Aug. - 4-H County Picnic - Planters Club House

Sept. - Electric Congress - Richmond

Nov. - 4-H Achievement Program

Other events and demonstrations which have not been scheduled as yet.

November - Annual report

Feb. 13 - Forestry committee meeting - office

Feb. 13 - Agronomy committee meeting - office

Feb. 14 - Livestock committee meeting - office

Feb. 18 - Peanut Hog Growers meeting - Isle of Wight

Feb. 20 - All Star meeting - Office

Feb. 21 - S. C. S. meeting - Isle of Wight

Feb. 27 - Fat cattle sale - Richmond

Feb. 28 - Smithfield Farmers meeting - Smithfield

Mar. 12 - National 4-H Week

Mar. 3 - Red Cross luncheon - Smithfield

Mar. 6 - Youth Committee meeting - office

Mar. 6 - Alumni Association meeting - Windsor

Mar. 15 - Jr. Market Hog Show and Sale

Apr. 9-10 - Richmond Baby Beef Show and Sale - Richmond

Apr. 29 - Baby Beef Show and Sale - Smithfield

Apr. 30 - Baby Beef Show and Sale - Suffolk

May 1 - Baby Beef Show and Sale - Portsmouth

May 1-3 - VPI Agricultural Exposition

May 7 - Livestock Judging - Courtland

May 8 - Baby Beef Show andSale - Franklin

May 9 - Petersburg Baby Beef Show and Sale - Petersburg

May 9 - Tractor contest - Petersburg

June - 20-22 - All Star Conference - VPI

June 23-28 - 4-H Short Course - VPI

July - 4-H Camp - Virginia Beach

July 29-31 - Institute of Rural Affairs - VPI

Aug. 18-22 - Extension Conference - V.P.I.

Jan. 6-9 - Dairy Cattle Management Short Course - VPI
Jan. 13 - Farm Bureau meeting - Windsor
Jan. 13 - Meat School - Norfolk
Jan. 13 - ASC meeting - Isle of Wight
Jan. 14 - Meat School - Richmond

Jan. 14-15 - Tractor Maintenance School - Wakefield

Jan. 15 - Pig meeting - Courtland

Jan. 16 - Hog parlor tour - Goochland

Jan. 21 - Hampshire sale - Suffolk

Jan. 21-24 - Communication school - Petersburg

Jan. 27 - Peanut Hog Growers meeting - Courtland

Jan. 28 - Sheep castrating and docking demonstration - R. E. Barlow

Jan. 29 - Fertilizer meeting - Suffolk

Jan. 31 - Va. Food Council meeting - Richmond

Feb. 3 - Livestock Field Day - Holland

Feb. 4 - Camp meeting - Franklin

Feb. 4- Peninsula Dairy Day - Denbigh

Feb. 5 - Tax meeting - Windsor

Feb. 5 - Hog sale - Suffolk

Feb. 5-6 - Va. Forests, Inc. meeting - Richmond

Feb. 6 - Va. Crop Improvement Association meeting - Richmond

Feb. 6 - Soil Conservation District meeting - Norfolk

Feb. 6 - Fat Cattle Sale - Richmond

Feb. 7 - Ruritan Agricultural Committee meeting - office

Feb. 8 - 4-H banquet and party - Windsor

Feb. 10 - ASC meeting - Isle of Wight

Feb. 11 - Ruritan meeting - Rescue

Feb. 12 - S. C. S. meeting - Isle of Wight

Feb. 12 - Southern States meeting - Wakefield

We are working with 7 families where both the farmers and homemakers are cooperating and six others in which only farmers are cooperating. We believe all of these six families need visiting and detail work done with them including reviewing the inventories and alternate suggestions previously made. This procedure of reviewing what has been done with the families will also enable all of us to do a better job with this part of this program.

2. Extension Methods

(a.) Have a meeting of the chairmen of the various committees of the county agricultural extension service board to select additional families to visit and work with in the farm and home development program.

(b.) Give assistance and aid to all of the families selected to work with on the farm and home practice.

3. Goals for 1958

(a.) Plan to add two families to the farm and home program.

(b.) Personal visits to determine their interest and also to find out if they would be interested in conducting an all day meeting.

