

to better acquaint them with an overall extension policies and recommendations, so that they can be more widely spread thru the different communities by the volunteer leaders.

6. Continue close cooperation with the County Ruritan Clubs to encourage their active interest in 4-H activities.

a spring and fall council meeting to assist the extension agents in planning club programs, elections of officers, etc. It is planned to continue this important phase of 4-H club work.

#### 4-H All Stars

1. 4-H All Stars will hold spring meeting to select State All Star Candidates, and a late summer picnic or covered dish supper meeting to welcome newly initiated all stars into the county organization.

#### Publicity

1. In order for local clubs to receive recognition before the county people, the club reporter will receive special training in writing news articles on their club meetings, community activities, and participation in county and state contests.
2. Whenever possible, radio transcriptions and TV programs will be made on various county 4-H activities, including interviews of winners in county and state contests.
3. Weekly radio and newspaper announcements of club meetings and activities to strengthen the 4-H program among county residents.
4. Monthly consolidated newspaper articles by clubs on general county wide work.
5. Information will be obtained from a special report submitted by individual clubs.

#### Adult Work

1. The Asst. Agent will continue to cooperate with the expansion and improvement of the County Fair Association.
2. Encourage more adults to exhibit at the fair.
3. The Asst. Agent will continue to work with adult farmers in making crop and livestock recommendations to the extent that time permits outside of the 4-H club schedule.
4. The Asst. Agent will continue to cooperate with other agricultural agencies and civic clubs to maintain good relationship and obtain cooperation with extension program.
5. The Asst. Agent is planning tours for the boys adult leaders to the extension experimental farms in order

and leaders to attend within the limit of the quota signed to the county.

#### 4-H Recreation and Community Project

1. The community club meeting program has been set up on the basis of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for business,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour member participation on program, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for recreation. Any time saved from business and program is added to recreation period. This procedure has proved very successful in most instances, and has created more interest among club members, rather than place too much emphasis on project discussion at separate boys and girls project meetings following the business session of the meeting. More emphasis on better planned club meeting recreation will be stressed in the future to create and hold more interest, especially with the older members.
2. Encourage members to participate in a county "Share-The-Fun" contest.
3. Hold joint recreation meetings between one or more clubs.
4. Each club to sponsor at least two local community and county projects.

#### 4-H Achievement Day Program

1. The annual County 4-H Achievement program has been held each year, at which program recognition is made of outstanding leaders and members. It is planned to continue this important 4-H activities and invite representatives of various county firms, the county Board of Supervisors, and the local Chamber of Commerce, in order to encourage support of the county program.

#### Other 4-H Organizations.

##### County Leaders Association

1. It is felt that this organization is very important to the county 4-H program so that the leaders will learn to know each other better, and to let them take a leading part in 4-H program planning. The leaders organization has been active, and this group effectively assists the extension agents in determining the overall county 4-H program. Quarterly meetings are held during the year.

##### County 4-H Council

1. The council has been active in past years by holding

each year.

#### Miscellaneous Projects

##### 1. Safety

Increase number members carrying this project for additional credit along with major project and for those members not having facilities for livestock, poultry, crops, and other projects. County winners in this project will be decided and medals awarded accordingly.

- a. Distribute Extension Bulletins, and encourage club meeting demonstrations.
- b. Encourage members to make exhibits at County Fair, and special local 4-H dates and to enter state contests.

##### Farm and Home Electricity

- a. Encourage at least two boys from each of the night clubs to take this project and enlist the help of local power companies to help train members so that they might enter county and state contest on individual and club basis. Plans will be made to hold special farm and home electric weekly project meetings with the Power Companies, Farm Elec. specialists as instructors. Later the member and project exhibits and records will be judged to determine the county winners for awarding of medal and trip for the individual, and the taking of the club exhibit to the Richmond Electrical Congress.

##### Rabbits

4-H members have taken some interest in this project and exhibits were made at the fair during past years with many prizes won. Further work is planned on this project as it is one way of increasing membership from families that do not have facilities for major projects.

- a. Distribute extension bulletins and use feeding and management recommendations.

##### 4-H Camp

1. Encourage at least two club boys from each club to attend District or State 4-H Camp.

##### 4-H Shortcourse

1. It is planned to continue the active support of the annual 4-H shortcourse in Hacksburg by encouraging as many county All Stars and 4-H members

costs. Ten (10) area prizes will be awarded ranging from \$20.00 to \$2.50.

