

PLAN OF WORK

Name of County - King George

Year 1959

George H. Hall

County Agent

CONTENTS OF PLAN OF WORK

I. Description of County	Page 1
Meetings Planned for the Year	Page 2
II. Agronomy Activities	Page 2
Small Grain	Page 2
Forage and Hay	Page 3
III. Forest Restoration	Page 4
IV. Livestock Activities	Page 6
V. 4-H Club Work	Page 7

1959 PLAN OF WORK FOR KING GEORGE COUNTY

I. Description of County:

King George County lies in the Northern Neck Area of Virginia. According to the 1954 Census of Agriculture, there are 470 farms averaging 141 acres in size and valued at \$16,096. Land in farms and number of farms have been declining steadily since 1935. A 2% rate of decline per year in the number of farms has occurred in the past twenty-five years. This rate continues through the present decade.

The topography is flat to gently rolling, with elevations ranging from 100-200 feet above sea level. Temperatures average 36 degrees in January and 77 degrees in July. Annual precipitation averages 40 inches.

The soil types are classified in three distinct series: Piedmont, Residual, Potomac Terrace and Coastal Plains. Certain land use adjustment would be most desirable within each series. Where land area is intermediately drained, the production of forage and pasture would perhaps increase the individual farmer's income, at less risk than is involved in crop production.

General type farming is practiced throughout the County with livestock and livestock products accounting for 56% of total cash receipts. Field crops; corn, soybeans and small grain contribute 35% of Agriculture, while forest products, 8% and vegetable 1%.

More than 60% of the farms in King George County are classified as part-time. Farms reporting less than \$1,199.00 value of sales, and the operator either reporting 100 days or more off-farm work, or other income exceeds the value of farm products sold.

Most off-farm employment centers around Dahlgren Naval Proving Ground, located in the County, Aviscoe Plant, Fredericksburg, and Virginia Department of Highways.

The Agriculture scene is changing very rapidly. Unless major adjustments are made among many of our younger farmers who wish to remain in farming, it will be increasingly difficult for many of them to compete in agriculture production which today the emphasis is on volume production and a smaller margin of profit.

The Extension Farm Program was developed by three newly organized commodity committees. These are Field crops, livestock and forestry and consist of 18 farmers, the Agriculture Instructor and the Agent. Planning meetings were held during February with each commodity committee. Additional committee meetings are planned throughout the year.

Listed are some of the County-wide meetings to be held during the year.

- January - Restoring the Farm Woodland -
Stanley Rhyne - Virginia Forest Service
- February - Income Tax - Social Security
W. J. Nuckols, V.P.I. Blacksburg, Assoc. Ext. Economist
- March - Corn Production - Panel discussion and Agent
- April - County-wide Meeting - Use of 2-4-D for Weed Control
Extension Specialist
Establish 3 demonstrations in corn growing areas of the County - Agent
- May - Soybean Production - Specialist
Establish 2 variety demonstrations - Agent
- June - Small Grain Demonstration - Division of Markets
- September - New trends in Swine Production - Specialist
- October - Feeding Fat Cattle and Wintering the Beef Herd - Specialist
- November - Forest Restoration - Forester, V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va.
- December - Summary of Year's Work

II. Agronomy Activities:

A. Situation:

Corn, soybeans and small grain are listed in order of their importance and represent 35% of the Agriculture income. Yield per acre on these crops are above the state average, however, with the changing agriculture, it became imperative that our crop farmers apply the latest technology in order to obtain maximum efficient yields. The areas of this technology requiring the greatest emphasis is in adequate fertilization, recommended varieties and weed control, particularly in corn production.

Another area of opportunity which may increase the grain producers income would be in marketing their grain through livestock feeding enterprises.

B. Extension Methods:

1. To conduct, with the aid of Specialist, County-wide meetings in March and May on current recommendations for Corn and Soybeans.
2. To conduct, with aid of Specialist, a series of meetings on feeding livestock as a method of marketing surplus feed grains. This activity is planned subject to the availability of feed grain supplies.
3. To encourage farmers to submit soil samples and to use these as a guide toward more efficient use of plant food.
4. To establish weed control demonstrations in corn with the use of 2-4-D Pre-emergence and post-emergence in major areas of the county.