7. Calendar of Work for Year

Dec. 3 - Dairymen Short Course - Norfolk

Dec. 4 - Dairymen Short Course - Norfolk

Dec. 5 - District Executive Boy Scout meeting - Suffolk

Dec. 6 - Farm and home lighting demonstrations - C. J. Underwood and Newton Goodrich

Dec. 9-11 - Tax meeting - Richmond

Dec. 12 - Feeder pig meeting - Franklin

Dec. 18 - ASC meeting - Suffolk

Jan. 3 - James River Basin Association meeting - Richmond

Jan. 6-8 - Virginia Association of Soil Conservation District - Roanoke

1. Situation

Last year the watermelon acreage was around 500 acres which is about an average for the county since the acreage has leveled off from the peak acreage a few years ago. The yield and size of melons last year were below average to somewhat small. However, the price was good. In fact, culls brought about as much as top melons were expected to bring. Because of this we expect the acreage to increase to some extent this year.

Cropland in Isle of Wight County is well suited to growing vegetable crops, particularly watermelons and cantaloupes. These vegetable crops can be planted on land released by decrease in allotments or on recently cleared land.

The need for a better market should be considered in the watermelon program.

2. Extension Methods

(a.) Have a meeting of the growers committee to discuss possibilities for improving marketing conditions.

(b.) Conduct a watermelon survey.

(c.) Farmers will be urged to get their seed early. Advise them of the two new varieties, Blackstone and Garrisonian. Have demonstrations.

(d.) The latest cultural practices will be made available to farmers.

(e.) A mimeograph sheet containing information on seed, varieties, cultural practices, fertilizer and lime recommendations will be prepared and distributed to the growers.

3. Goals for 1958

(a.) Plant about the same acreage as last year but not to exceed 500 acres.

(b.) Improve the present market and set up additional marketing system.

(c.) Increase yields and quality of watermelons.

B. Farm and Home Development

1. Situation

c. Tractor Maintenance

1. Situation

Isle of Wight County has a relatively large number of tractors and farm equipment on the farms. Many of the 4-H boys operate this equipment. Therefore, they need to know more about the care of their farm tractors and equipment.

The tractor maintenance project has been carried by 4-H'ers for the last four years. The membership which was about 25 last year will be approximately the same in 1958.

Three implement dealers in Smithfield are participating in the tractor maintenance program. The dealers and mechanics help with giving instructions to the 4-H members.

The following are needs of the tractor program:

(a.) A better knowledge of the care of farm tractors and equipment.

(b.) More implement dealers helping in carrying out the program.

2. Extension Methods

(a.) Hold at least six night meetings on the care of the tractor and equipment.

(b.) Hold a county tractor driving conte st.

3. Goal for 1958

To teach 4-H members how to care for their tractors and equipment so as to get a more useful and longer life of the tractor.

d. Other Projects

Other projects which will receive special emphais during 1958 are farm and home electric, tree planting, dairy, poultry and crop projects.

6. Minor Projects

A. Watermelons

(b.) Increase the average grade of the steers.

b. Market Hogs and Breeding Gilts

1. Situation

The increase in market hog prices during 1957 has influenced more boys to feed and show hogs for the Junior Market Hog Show and Sale. The two boys in the Isle of Wight area, two in the Carrsville area, two in the Smithfield area and one in the Central Hill area, are feeding a total of 27 hogs to be shown and sold at the Junior Market Hog Show and Sale March 15th.

Five boys in the Carrsville area received registered gilts through the Sears Gilt Chain in May, 1957.

Below are the needs which the 4-H boys face when carrying the hog projects.

(a.) More careful feeding and management of both market and breeding hogs.

(b.) More careful selection of breeding animals.

(c.) Breed gilts at the correct time.

(d.) Select correct size market hog to put on feed for the show and sale.

2. Extension Methods

(a.) Hold a Junior Market Hog Show and Sale.

(b.) Print feeding and management suggestions and give them to each member carrying either market or breeding hog projects.

3. Goals for 1958

(a.) Increase the number of market hogs to be fed for the show and sale.

(b.) Increase the quality of the Sears breeding gilts through careful selection.

(2.) Secure more organizational leaders.

(3.) Increase percentage of project completions.

(4.) Increase overall county enrollment of 4-H clubs.

2. Individual 4-H Projects

a. Baby Beef

1. Situation

The baby beef project is continuing to be one of the leading 4-H projects in Isle of Wight County. It has been a profitable project for most club members who have raised steers in the past few years.

Nineteen 4-H club boys and two 4-H girls are feeding steers for the 1958 Smithfield Junior Baby Beef Show and Sale. Three of these boys are also feeding a second steer to be shown and sold in the Richmond Junior Premium Stock Show and Sale.

The following are needs which should be corrected in order to make the baby beef project in Isle of Wight County a success:

(a.) More careful selection of steers to be fed by club members.

(b.) A large number of buyers attending the show and sale.

2. Extension Methods

(a.) Hold a junior baby beef show and sale.