Since Augusta and Shenandoah Counties are not participating in the 1959 program; also, due to the discouraging publicity given to low broiler profits, there may be a decrease in the number of projects in Rockingham County in 1959.

- c. Winning Dressed Bird Exhibit- Birds in the top three or four exhibits in the area contest, will be frozen and displayed again in connection with a State Contest, along with top exhibits from other areas. Any awards or recognition from such displays will go to the club members concerned. Note: It is expected that awards of about (\$45, \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$8, \$5) will be available for club members participating in the contest at the state level.

An effort will be made to take club members to the dressing plant the day after their exhibit birds are dressed and judged, to give them an opportunity to look over their entry and check the dressed bird placings.

d. Other general information.

- (1) A contestant may have as many entries as he or she wishes, so long as each separate entry is a different variety, breed or cross breed of chickens.
- (2) Chicks must be obtained from Virginia hatcheries and be generally available to growers in the area. No out-of-state chicks or chicks obtained from eggs from special out-of-state matings will be permitted to enter the contest.
- (3) Club members will pay for the cost of his chicks.
- (4) The use of hormones is prohibited.
- (5) Club members must feed a standard commercial ration. No special feed designed, specially for the contest will be permitted.

Crops

1. Some interest has been shown in this type of project in the past. Perhaps some plan can be worked out with parents to share crop the field to 4-H members so that some revenue can be realized by the member.
- a. Exhibits have been made each year at the County Fair; plans are being made to increase the number

In the past considerable cooperation has been obtained from city and county business firms, and benefits in promoting the 4-H poultry program. Arrangements have been made with the egg grading stations to assist with training members in egg grading, with the Extension Specialists, and the County Extension Agent giving instructions on production birds. This procedure has been very successful in the past four years in placing county members on the first and second poultry judging teams. It is planned to continue training in poultry judging in this manner.

1. In order to determine, in an unbiased way how the County team members will be determined, it is planned to have club judging teams take part in the county-wide demonstration meeting. In the trial judging to follow the work-out, the county team will be selected from the two high individuals from the winning club teams; then the next two high individuals from other clubs. A second team will also be picked for possible future replacements.
2. The club poultry judging teams will receive further training on a county basis, after which a county contest will be held. The four high individuals will represent the county in the Northern Virginia District Contest.
3. Issuing of extension bulletins to homes and encourage use of recommendations.
4. The Junior Broiler Grower program has been very successful in the Shenandoah Valley Area the past three (3) years. In 1958 there were fifty-one (51) projects entered, forty (40) from Rockingham County, and eleven (11) in Augusta County. In 1958, there were 1012 lbs. of dressed broilers sold averaging \$1.675 per lb., bringing a total value of \$1696.67. The 1959 area committee has been elected by representatives of the poultry industry with a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer managing the program, with the assistance of the necessary sub-committees.
  - a. In the past 100 straight-run wing-banded broiler chicks have been requested in each lot of chicks raised. In order that each grower will have approximately the same number of cockerels from which to select their ten (10) best cockerels for an exhibit, the hatcheries will furnish fifty (50) wing-banded cockerels in each lot of 100 chickens.
  - b. Following the judging contest on dressed carcass, feeding and management; and, record book, all lots will be auctioned to the highest bidder with a selling price up to \$2.00 per lb. going to the grower. Bids in excess of the ceiling price will revert to the committee treasury to help defray the program

calves in the past have been shown and sold at a local livestock market at the close of the Fair.

1. In cases where the desired type of animals can be found, members will be encouraged to take the baby beef project; otherwise the market beef project will be stressed. The baby beeves will be exhibited at the county fair. After being judged, it is possible that the best from each breed will be shown in the Richmond State Fair. The rest will be shown and sold at a local livestock market. The market beef project has shown some promise, and will, no doubt, continue to expand.
  - a. Plans are being made to have County Livestock Judging demonstrations, leading up to a county elimination contest in choosing a team to represent the county in the Northern Virginia District Contest.
  - b. Mailing of extension pamphlets and extension recommendations to homes to create parent interest.
  - c. Project discussions and fitting demonstrations.
  - d. Encourage exhibits at County Fair.

