soil testing.
7. Get 50 farmers to visit Chatham Experiment Station.
8. Get 50 farmers to visit the fertilizer demonstration plots in the county.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold a tobacco tour for the farmers in the county and visit the Oxford, North Carolina Experiment Station.
2. Hold one county-wide tobacco meeting in cooperation with the Farm Bureau to stress the importance of producing high quality tobacco and four follow-up community meetings if there is a need.
3. Use radio, newspaper, publications and letters to keep tobacco farmers up to date on latest recommended practices.
4. Hold three demonstrations on fall treatment of plant beds for weed control.
5. Use Aromatic tobacco produced in the county for demonstration purposes.
6. Furnish farmers with recommended varieties and fertilizer recommendations as soon as possible.

VI. FORESTRY

Situation

Better than 90% of all forest lands in Halifax County is farmer owned. A large portion of this forest consists of hardwoods, much of which is slow growing and of little value. Cutting is done on most farms without much thought as to the future welfare or the building up of the woodlands. Many of the pine stands need thinning. Much pulp wood is being cut from trees that should be left to grow into a more

Methods of Extension Education

1. Use all mass media to inform gardeners on recommended varieties, planting dates, soil management and other timely garden information. Also discuss at meetings and with individuals.

V. TOBACCO

Situation

The acreage allotments for the different types of tobacco for the county in 1960 are as follows:

flue cured	14,458.90 acres
Maryland	1.19 acres
Burley	2.89 acres

Diseases such as black shank, root knot, and the root rot complex, continue to be a problem in this county. The failure to use a crop rotation is responsible for much of this trouble. Improper use and/or use of wrong kinds of chemicals for control of insects, suckers, diseases and weeds is also prevalent on many farms. Too much slick, green tobacco that is unacceptable to the tobacco trade is being produced. There is labor available on many farms to grow aromatic tobacco and the extra income is needed. There is a tendency recently to over fertilize, especially with nitrogen.

Objectives

Explain to farmers that they are losing money when they over fertilize, even though they may increase yields. Cut the loss from black shank and other diseases. Have more tobacco grown in rotations. Make farmers aware of health hazards and possibilities of lower quality crops in improper use of chemicals or using the wrong kinds. Place more emphasis on quality tobacco and less emphasis on more pounds per acre. Get farmers to treat plant beds against weeds at the fall of the year. Stress possibilities of supplemental income from aromatic tobacco.

Goals

1. Get 20% of the tobacco farmers to go back to rotations as the prime method of controlling diseases.
2. Encourage all farmers to use only the recommended chemicals and to use them properly.

4. Discuss pasture and forage production at community meetings and get community improvement groups to take it as a project.

5. Get latest agronomy department information on year-round forage program to all farmers of the county.

6. Publicize timely information on the above practices just prior to time each job is to be done, in connection with seeding, top dressing, cutting, curing and the carrying out of other practices on year-round forage program.

7. Use demonstrations, news articles, radio, circular letters, and personal visits to foster program.

IV. HOME GARDEN

Situation

Halifax, being largely a rural county, practically all families have a home garden for supplying the family with vegetables for the table. Most families have a reasonably good early garden but the mid-summer and late gardens are in many instances neglected. Gardens generally could be improved by the addition of small fruits and a wider variety of vegetables.

Objectives

Increase the vegetable supply from the garden during mid-summer, fall and winter. Get more gardeners to include small fruits and grow a wider variety of vegetables.

Goals

1. Get all gardeners to prepare soil for early and mid-summer garden needs early.

2. Increase the number of vegetables planted and cared for during mid-summer and fall by 10% of gardeners.

3. Get 3% of gardeners to plant the most used hot weather vegetables, each two weeks to August.

4. Get 5% of gardeners to keep the garden busy by following early harvested varieties with later plantings.

5. Get 50 gardeners that are not growing small fruits to include strawberries, dewberries, and raspberries in their garden program.