(b.) Print feed and management suggestions and see that each club member has a copy of these suggestions.

(c.) Help members and parents select the calves to be fed.

(d.) Hold a county wide fitting and showmanship clinic.

3. Goals for 1958

(a.) Maintain present number of calves that are on feed.

leaders working with these clubs.

A six member Youth Committee was organized in Isle of Wight County on November 15, 1955. The committee is composed of three men and three women from six different areas in the county. The purpose of this committee is to help determine the needs and the problems of youth in the county and to propose a plan of action in meeting these needs.

The needs of 4-H club work in the county are as follows:

1. More organizational, project and junior leaders.

2. A more careful selection of projects by members.

3. Acquaint more people with the purpose and objectives of the 4-H club program.

4. Special activities that will interest more young people and influence them to do better 4-H work.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Hold special project shows and sales.

(2.) Conduct workshops for several projects.

(3.) Provide recreational programs for individual clubs and county groups.

(4.) Select and coach a county livestock judging team.

(5.) Observe National 4-H Club celebrations.

(6.) Hold county 4-H Achievement Program.

(7.) Have committees and specialists to help in carrying out the overall 4-H program.

(8.) Conduct county tractor driving contest.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) To help rural farm and non-farm boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 21 years become better farmers and homemakers and to help develop more desirable and useful citizens.

(4.) Send letter and write news articles on summer pastures.

(5.) Work with DHIA and encourage non-members to keep records.

(6.) Send letters to farmers giving information on vaccination of heifer calves.

(7.) Advise and encourage farmers to breed cows to freshen during base period and cull low producers.

(8.) Much of the dairy work will be done by individual contacts, dairy meetings and dairy committee.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Complete the brucellosis test in 1958.

(2.) Increase the average production of milk 200 pounds per cow.

(3.) Increase summer supplemental pasture by 200 acres.

D. 4-H Club Work

1. Program in General

a. Situation

Isle of Wight County had a total white population of 1,463 farm and non-farm boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 in 1955. The total 4-H club enrollment (boys and girls) is approximately 240. One hundred twenty of these boys and girls are enrolled in agricultural projects supervised by the assistant county agent.

Organized boys clubs are located at the following locations: Carrsville - one junior and one senior club; Rescue - one junior club; Windsor - one junior club; Isle of Wight - one junior and one senior club; One combined boys and girls club are located at Smithfield, Bartlett and Bethany.

There is a total of six organizational leaders, six project leaders and four junior

(3.) Have 85% of the sheep sheared.

(4.) Have 80% of the lambs sold on grade.

4. Dairying

a. Situation

We have 10,000 acres of pasture, 500 acres of summer pasture. There are too many cows leaving the dairy herd because of low production. The number of dairy cows in the county two years old is 1,512 with an estimate of 2,300 of breeding age. The average size of the herd in the county is 36 cows. It is estimated that 317 cows were bred artificially during 1955. Twenty four percent of the heifers were vaccinated for brucellosis. The average production per cow in the DHIA organization in the county in 1954 was 7,595 pounds of milk and 321 pounds of fat. The state average in 1954 was 8,385 pounds of milk and 341 pounds of fat. The average production per cow is too low and too many low producers are retained in the dairy herds.

In order to make the dairying program a success the following needs should be corrected:

1. Need to have disease control program.

2. Adequate summer pasture.

3. Elimination of low producers.

4. More calfhood vaccinations.

5. An improvement in the milk base determination.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Advise farmers that even though the state discontinued paying for calfhood vaccination it is still a good practice.

(2.) Try to complete cow testing program in 1958. Get the veterinarians and Ruritan Clubs to cooperate in working out a schedule for testing for bangs and brucellosis.

(3.) Have cooperative work on method of setting milk base.

(3.) Do not increase beef cow numbers, reduce in some instances.

3. Sheep

a. Situation

There were 277 sheep and lambs in the county in 1945, 522 in 1950 and 707 in 1954.

The percentage of profit per head of sheep is very high. However, we feel that sheep numbers are limited.

Sheep production needs of the county farmers are as follows:

1. Improve marketing program.

2. Shearing.

3. Parasite control.

4. Better management of lambs.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Have George Allen, sheep specialists from V.P.I., come to the county and donduct lamb castrating and docking demonstrations.

(2.) Send letter to all sheep growers with reference to management, including castrating, docking and feeding recommendations.

(3.) Send letter to sheep growers advising change in system of marketing.

(4.) Have a sheep producers meeting at which time sheep management would be discussed and decisions would be made on how to handle the wool and where to sell.

(5.) Make plans for and conduct the lamb pool sales.

(6.) Get a custom sheep shearer in the county to shear sheep.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Increase the quality of lambs sold by 30%.

(2.) Raise 50 additional lambs this year.

The county is better equipped to produce steers than to attempt to maintain large numbers of cow herds. We have grain and peanut hay in abundance which is a natural for producing steers.

The present needs of beef cattle growers in the county are:

1. Better markets.

2. Better use of feed on the farm.

3. Better management.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Advise farmers of the places and dates of feeder calf sales.

(2.) Watch the market and try to buy and sell to an advantage.

(3.) Contact beef producers who have cattle on feed.

(4.) Try to get them to sell cattle through the Richmond Fat Stock Sale.

(5.) Let farmers know grading service is available. Encourage beef producers to have cattle graded before marketing and sell on grade.

(6.) Advise and encourage farmers to start out with only the amount of steers that their farm roughage and grain supply will finish out.

(7.) Carry over or through the year no more steers than the pasture will support including supplementary pasture.

(8.) Control parasites. Most of this work will be done through individual contacts and methods.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Have 1,500 steers produced in 1958.

(2.) Have 10 farmers improve the beef cattle management program on their farm.

(9.) We will continue to encourage farmers to purchase meat type boars at purebred sales, from local breeders, and select meat type gilts by culling undesirable animals from their herds. This will be done by sending cards to growers announcing purebred sales, news articles and individual contacts. Work in cooperation with Jim Butler, meat buyer with a local meat plant. Mr. Butler was North Carolina State Livestock Specialist. We will work with individual farmers in culling and selecting breeding stock.

(10.) Publish news article on meat type hog.

(11.) Have demonstrations on meat type hogs.

(12.) Publish news article on management of hog pastures.

(13.) Publish news article on parasite control.

(14.) Publish news article on buildings, equipment and water systems.

(15.) Furnish plans to farmers.

(16.) Study and survey the possibility of feeder pig sales.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Get 35% more farmers to understand the grading system of selling.

(2.) Maintain the same number of head produced for market.

(3.) Have 100 farmers improve their feeding and management practices.

(4.) Have more meat type animals, 80% of the hogs graded fall in the No. 1 or No. 2 grade.

2. Beef Cattle

a. Situation

In 1940 there were 302 head of beef cattle, in 1945 there were 597 head, in 1950 there were 565 head and in 1955 there were 1,648 head.

Following is a list of needs to make the hog program a success:

1. A better feeding program.

2. Need for more desirable (meat type) replacement stock.

3. More pigs raised per litter.

4. Better managed hog pastures.

5. Need for necessary and improved buildings, equipment and water supply.

6. Need for improved handling and management for market.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Get a large representative of farmers to attend the Livestock Field Day at Holland Experiment Station.

(2.) Advertise field day by a news article and contacting the Ruritan Club presidents.

(3.) Distribute results of research on feed status to feed dealers.

(4.) Work with individual farmers in working out adequate rations.

(5.) Publish news article with reference to results of feed studies and antibiotics.

(6.) Have a few demonstrations pig parlors.

(7.) Give farmers advantages and disadvantages of pig parlors.

(8.) A very intensified program was conducted last year as a result of packers converting to the system of buying on grade rather than weight. Some of the activities included 285 farmers were contacted through grading demonstrations, 338 attended meetings where grading was discussed and 997 bulletins were distributed with reference to grading system. The agent will continue work with reference to grading as explaining the grading system gave an opportunity to bring home other needs and good management practices.

creased to 26.3 bushels per acre. Oats and barley make up the largest number of acres in small grain crops.

The following are small grain needs in the county:

1. Proper varieties.

2. Use of correct fertilizer analysis and rate of applications.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Send out a circular letter giving recommended varieties.

(2.) Publish news article on proper methods of fertilization.

(3.) Send information on proper fertilizer recommendations for grains to dealers.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Increase acreage to 2,000.

(2.) Increase average yield to 40 bushels for oats and 35 for barley.

C. Livestock

1. Hogs

1. Situation

The number of hogs and pigs/alive in Isle of Wight County in 1945 was 22,503 head, in 1950 25,433 head and in 1955 31,759 sold head. The value of hogs sold increased from $157,982 in 1940 to $876,053 in 1950 and to $1,241,129 in 1945.

There is approximately a 35,000 hog crop produced annually in Isle of Wight County. The packers are buying locally produced hogs on the U. S. grade basis. Hogs weighing from 180-240 pounds are graded U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2, U. S. No. 3 and medium. U. S. No. 1 brings a premium of 75¢ over the No. 2 or base price. Hogs weighing under 180 pounds are discounted as light weights. Those weighing over 240 pounds are discounted as heavy hogs.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Maintain present permanent pasture.

(2.) Increase supplemental summer pasture 300 acres and winter pasture to 6,000 acres.

(3.) Better management on 100 farms.

4. Soybeans

a. Situation

Soybean acreage in Isle of Wight County in 1940 was 367 acres with a yield of 21 bushels per acre. The acreage has increased about ten times in 15 years. In 1954 the acreage had increased to 3,012 and the yield per acre decreased to 16.0.

The soybean yield had not increased a great deal until 1956. Because of the use of new varieties some farmers have yields up to 30 bushels per acre.

The following are soybean needs in the county:

1. Higher yield varieties should be used by more farmers.

2. Need to plant at correct time.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Send circular letter to growers on varieties.

(2.) Encourage farmers to plant as soon after May 20th as practical.

(3.) Harvest before beans shatter.

(4.) Publish a news article on soybean culture.

5. Small Grains

a. Situation

Small grain acreage in Isle of Wight County in 1930 was seven acres with a yield of 16.5 bushels per acre, oats and rye. The acreage and yield has increased mostly in oats and barley. In 1955 the acreage had increased to 1,796 acres and the average yield had in-

farmers will be encouraged to investigate their seed for vitality and germination in order to know whether to use them for seed and if so, how thick to space the seed when planting.

(24.) A news article will be published on germination tests. Shipping cartons and mailing slips will be available at the agent's office for germination tests.

(25.) A news article will be used to encourage farmers to seed more cover crops.

(26.) Give results of spacing experiments at the county wide peanut production meeting in February.

3. Pasture

a. Situation

Improved pasture acreage in Isle of Wight County in 1947 was 600 acres. The acreage has increased continuously to 1953. In 1953 the acreage of improved pasture was 8,500 acres.

The problems in pasture seem to stem around the fact that pasture forage was lacking during the summer and that pastures were grazed too close because of lack of rotation in the pasture system.

Some pasture needs in the county are:

1. Better management.

2. Adequate supplementary pasture.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Give pasture lime and fertilizer recommendations based on soil sample results.

(2.) Send out circular letter on seed and fertilizer recommendations.

(3.) Send out circular letter on pasture management.

(4.) Have a few demonstrations.

(7.) Discuss method of control with individual farmers.

(8.) Conduct 7 nematode control demonstrations with the help of W. W. Osborne, Extension Plant Pathologist.

(9.) Continue to publicize the use of aldrin for control of thrip and rootworm; sulphur for the control of leafspot; DDT for the control of leafhoppers and worms.

(10.) Have Mr. Osborne discuss nematode and weed control at a county wide meeting.

(11.) Publish a news article on weed control.

(12.) Information as to approved fertilizer analysis and recommendations will be sent to dealers.

(13.) Use soil sample analysis to get the correct fertilizer and lime analysis to meet the soil needs.

(14.) Have news article to publicize the correct method of applying lime and gypsum.

(15.) Send out a circular letter in February giving recommended varieties for 1958.

(16.) Crop varieties will be discussed at a county wide meeting in February.

(17.) Publish a news article on proper varieties.

(18.) Publish a circular letter giving a list of farmers who had demonstrations with 56-R peanuts and those having certified seed for sale.

(19.) Continue to promote the use of 56-R peanuts.

(20.) Discussion on mechanical harvesting and drying at a county meeting.

(21.) Discuss the subject with individual farmers.

(22.) Have A. J. Lambert, Easley Smith and J. L. Calhoun, Engineers from V.P.I., come to the farm and help make detailed plans for mechanical harvesting and drying.

(23.) Due to the extremely wet weather and freeze causing excessive damage to the peanut crop

Now that a control has been found we hope to get work started in controlling this fungus.

Nematode infestation seems to be on the increase.

We have a new peanut variety, Virginia 56-R, released last year which shows promise of being used extensively by farmers in that it has a high percent of extra large and also a high yield.

There is some interest and desire for information with reference to mechancial harvesting and drying of peanuts.

The following are needs of peanut farmers in the county:

1. Control of diseases, insects and weeds.
   a. Stem rot (wilt)
   b. Thrip, rootworm and nematodes.

2. Correct analysis and rates of fertilizer and lime.

3. Proper varieties (use of variety Va. 56-R).

4. To determine the vitality seed and germination for spacing.

5. More land seeded to cover crop.

6. More information and better understanding of mechanical harvesting and drying.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Have 8 stem rot control demonstrations.

(2.) Have 10 weed control demonstrations.

(3.) Have a county wide meeting on controlling stem rot.

(4.) Have Mr. Lacy, peanut specialists, to discuss stem rot and other improved peanut practices.

(5.) Publish news article on control of stem rot.

(6.) Distribute bulletins on stem rot control.

(8.) Publish news article on spacing in April.

(9.) Publish news article in May on weed control.

(10.) Publish news article on proper spacing and proper cultivation.

(11.) Furnish information to dealers on insect control, weed control, proper spacing and proper cultivation.

(12.) Continue the 100 bushel corn contest.

c. Goals for 1958

(1.) Increase yields per acre to 55 bushels.

(2.) The agronomy committee feels that the acreage of corn should not be increased. They further think that there are a number of farmers who can profit by placing their corn acreage in the soil bank, whereas the others will profit more by planting corn.

2. Peanuts

a. Situation

Peanut acreage in Isle of Wight County in 1940 was 20,604 acres with a yield of 1,297 pounds per acre. The yields have increased continuously. In 1955 the acreage had decreased because of quotas to 15,378 and the yield had increased to 1,827 pounds per acre.

Because peanut acreage is controlled by quotas and farmers are permitted to plant only their acreage allotment, improvements, practices and goals will have to come from changes other than increased acreage.

Due to the extremely wet weather and freeze causing excessive damage to the peanut crop, farmers will be encouraged to investigate their seed for vitality and germination in order to know whether to use them for seed.

Many farmers experienced considerable damage due to stem rot for a number of years.

had increased to 47.5.

Because of the low corn yields last year, livestock numbers were not increased and are believed to be slightly decreased. Corn prices have remained fairly constant for the past few years. The low yields here had no effect on the prices due to adequate supply elsewhere.

Last year 190 farmers put 2,283.4 acres in the soil bank. This year 164 farmers have signed contracts for 2,268.3 acres which used up all the allotted money ($104,261.8). One hundred forty more farmers are on the waiting list.

Needs of the corn farmer for which work will be concenstrated in 1958 are:

1. Use proper varieties.

2. Use correct analysis and rates of applications of fertilizer.

3. Proper spacing and insect control.

4. Proper cultivation and weed control.

b. Extension Methods

(1.) Send out a circular letter in February giving recommended varities for 1958.

(2.) Furnish dealers with a list of 1958 recommended varieties.

(3.) Have one or two variety demonstrations.

(4.) Publish news article on varieties in February.

(5.) Have fertilizer meeting with dealers in January to hear discussions of soils and fertilizer by specialists from V.P.I.

(6.) Send recommended fertilizer list to dealers in February.

(7.) Use soil samples analysis as a method of getting correct applications and analysis of fertilizer.

i. Hold a meeting with the forestry committee to plan a program for the county and report to them on accomplishments.

j. Conduct a contest with youth or adults to award prizes at a banquet.

OR

Have some form of recognition for individuals that has shown enough interest to carry out practices. This will be done by providing a banquet furnished by a local wood using industry with a speaker on forestry.

k. Radio, letters, personal contacts, news articles and demonstrations will be used in communication with the people.

3. Goals for 1958

a. To create interest enough to give the farmer an incentive to produce good quality timber.

b. Deadening of non-merchantable hardwoods if reproduction is present or planting is to be done. Disking areas before harvesting the timber. Disking to expose mineral soil and destroy scrubby hardwood brush.

c. Contact all 4-H boys and other youth groups in county and set up one acre plots of forestry management.

d. Convince the farmer that forestry is good business, that economical use of farm labor is profitable in applying forestry management practices.

B. Agronomy

1. Corn

a. Situation

Corn acreage in Isle of Wight County in 1930 was 16,584 acres with a yield of 25.1 bushels per acre. In 1940 the acreage was 20,305 with a yield of 29.4 bushels per acre. There were 21,561 acres with a yield of 43.0 bushels per acre in 1950. In 1955 the acreage had increased to 24,708 and the yield per acre

a. Many farmers have large acreages of woodland and opportunities to promote a sound forestry program. The main problem is to create enough interest with the farmer in our educational program so that he will apply a recommended practice to his wood lot. A scrubby hardwood condition exist on many acres of our land and conversion to pine is a long and costly process.

b. Conversion of scrubby non-merchantable hardwoods to fast growing pines.

c. To create interest among youth groups such as FFA, 4-H and Boy Scouts.

d. Teaching basic forestry management practices to farmers in general.

2. Extension Methods

a. Technical advice will be given by Extension Service, Virginia Division of Forestry and commercial foresters.

b. Killing demonstrations with 2,4,5-T and ammate on 12" and under and some species over 12".

c. Send out letters to all members of 4-H and other groups offering them assistance, free seedlings, and poison to carry out their project. Demonstrate how to plant and poison.

d. Contact the local wood using industry for free seedlings and ammate for educational program.

e. Encourage the farmers to sign up for ACP practices, and request timber land examinations from the Division of Forestry.

f. Local tours will be conducted in communities to note the results of different practices.

g. Arrangements will be made with the president of civic organizations in different communities to conduct a forestry program.

h. Encourage farmers to take advantage of conservation reserve acreage of planting trees under contract if cropland should be taken out of cultivation.

for work by a county extension forestry committee.

Crop yields are high compared with other counties. Peanuts afford the highest crop yields. However, average crop yields are too far below the yields of many of our farmers in the high yielding bracket. This presents a challenge for members of the county extension agronomy committee.

Livestock producers have not by any means reached their potential. This is particularly true with such problems as pigs raised per litter and balancing feed rations and gaining a better balance between crops and livestock, livestock markets and better type animals.

5. Major Activities

There were meetings of the major committees to make plans for 1958. At these meetings the agent gave a report on major accomplishments during 1957 to the committee at the beginning of the meeting. Next the long-time plan was reviewed, then the committee selected the important needs and problems that should be worked on this year and considered such changes in situtation. The committees outlined in general terms how the work will be carried out. The agent uses this to develop his yearly plan of work.

A. Forestry

1. Situation

Forestry should be given every opportunity for proper growth and development. More than one half of our total acreage is woodland. We are producing about one third capacity, which is around 200 broad feet per acre annually.

Forestry is a long time program and the conversion rate is slow of changing a scrubby hardwood condition to fast growing pines.

Almost every farm has a surplus of farm labor during the winter months. There are many practices that could be carried out economically if farmers were willing to improve their wood lot.

There is a good opportunity for a good educational program to teach the farmers the know how in solving their forestry problems.

Some important forestry needs are as follows:

c. Setting objectives or determining where they want to go.

d. Developing methods of attaining objectives - what, how, when, where activities will be carried out.

e. Evaluating the program periodically.

By following through on this procedure, the interest of the people is aroused and their support is more readily obtained.

A County Board of Agriculture system committees were used to help plan or approve annual programs. This system was inadequate, therefore, the County Agricultural Extension Service Board was set up. This new organizational system was used in the long-time program development in Isle of Wight County. Committees were revised so as to have a membership of three or multiples of three. A rotational system was adopted where one of the old members would retire each year and one third of the committee would be new members.

The groups assisting in program development are commodity groups of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board, namely: Forestry, Livestock, Agronomy, and Dairying. Census and other data bulletins were used for reference. Specialists from the State Agricultural College helped compiled background information on the county. The committee members were selected and the background material was presented to them. Each committee made its respective plans. An agricultural council was formed, made up of all members of the four agricultural committees. A representative from each committee reported on their phase of work to advise the others of their plans. At the council meeting the four agricultural committee plans were approved. Each year the committees meet and review the long-time objectives and goals, review the pastyear's activities, study changes in the situation and select objectives to concentrate on for the coming year. The committee outlines in general terms how the work will be carried out. The agent uses this to develop his yearly plan of work.

4. General County Problems, Needs and Opportunities

The fact that only about 1% of the ASC payments to encourage conservation were used in forestry improvement helps to show how little work has been done in improving farm forests in the county. Since three-fifths of the total county area if forested, there is great opportunity

and young people. The people are reached with an educational program through home demonstration clubs, 4-H clubs, commodity groups and other organizations and through individual contacts and mass media (including news articles, bulletins, radio, T. V., general meetings, demonstrations, etc.).

2. Changes in the Situation

The general situation in many respects is worse than at any time since before the war. The general "price-cost-squeeze" the farmer finds himself in is tighter. Because of the drought last summer corn yields were not more than 40% of normal. Many farmers had yields lower than 10 bushels. Quite a few did not harvest crops because the yield would not pay the cost of running the corn picker through the field.

On the bright side of the picture, the rains did come in time to make a normal peanut yield. Wet weather and feeze caused considerable damage to the nuts. Many farmers were unable to harvest their crop until late in the season due to land being too wet for machinery to operate on it, or peanuts too high in moisture.

The above conditions resulted in price discounts. Other bright spots which helped to some extent were that prices of livestock were high and prices of watermelons were good.

In 1957, 2,283 acres of corn was put in the soil bank. This year about the same is in the bank. Approximately 100 additional farmers are on the waiting list if more soil bank money is made available.