#### Swine

Rockingham 4-H members have been feeding purebred breeding gilts in the Sears Roebuck Agriculture Foundation contest since 1947. The project was started with six (6) purebred gilts, and has approximately that number yearly. One or two years the number of projects rose to ten (10) and twelve (12) through a penalty clause in the agreement requiring two (2) instead of one (1) gilt being given back from the first litter for not exhibiting in the annual show. Through the advice of the adult leaders, and since the Agents' Conference, dates have fallen on the annual fair dates the last few years, members raising the gilts are not required, but, are encouraged to exhibit in an annual show at the county fair.

1. In order to improve on the size of litters, and to have more unrelated sires available, it is being considered to change breeds when final arrangements can be made.
2. An annual 4-H and F.F.A. member and parent awards dinner meeting program has been sponsored by the local Sears Order Office in the past, and it is planned that 4-H members and their parents continue their participation in this program.
3. Prizes to be awarded at annual Sears Roebuck Agricultural Foundation 4-H --F.F.A. Banquet.

#### Poultry

list of the school club members will be prepared for the night club membership and attendance committee for their review with the adult leaders as advisors.

- a. Boys will be encouraged to continue 4-H membership in the nearest community night club before and after graduating from grade school.
- b. To improve project completion percentage, club members are encouraged to bring record books to meetings and give a project report when roll is called.
- c. In the past some adult boys leaders indicated they would like to supervise their group of boys on a project basis, as a project leader. This suggestion has not worked too well in this county due to the diversification of crop, livestock, or poultry enterprises according to facilities that members have to work with unless the leaders responsibilities cover too wide a territory for the amount of time he can devote from his own family, farming, or business employment responsibilities. Instead of a project leader it has brought better results for the adult, and junior leaders to work with those members living closest to the adult leader irrespective of enrolled projects.

#### Dairy Club Work

1. Improve selection of dairy calves in nonsponsored projects.
2. Use 4-H dairy specialists for 4-H school classes and night 4-H meeting programs when available; and, to assist in training judging teams.
3. Encourage members to breed purebred and grade heifers by artificial breeding.
4. Encourage members to enter project exhibits at the County Agricultural Fair.
5. Mail project record books and 4-H dairy pamphlets to the home, and encourage use of extension recommendations. In mailing information to homes, more parental interest may be created.
6. Encourage 4-H members to take part in County Dairy Tours and Judging Demonstrations in preparation for the Northern Virginia Dairy Judging Contest.

#### Livestock Work

##### Beef (Baby & Market)

Considerable interest has been shown in the baby beef project, there being exhibited 10-15 calves each year. These

as advisors. During the summer months, clubs will be encouraged to have joint recreation meetings, with other clubs as a means of getting better acquainted.

4. The Assistant Agent will attend the boys and girls night meetings during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November to assist in training of adult leaders, and the club officers; also to assist members with projects, and conduct a subject demonstration. During the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December, the Assistant Agent will visit 4-H Communities on or before the day of the monthly night meeting to discuss 4-H activities with adult leaders, and visit home projects.
  - a. At 4-H night senior club meetings attended by the Asst. Agent, the program will consist of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour in conducting business and training officers and members in parliamentary procedure, and one hour project discussions on various subjects thru visual education, specialists, and Extension Agents' talks and demonstrations.
  - b. At night 4-H meetings supervised only by adult leaders the program will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour business,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour program reports or demonstration by members, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour recreation. Any time saved from business and project periods will be extended to recreation period.
  - c. The program for the (8) eight Junior School clubs will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour business and parliamentary procedure training; and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour project training through discussion, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for training audience participation, games et. Any time saved from business and program will be devoted to songs, etc. The members answering to roll call will give a brief report on projects during the past month.
5. Plan to visit each boys' home several times yearly.
  - a. Review project and project record books.
  - b. Enlist aid of parents in their child's project work and encourage community 4-H activities.
  - c. Encourage parents to attend club meetings, and become 4-H leaders.
  - d. Encourage members to visit home of adult leader for information and work closely with junior leaders.
6. In order to maintain the quality, and number of school club members attending the night community meeting, a

2. Special news items will be featured in the newspaper and on the radio stations on when to treat for parasites, when to dock and castrate lambs along with the advantage of each.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

In Rockingham County, with an area of 876 sq. miles there are at present thirty-two different 4-H clubs. Ten (10) of the clubs are joint boys and girls community night groups; two community night groups with girls only; ten (10) Elementary School 6th and 7th grade boys clubs, and ten (10) girls clubs. The 1958 membership in these clubs was 681 boys and girls. With the present county personnel, it is hardly possible to expand on the number of clubs. However, it is possible to improve on the quality, and number of members enrolled in the present joint boys and girls community groups. One improvement that should be considered is the balancing of these groups with approximately the same number of girls and boys; and, by having the number of members 15 years and older exceed the number of members 14 years and younger. By working through the club membership and attendance committee, a goal of a maximum number of members between ages 10 and 14 years yearly, could be based on the estimated number of older members scheduled to graduate from High School. It can be assumed that a large percentage of the High School graduating group will either go to college, seek employment outside the community, get married, or, enter the Armed Services. In either event, there will be a lack of interest in many cases of continuing their community 4-H club affiliation.

1. Instead of encouraging adult volunteer leaders to enroll members from five (5) different families, as has been recommended in the past, in order to develop Junior Leadership, it is planned to encourage boys to turn in a list of boys from four (4) other families with whom they will work with under an adult leader. The junior leaders will keep a record of his groups activities and club junior leadership awards made at the close of the club year, to those junior leaders qualifying. In turn, the adult leader will receive his club leadership award annually, if his junior leader and his group qualify for their awards.
2. The junior leaders of each club will be assigned to the adult leaders upon the decision of the adult leaders.
3. Each club will have as a goal, twelve (12) monthly meetings, during which meetings the officers and members will conduct business, educational, and recreational programs with adult leaders, and agents

## LIVESTOCK

During the past year there has not been much change in the number of beef cows, but, the number of steers being grazed and fed grain in the county has increased. Rockingham County does not produce sufficient grain to feed the feeder cattle available in the county and, therefore, exports some feeder cattle.

At the present time, we are conducting one calf sale demonstration, and one yearling demonstration sale in the fall, and one yearling demonstration sale in the spring. These sales need more cattle, and also better quality cattle to attract more buyers. Also there are quite a few cattle turned down because they were not properly dehorned and castrated.

Many farmers find it difficult to test cow herds for bangs and vaccinate calves for bangs, blackleg, shipping fever, and dehorn and castrate because they do not have proper handling pens and chutes.

There are still some herds that have some cows with dairy breeding.

Our objective is to improve the quality of beef cattle in the county and in the sales and increase the number of cattle in the demonstration sales.

1. One meeting of beef producers will be held to build more enthusiasm for the demonstration sale, and also get information to producers on what to do in order to get cattle into the sale.
2. One letter will be sent to producers giving information on building handling pens and chutes.
3. Producers who have had difficulty in castrating and dehorning, will be contacted and proper methods will be discussed with individuals.

## SHEEP

There are many flocks of sheep in the county producing poor quality lambs. In some cases, producers are not using good rams. Parasites are still a problem in some flocks and there are a good many lambs that are not being castrated and docked.

Our objective is to get producers to use better rams and produce higher quality lambs.

1. The staff will continue to assist the purebred breeders in conducting a county ram sale in order to improve the quality of lambs through breeding.

of cows is still increasing in the county. There are many new grade A producers seeking information on managing the cow herd.

The milk production per cow is still lower in Rockingham County than in some of the other leading counties in Virginia. Some of the factors limiting the production are poor quality of hay, silage and pasture; mastitis; and poor breeding conception.

Many herds have increased the number of cows during the past two years, and have not increased the housing and feeding facilities. There are also many new herds which do not have adequate housing.

There is also a tendency to feed too much grain to low producing cows and too little to high producing cows.

The first objective in our plan is to increase milk production by getting farmers to produce better quality of forage, eliminating mastitis and by getting a better breeding conception.

The second objective will be to get producers who need housing facilities to build economical practical facilities, or remodel the present buildings.

The third objective will be to get producers to feed the individual dairy cows according to the production.

A two day dairy school will be set up for county dairymen. The program will include information on all problems outlined above.

This school will be set up with a registration through the mail so we will have commitments from the dairymen in advance.

The D. H. I. A. demonstration program and the Owner Sampler program will be continued and expanded this year. At present, there are 50 D.H.I.A. demonstrators with 1805 cows, and 17 Owner Sampler herds with 445 cows. Our goal is to increase the D.H.I.A. herds to 65 this year, and the Owner Sampler to 30 herds. The agent will continue to work very close with these and herd owners, and get them to analyze the records. One herd analysis meeting will be held. One large annual meeting will be held to publicize the program and build more enthusiasm among demonstrators and other dairymen who are prospective demonstrators.