5. To cooperate fully with the Farm Bureau sponsored corn growing contest and to urge greater participation.

6. To cooperate fully with Soil Conservation District and Agricultural Stabilization Committee in promoting good land use through rotation and efficient use of plant food.

7. To provide through circular letters a list of Virginia Experiment Station varietal recommendation in the spring and fall.

8. To conduct educational program on the production of feed grains to market through livestock as an alternate enterprise to substitute for wheat, our number one surplus agriculture commodity.

9. To stimulate greater interest in production of medium and full season soybeans as a means of improving the quality.

10. To establish variety demonstrations comparing yield and quality of different maturity season soybeans.

Goals:

1. To maintain existing corn acreage of 4,100 acres at this level.

2. To increase the County average yield from a high 60 bushels, estimated by grain committee and agent for 1958, to 65 bushels in 1959.

3. To urge at least 30 major corn growers to participate in Farm Bureau sponsored corn contest.

4. To increase the soybean yield from a high of 28 bushels 1958 among our major growers to 30 bushels in 1959.

5. To discourage as much as possible the continued production of wheat as a cash crop on five farms contemplating livestock feeding enterprise.

B. Forage and Hay Crops:

Livestock production is the major source of income which contribute around 56%. Practically all hay feed is grown within the County and sufficient pastures are available for existing livestock numbers.

Livestock producers follow a routine pasture and forage maintenance program, with federal cost share assistance as provided by the Agriculture Conservation and Stabilization Committee.

Our most important needs lie in increasing acreage of forage crops and pastures as a possible source of additional income through the sale of hay and small seeds or increasing the over-all livestock numbers in the County.

Extension Methods.

1. To stimulate interest in increasing Alfalfa acreage from 450 acres to 650 acres.

2. To provide through letters and individual contacts current information on problems and control of insect, disease and weeds involved in alfalfa production.

3. To cooperate fully with Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation committee on Agronomic practices for the County.

4. To stimulate interest in seeding hay mixtures in small grain rather than double-cropping with soybeans.

5. To conduct demonstrations on the use of Dinitro in controlling grass and weeds in Red Clover seed production.

6. To stimulate interest where the need exists for winter pastures and silage production.

7. To establish demonstrations on certain pastures with nitrogen to extend the fall growing season.

Goals for the Year:

1. To get at least five farmers to seed additional alfalfa acreage and three to establish a stand.

2. To conduct two demonstrations with Dinitro in Red Clover Seed Production.

3. To urge three beef cattle producers to topdress with nitrogen in early fall for extended growing.

4. To assist with individual problems as time permits.

5. To urge five farmers, who double-crop small grain with soybeans to consider hay and small seed production.

III. Forest Restoration

Our forest resources contribute around forty to fifty thousand dollars each year toward the agriculture economy. Approximately 60% of the land area, or 57,000 acres return less than \$1.00 per acre. More than 50% of the woodland area

has been harvested within the past twenty years, leaving few, if any, desirable species for reforestation.

According to Virginia Forest Service reports issued in 1955, 14% is softwood, while 86% of growing timber is hardwood. Their estimate show an annual growth rate 9,440,000 board feet, and 5,270,000 harvested each year.

Some progress is made each year, and has been going on for the past six years, with about twenty landowners, toward converting hardwood to a more desirable and profitable pine stand. Our efforts in 1958 were concentrated on providing bulldozer service to landowners. This goal was reached through the efforts of the County Farm Bureau, who were fortunate in purchasing a War Surplus Bushwacher. This machine was converted to a TD 9 bulldozer, and started work in the County during December.

Extension Methods:

1. To conduct County-wide meetings on the need for better forest conservation and restoration.
2. To organize a county forestry committee to aid in promoting better forest practices.
3. To publicize demonstrations that have been established in the past few years, and to conduct one demonstration with the Farm Bureau owned bulldozer.
4. To establish 2 demonstrations on the use of herbicide for controlling low quality hardwood.
5. To work closely with Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee in maintaining forest conservation for landowners in the County.

Goals:

1. To increase the number of pine seedlings to reach 100,000 in 1959.
2. To urge at least 20 woodland owners in starting a forest restoration program-Three to five acres each year for the next 10 years.
3. To stimulate more interest in good woodland management as a part of the management required in the successful operation of their farm.

IV. Livestock Activities:

A. Production:

Income from livestock farming continues as our major enterprise. Beef Cattle, Cattle of mixed breed, dairy, hogs and sheep are listed in order of importance.

The situation in the County is unlike the general trend in livestock production which appear in many areas of the State and Nation. There appears a very definite trend toward contract farming that will definitely affect many of our livestock producers in the future. Whether they will become involved remains to be seen. With the accent on quality and volume, and a narrow margin of profit; it appears as if many will have to greatly expand their feeding operation, utilizing more fully locally produced feed grains, with less emphasis on the feed dealers contracts.

Careful selection of feeding enterprises, applying the latest technology, management and skill should enable some of our progressive and energetic young farmers to compete in the rapidly changing scene involving livestock production.

Extension Method:

1. To stress the fact, our red meat supply is needed for our growing population.
2. To stress the fact, greater competition is expected, resulting from areas where there has been fast expansion of contract farming.
3. To work closely with four hog producers who are considering expanding the enterprise.
4. To conduct demonstrations with aid of Specialist on the use of Stilvestrol implants for feeder cattle being turned on grass this Spring. And to follow-up with demonstrations in the fall as the feeders go in the feed lot.
5. To notify farmers of pure-bred livestock sales.
6. To encourage beef producers to add sheep as a supplemental enterprise.
7. To encourage the regular use of chemical in controlling internal and external parasites.
8. To aid livestock producers with latest management techniques covering such factors as a definite breeding program, culling for greater quality production, maintaining a Bang's free herd, and the use of Sire with a fast gaining record of performance.

9. To Aid individuals on call with problems of disease, parasites, vaccinating, dehorning and castrating.

Goals:

1. To get at least three swine producers interested in pig parlor feeding within the next two years.
2. To start three new sheep flocks on beef cattle farms.
3. To work with 15 feeders on the use of Stilvestrol implants.
4. To place 3 Record of Performance Sire during the year.
5. To promote feeder pig production on farms planning to construct pig parlors.

B. Marketing:

At the present time there are four organized marketing programs provided for livestock producers. These are the Feeder Calf Sale, Yearling Feeder Sale, Fat Cattle Sale and Wool Marketing Pool. Our principle needs lie in increasing the volume and quality.

Extension Methods:

1. To promote greater participation in Feeder Calf Sale and Yearling Sale.
2. To work with Tidewater Beef Cattle Association and Division of Markets in promoting Fat Cattle Sale.
3. To continue with Wool Pool established in Fredericksburg the past two years, in cooperation with United Wool Growers of Harrisonburg.
4. To work closely with Manager of local livestock market in organized marketing of lambs.

V. 4-H CLUB WORK

The County 4-H Club consists of eight organized clubs who hold monthly meetings in the Schools. Officers of each club constitute a County Council who plan activities for the year.

A. Among the activities planned:

1. Observe National 4-H Club Week.
2. Participate in Rural Life Sunday
3. Have 4-H delegate attend State Short Course.
4. Have 20% enrolled attend 4-H Club Camp at Jamestown

5. Participate in County Achievement Program

B. Project goals listed:

1. To participate in Money making projects, in order to supply scholarships for the State Short Course, Transportation to Jamestown 4-H Camp and erect 4-H Boundary Signs at the 4 entrances to King George County.
2. To continue 4-H Sears Pig Chain
3. To participate in Fat Stock Show and Sale held in Fredericksburg.
4. To assist in Tractor Maintenance Project
5. To conduct tractor driving contest at close of project.
6. To urge greater participation in Farm Bureau Junior Corn Growing Contest.

Extension Methods:

Through County 4-H Club Council, Club members and parents.

Through subject matter bulletins.

Through program built around project work.