3. Development of the County Extension Program

A county program as related to agricultural extension work may be defined as a plan of procedure or a plan of action to help agents in working more effectively with the people of the county. It is a method whereby county extension employees may better accomplish the purpose of Extension Work "to help people help themselves." The county extension program should include all of the important phases of agriculture and home economics both with adults and with youth.

County Extension programs to be most effective must be developed with the people.

Effective program planning with the people involves the following steps:

a. Analyzing the situation, which is nothing more than determining where people are.

b. Finding out the problems and needs of the people.

estimated combined volume annually of around 25 million dollars. Isle of Wight County has approximately 127,000 acres of commercial forests exclusive of public reserve and other non-commercial forest land. About two thirds of the timber is softwood and one-third is hardwood. With three-fifths of the total county area forested, sawmills and wood products are important. In the southwest corner of the county is a large pulp and paper mill. There are also several plants for shelling, cleaning and grading peanuts.

Along the Pagan River and the James River men engage in fishing and oystering. Battery Park and Rescue are shipping points for the water freight and harbors for fishing boats.

According to the 1950 Census the median income for Isle of Wight County families was $2,181, however, 45.6% of the families had incomes of less than $2,000.

The county has access to rail and water transportation and has a good highway system. U. S. Highways 460, 258, 58, and 17 and State Highway 10 pass through the county.

During the 1957-58 school terms, the county is operating 11 schools, four for the whites and seven for Negroes. Elementary schools are located at Carrsville, Windsor, Isle of Wight Courthouse and Smithfield. High Schools are located at Windsor and Smithfield. Median school years completed is 6.9.

Communities in the county include Rushmere, Smithfield, Pagan Pine (surburb of Smithfield), Benns Church, Carrollton, Rescue, Battery Park, Longview, Isle ofWight, Orbit, Walters, Zuni, Carrsville and Airport area (near Franklin). Windsor and Smithfield are the main county shopping areas, but the people do their major buying in Franklin, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Newport News and Richmond.

The recreational activities are mainly under the sponsorship of the public schools, local churches, 4-H clubs and civic organizations. Fishing, hunting and boating areas are plentiful and ocean beaches are within easy driving distance. The nearby cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth afford a variety of entertainment in professional sports, concerts, theatrical productions and points of interest.

The people participate actively in church, civic, rural, homemaking and commodity groups. The Extension Service (in agriculture and home economics) office is located in the post office building in Smithfield. Its personnel, the County Agent, Assistant County Agent, Home Demonstration Agent, and the office secretary, work with the county farmers, homemakers

B. Contents of Plan

1. Brief Description of County

Isle of Wight County is located in the Tidewater area of Virginia, a few miles down and across the James River from Jamestown, first English settlement in America. The county was settled on April 19, 1619 by an Englishman named Christopher Lawne, who brought with him 100 land-hungry colonists. The Indians had called the area Warrasqueacke. Lawne changed the name to Lawn's Plantation. In 1634 the London Company gave it the title of Isle of Wight, making it one of the eight original shires of Virginia.

Still standing in Isle of Wight County, about 4 miles from Smithfield, is St. Luke's Episcopal Church (sometimes called "The Old Brick Church") which was erected in 1632. The Courthouse in Smithfield dates from 1752. The largest portion of the population is descended from the early English settlers and many of the county residents are lovers of tradition and cherish with pride the old buildings, records and relics. Isle of Wight County people are proud of their long history, and on the one hand, hold tightly to tradition, while at the same time, they are amazingly progressive.

The population of the county has been at a standstill for many years. The first U. S. Census reported 9,028 in 1790 and the total county population rose to 14,906 in 1950. Only 48% of the population is white. Thirty seven percent of the population is rural farm and 62% is rural non-farm.

There are 721 white farm operators and 282 Negro farm operators. The U. S. Census for 1954 shows that the average size of farms is 135.4 acres and that 33 farms had 500 acres or more. The county has a total area of 314 square miles.

The area farm income, amounting to about 6 to 8 million dollars yearly, is derived chiefly from field crops (peanuts corn and soybeans) and from livestock and livestock products (chiefly hogs). Isle of Wight County is an important peanut-growing county in Virginia and in the nation and the peanut-fed hogs raised on her farms provide the nationally known "Smithfield Hams". There are approximately 15,378 acres of peanuts and 35,000 hog crop produced twice annually in Isle of Wight County.

Next to agriculture, manufacturing employs the largest number of people. Smithfield, the principal town, is a meat-packing center where several plants produce hams, bacon, sausage, lard and other meat products. These plants do an

PLAN OF WORK

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

1958

W. H. Grizzard, County Agent

B. S. Stump, Assistant County Agent