During the year sometime will be set aside to visit the demonstrators with the lowest production, in order to discuss their problems with them, and also to visit the new dairy herds beginning milk production.

Our first objective will be to build more enthusiasm among the poultrymen and get them interested in modernizing their operations and facilities.

1. One large county meeting will be held with speakers who will draw a crowd.
  - (a) This meeting will be organized by the poultry committee and all feed dealers, hatcheries, and processors will be asked to assist in promoting and organizing the meeting.
  - (b) A very intense publicity program will be carried out in an effort to get a large turn out of producers.

Our second objective will be to get poultry servicemen to set up county poultry recommendations in an effort to improve efficiency.

1. A committee of poultry servicemen will revise the 1958 recommendations and the owners or managers of feed companies, hatcheries will discuss and be asked to approve them.

A special training program for the poultry servicemen will be held.

1. This will be planned with the servicemen, and a special effort will be made to bring in a study of the organs of the birds, and how they function so the servicemen will be better equipped to understand and make general poultry recommendations.

The third objective will be to get information to the turkey growers on turkey nests and the handling of broody hens. Disposal of dead turkeys is a serious problem especially on the range.

A county meeting to get this information to the turkey growers will be held this spring. This meeting will be organized with the assistance of the poultry committee. Also the building of disposal pits for disposal of dead birds will be presented.

The fourth objective will be to get information on growing pullets and managing the commercial flock to the commercial egg producers.

A meeting will be held during the late summer and will be organized and planned by a committee of poultry servicemen and egg producers.

#### DAIRY

The number of herds selling grade A milk, and the number

1. A county spray campaign will be set up this spring and an effort will be made to get all thistles sprayed.
2. Special emphasis will be placed on spraying at the proper time with the right material.
3. The commercial organizations will be asked to cooperate. The spraying recommendations will be explained to them.
4. A county wide meeting will be held to get information to farmers.
5. A letter will be sent to farmers urging that they spray thistles and also enclose information on when to spray and what to spray with.
6. All means of publicity available will be used to get information to farmers. At least one special TV show will be presented.

The third objective will be to increase the strawberry production in the county.

1. A county wide meeting will be set up this fall to get information to the people. Prior to the meeting a publicity program will be carried out to interest farmers who might have labor available for strawberry picking.

#### POULTRY

During the last few months of 1958, the broiler prices have been low and there has been very little profit in broiler production. Most broilers are grown under contract and some of the feed dealers and contractors have found it necessary to reduce payment to producers when there is not profit. Also the margin of profit in turkey production was less than it was a few years ago.

A large percent of the poultry producers still have small flocks and need to modernize their operations.

Some producers have increased the waterer and feeder space during the past and also most of the producers are building new and larger units have equipped them with sufficient equipment.

There is a need for better and more turkey nests and a need for a better system of handling broody hens in many turkey breeding flocks.

Disposal of dead birds is still a problem in many flocks. There are many new commercial egg producers in the county who need information on growing pullets and managing the laying flock.

1959  
PLAN OF WORK  
FOR  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

1. COUNTY SITUATION

The county is the third largest county in the state, with 556,000 acres of which 321,685 acres are in farms, the remainder is in national forests. There are 3,571 farms which average 84.8 acres.

The county, which is agricultural, practices a very diversified system of farming. There are four major sources of agricultural income, poultry which ranks first produces 70% of the income, livestock ranks second with 15%, dairy ranks third with 9%, and crops which includes fruit produces about 6% .

The feed supply on most farms is adequate to feed the livestock until the grazing season as in 1958, the weather was favorable for growing all crops.

AGRICULTURE

Due to very favorable weather in 1958, considerable forage was produced on most farms, however, there is still a need for better quality forage, and there will be need for more forage during a year when the weather conditions are average or below in order to adequately feed the livestock.

Thistles are becoming a more serious problem each year, and plans have been set up for a spray program.

There is still a need for a high money crop on small farms. Strawberry production was investigated in 1956, and we found a good market for some strawberry production on a commercial basis.

Our first objective will be to produce more and better quality roughage.

1. One county meeting on production of better quality pasture, hay and silage will be held in connection with a county dairy school in March.
2. The agent will continue to work with ASC committee to get farmers to improve pasture and hay crops through ASC Program.
3. Special publicity will be featured during September on developing winter pasture for livestock.

The second objective will be to get rid of thistles.

1959  
PLAN OF WORK  
FOR  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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