6. With the help of the Agricultural Engineering and Entomology Departments of VPI, hold a county-wide storage meeting.

7. Get 20 growers to attend the Charlotte Experiment Station field day to study corn experiments.

III. FORAGE CROPS

Situation

Only around one-half of the forage needed for adequate feeding of the county's livestock is being produced. The alfalfa acreage has been increasing steadily during the past several years but can still be profitably increased more on many farms. Lespedeza which is often a failure, continues to be depended upon too much for hay and grazing.

Objectives

Increase both acreage and yield of tall grass and ladino clover pasture, hay and silage. Increase silo capacity on those farms that do not have storage space for adequate tonnage. Get more spring grown forage for hay and silage.

Goals

1. Get 5% of farmers to substitute orchards grass and ladino clover for lespedeza.
2. Get 3% of growers to seed orchards grass with lespedeza where the land is to be in hay two or more years.
3. Increase acreage of pasture and hay seeding and top dressing by 10%.
4. Increase alfalfa acreage by 5%.
5. Get 20% of farmers to increase hay quality by cutting at the right stage and using improved curing methods.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Enter the District forage awards program.
2. Hold a forage crop tour for farmers.
3. Work with county newspapers in getting out special issue on year-round forage crop program.

II. CORN

Situation

Corn is grown on more acres than any other cultivated crop of the county. While this acreage has been decreasing for the past six years, the present per acre yields or total corn grown has increased considerably except in 1959 when drought cut the yields. The better corn growers are now producing 75 to 100 bushels or more per acre. Since the average per acre yield is below the state average, much remains to be done on many farms to make corn a profitable crop. Very few growers have adequate storage facilities. Stored grain insects take a considerable toll.

Objectives

Make corn a profitable crop on the farms of the county by increasing yields through improved practices. Decrease the loss from insects through better storage and insect control.

Goals

1. Get 75% of farmers to plant recommended varieties.
2. Get farmers to increase yields three bushels per acre in 1960.
3. Improve storage on 10 farms.
4. Expand chemical weed control to 25% of growers on river low grounds.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Solicit help of crops committee and community improvement groups.
2. Get into the hands of each farmer, a list of recommended corn varieties as soon as possible.
3. Discuss improved methods of corn production at meetings of community improvement clubs, men's clubs, with professional workers and at meetings throughout the county.
4. Supply each seed dealer, farm supply dealer, and fertilizer dealer with variety and cultural practice recommendations.
5. Supply growers with plans for storage and information on fumigation.

I. SOIL BUILDING

Situation

Due to a large acreage of the county's soils being clean cultivated each year, soil losses due to erosion and leaching are high. The need for lime and readily available plant food is great. Many fields do not have the protection of cover through the winter months, and others are devoted to crops to which they are not well adapted.

Objectives

Reduce soil losses, increase soil fertility, and get the growers to produce crops to which the soil type is best adapted.

Goals

1. Get all farmers to run rows on or near the contour.
2. Increase the amount of terracing by putting on 10 demonstrations on eroding tobacco fields.
3. Get 8% more farmers to seed cover crops on cultivated fields, to protect the soil and to provide an increased amount of organic matter.
4. Get 5% more farmers to use lime and fertilizer at the desired rate through soils analysis.
5. Get more organic matter into the soil as well as more protection to the land through improved crop rotations.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Assist farmers with terrace lay-out and construction.
2. Personally work with 15 farmers on crop rotations as demonstrations. Urge the taking of less desirable land out of clean cultivated crops.
3. With the help of the VPI Agronomy Department, hold a soils tour.
4. Get timely information to growers during late summer on seeding recommended crops to be used for winter cover.
5. Use circular letters, news articles and all mass media to disseminate timely information and recommendations on all phases of farming.

PLAN OF WORK

HALIFAX COUNTY

1960

C. L. HALL, COUNTY AGENT
THOMAS E. DINWIDDIE, ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT
RICHARD GREGORY, ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT
P. E. VIPPERMAN, JR., ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT