

- a. Reorganize the 4-H clubs in rural schools.
- b. Make plans for 4-H club Council meeting.
- c. Work with ASC Office Manager - the Soil Conservation Service in getting a few springs developed in the county.
- d. Start collecting 4-H club record books.
- e. Make farm visits about seeding alfalfa.
- f. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.

October -

- a. Meet all 4-H clubs and get them started on their projects.
- b. Help 4-H club children finish record books on summer projects.
- c. Attend County Agents' District Meeting
- d. Hold two burley tobacco demonstrations.
- e. Make farm visits.
- f. Encourage farmers to order pine trees.
- g. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.

November -

- a. Prepare annual report.
- b. Collect 4-H club record books.
- c. Attend 4-H club meetings.
- d. Help farmers complete farm records.
- e. Write news articles and make radio broadcasts.

g. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.

June -

- a. Work closely with ASC Office Manager.
- b. Revive the 4-H Club Center Fund Raising Campaign.
- c. Visit 4-H club boys and girls with summer projects.
- d. Take 4-H club children to camp the week of June 20-25.
- e. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.
- f. Make home visits.
- g. Make emergency call to pull cows out of milk fever.

July -

- a. Make several home visits.
- b. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.
- c. Take a car load of farmers to the Institute of Rural Affairs - and get someone else to take a car load.

August -

- a. Attend Agent's Conference.
- b. Visit 4-H club poultry projects.
- c. Visit 4-H club strawberry projects.
- d. Vacation - one week or two.
- e. Make farm visits.
- f. Work on 4-H Club Center Drive.
- g. Visit farms where they are interested in seeding new pasture on alfalfa.

September -

- b. Enroll boys and girls in summer 4-H club projects.
- c. Contact by visit - 4-H club homes where children are carrying Sears, Roebuck Poultry projects.
- d. Make visits to farms on seeding alfalfa.
- e. Hold two or three pruning demonstrations.
- f. Hold at least one fertilizer meeting in the tobacco section.
- g. Make radio broadcasts and write newspaper articles.

April -

- a. Visit the twenty-one (21) 4-H clubs.
- b. Hold six garden meetings.
- c. Enroll 4-H club children for 4-H club camp.
- d. Make fifty or more farm visits about strawberries, poultry, and gardens.
- e. Get out timely circular letter about seeds, fertilizer for gardens and tobacco.
- f. Make radio broadcasts and write news articles.

May -

- a. Complete enrollment for 4-H camp.
- b. Get record books from 4-H club children on sewing, insects, and electricity.
- c. Visit all the farm and home development families.
- d. Complete arrangements for strawberry show.
- e. Visit all poultry 4-H projects and lawn improvement projects.
- f. Work with people to get them to attend the Institute of Rural Affairs.

enrolled. The Agent intends to enlist five or six more farms in this program during the spring. The farm and home development families who are participating at present live on dirt roads and it is impossible to visit them the year round. More complete records will be demanded from the new entries.

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES -

A. Four-H Club Center -

The Agent will make every effort to take sixty (60) or seventy (70) 4-H club children to the new 4-H Club Center this June. He is going to renew his effort to collect money for the Center from sources in Buchanan County. When and if a Home Agent is settled in Buchanan County, an all out drive for funds will be initiated.

Since most of the home demonstration clubs and few of the 4-H clubs have pledged to raise money for the Center - it is believed that some money can be collected. The 4-H Club Center Fund Raising Committee is still intact, and this organization will be revived again during the year.

7. CALENDAR OF WORK FOR 1960 -

March -

a. Meet with twenty-one (21) 4-H clubs.

over the county and when ever the Agent passes one of these new homes, he finds out the owner's name and sends him a bulletin on lawns. When time permits - the Agent stops and discusses lawn problems with the owner.

The Agent often visits these new homes and discusses the setting of shade trees, foundation plants, and seeding of the lawn with the home owner.

The Agent has - and intends to do considerable work with the people of Grundy in regard to their lawns. There are few home owners in Grundy who have not inquired at one time or another for lawn information from the Extension Service. The Agent intends to get as much information as possible to the home owner in Grundy by discussing their problems before the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and the Garden Club.

The Agent is encouraging several outstanding boys and girls in the 4-H clubs to carry lawn improvement projects. If at all possible, the Agent will visit the home of these boys and girls carrying lawn projects and discuss the lawn problems with their parents. He will also have the parents help the 4-H club members keep their records.

G. Farm and Home Development -

The six (6) farm and home development families have made considerable progress during the past three years .

baby chicks. The Agent will encourage the 4-H club boys and girls taking the poultry project to carry their chickens on into a laying project. The Agent plans to visit each 4-H club poultry project two or three times during the year.

The Grundy Merchants Association is talking of conducting a strawberry show during the latter part of May for the 4-H club children and farmers growing strawberries in the county. Their plans are in the formative stage and the Agent is hoping that a good strawberry show can be put on when this strawberry crop comes in. Ninety-two (92) 4-H club members grew strawberries in 1959 and several farmers will also have strawberry crops in 1960. The Agent is making a special drive this winter and spring of 1960 to encourage several people to grow strawberries for the market. By using radio programs, newspaper articles and personal visits - the Agent is hoping to get twenty (20) or twenty-five (25) farmers to plant good size crops of strawberries in the spring of 1960.

F. Lawns and Surroundings -

The County Agent's Office gets more telephone calls and letters inquiring about lawns than any other subject. The County Extension Office has been established as a source of lawn information. New homes are going up all

Agent is going to continue carrying both boys and girls and with the help of local leaders - projects will be carried to completion. In the spring - the Agent will have both boys and girls carry the insect project and will work to have at least eighty percent of this project completed.

The Agent has begun in February and March - having the 4-H club children choose their summer project. He will encourage them to carry sweet corn, strawberries and tomatoes. Crops that will return some money to the 4-H club boys and girls. In March - the Agent will order strawberry plants by the thousand and pro-rate them out to the 4-H club children. Each boy and girl will be required to take two hundred (200) or more strawberry plants along with instructions and record books. The Agent will visit all of the strawberry projects during the summer and encourage the parents and the children to cultivate these strawberries properly. He will also write two or three circular letters to the 4-H club children carrying strawberry plants and encourage them to keep their strawberries clean.

The Agent has again signed up to carry the Sears, Roebuck Poultry project in the county. The children who elect to take this project - will be carefully screened in accordance with their attitude and facilities to take care of

farmer wants to order trees - he will take his order. He will also work closely with the ASC office manager - in trying to get the farmers to use ASC money for the reforestation and forestry improvement project.

E. Four-H Club Work -

The Agent has twenty-one (21) clubs organized and will probably organize one or two more before the enrollment must be sent to the State Office. The majority of these clubs are organized in the sixth and seventh grade. There is only one high school club organized at Council. Since we have not had a Home Agent since July, 1959, and there is no certainty when an Agent will be put in the county, the County Agent is carrying both boys and girls in 4-H club projects. He has had the boys and girls to choose projects such as - forestry and electricity, which he could supervise. The Agent has had extraordinary good cooperation with organizational and project leaders. The organizational leaders have assisted in getting other women in the community for sewing project leaders. With this combination - the Agent is carrying the sewing project and has gotten more sewing done so far this year, than has ever been done in the county.

As stated above, the County Agent has no assurance as to when a Home Agent will be put in the county. The

pullet chicks - rather than straight run chickens. The Agent is again carrying the Sears, Roebuck 4-H Club Poultry Project. He is ordering only pullets for the 4-H club boys and girls. This project has been conducted in the county for four (4) or five (5) years. The Agent again plans to work closely with the 4-H club boys and girls and their families in caring for these Sears, Roebuck chickens.

D. Forestry -

Forest is undoubtedly the most important crop in Buchanan County. For the past few years, the Agent has had four (4) demonstrations on the improvement of forest stands. He is planning on holding two (2) or three (3) meetings in the county and invite farmers and part time farmers to see what forest improvement is all about. The Agent will use three (3) or four (4) radio broadcasts on the control of forest fires and will invite members of the Virginia Forest Service to put on two or three broadcasts.

The Agent will work closely with Kyle McClanahan, the Chief Forester of Buchanan County in getting as many pine seedlings in the county as possible. The Agent will use his home visits, radio broadcasts and newspaper articles to inform the public of the advantage of reforestation. The Agent will keep order blanks for pine seedlings with him on his home visits - and when a farmer or part time

C. Poultry -

The prepared broilers sold through the A and P, Piggly Wiggly and other local stores has destroyed the broiler market in Buchanan County. A few years ago - it was possible to sell frying chickens to the local stores and to the urban families. No more will the housewife dress chickens. The egg market in Buchanan County has been affected by eggs being trucked in from the egg producing area - such as the Shannondoah Valley and Washington County Virginia. With the high prices of feed - an egg producer in the county must be very efficient to show a profit, since our eggs must compete with eggs shipped in by truck. The result of the intense competition in the broiler trade and the egg market, has caused numerous farmers and part time farmers in the county to get rid of their flocks.

The Agent believes that it is economical sound for many of the farmers and part time farmers to keep from twenty-five (25) to fifty (50) laying hens. By keeping these hens, and managing them properly - there can be fresh eggs for the table and a few eggs can be sold to their neighbors. There is a big demand for fresh eggs by the family - who do not keep chickens. The Agent is recommending that the farmers and part time farmers order

The Agent is working to try to get more cows owned by the part time farmers in the county. During the prosperous years - 1956 and 1957 - too many of the cow owners sold their cows on the market. It is the conviction of the Agent - that children in the homes have a letter balanced diet when a cow is kept. The Agent is using his radio broadcast, newspaper articles, home visits and office visits to try to educate these one and two cow owners how to prevent mastitis.

The Agent will try to get as many one and two cow owners as possible to use the ASC program to establish new cow pastures.

B. Livestock -

Through the mass communication - the Agent will try to get pastures established - so that more livestock can be kept in the county. One of the big problems in keeping livestock - is producing enough feed to carry them through the winter. Be getting specific information on the producing of corn and hay to the farmers who have enough land - more feed will be produced.

The Agent has advocated for many years that the farmers keep a few head of light cattle over the winter and pasture them out the next spring. This policy will be followed in 1960.

the homes of the 4-H club members. This will be done by having the children take home to their parents bulletins on various subjects.

D. Who Will Cooperate -

The Buchanan County Board of Agriculture has helped formulate the agronomy program. The Soil Conservation and ASC Committee will cooperate in executing the agronomy program for Buchanan County.

The leading farmers in the county who have demonstrations on alfalfa, one hundred bushel an acre corn - and other demonstrations will get the information to their neighbors.

5. MINOR ACTIVITIES -

A. Dairying -

There is only one small dairy of twenty (20) to thirty (30) cows in the county. This dairy is located at the Mountain Mission School. At the Mountain Mission School - the milk is produced - and consumed by the three hundred (300) boys and girls in the school. The County Agent works very closely to help the Mountain Mission with this dairy. He has helped them establish alfalfa and has also assisted them with their breeding program.

- g. In order to reach as many gardeners as possible - the Agent will send home - one of the "Vegetable Gardening in Virginia" bulletins by each of the seven hundred (700) 4-H club members in the county. During the spring of the year, he will also devote five (5) or six (6) radio broadcasts and five (5) or six (6) news articles to - information dealing with gardens.

C. How the Program Will be Gotten to the People and When Each Job Will be Done -

Information on gardens will reach most of the gardeners in the county through the County Agent's radio broadcast and the weekly news article in the local paper. The Radio Station - WNRG - is located at Grundy and covers all of Buchanan County. During the spring and late winter - the weekly radio broadcast consists of information on gardens and other timely subjects. The Virginia Mountaineer has a circulation of twenty-four hundred (2400), mostly in Buchanan County, and there are a lot of response through the Agent's weekly article in the local paper.

The Agent will hold at least six (6) agronomy meetings in the Hurricane and Council area. Soil tests from the tobacco fields will be discussed with the farmers and fertilizer recommended. At these meetings - the County Agent will discuss with the farmers the possibility of increasing their income by raising strawberries.

The Agent will make a special effort to get information on gardens, fertilizer, insect control to all of

- e. An increase in production of all the crops and especially gardens - can be brought about by using up to date methods on control of insects.
- f. Reforestation and improvement of the existing stand of forest is a big problem in the county. At least eighty percent (80%) of the county is now covered by hardwood forest.

B. What Will be Done to Meet These Needs -

- a. The County Agent will use his weekly radio broadcast and the weekly newspaper to point out to the people that the ASC money is available for their use. He will particularly encourage the farmers to sow more new pasture, meadows and fertilize their old pasture.
- b. During the County Agent's visits to homes, he will discuss with the farmers and part time farmers the advantage of having improved pasture for their cows.
- c. At least two (2) circular letters will go out to all of the farmers discussing the advantage of using analysis fertilizer and particularly using all of the money allotted to the county through the ASC program.
- d. The Agent will see all the fertilizer and seed dealers in the county - in fact, he has already done this - and discuss with them the late recommendations on fertilizer and seed from the V. P. I. Experiment Station.
- e. The Agent will work closely with the ASC Office Manager, Soil Conservation Technician, County Forester - to help them develop their programs in the county. The County Agent talks to about one-half of the farmers who visit the ASC office and gives them recommendations in seeding and fertilizing practices.
- f. On visits to the farms - the County Agent will constantly be on the lookout for conditions that can be improved through the Soil Conservation program, the ASC program and the Forestry program. If such conditions exist - he will send the farmers to the ASC office to sign up for their particular practice.

their relief check for buying clothing, school books and other necessities. There was a time in Buchanan County - throught the 1920's - when 15,000 people secured most of their food from farming in the county. Buchanan County can never produce enough food because of the togography of the land to feed the 40,000 people now living in the county. However, with industry and the know how of tilling the soil - a good quantity of food can be produced.

4. ACTIVITIES -

A. Agronomy -

Situation

- a. Since the cows have been taken off the highway, there is not enough improved pasture for the cows in Buchanan County. About one-third of the land which is under cultivation in the county - should be put in permanent pasture. The permanent pastures now in the county needs fertilizer to make them more productive.
- b. The production of small corn acreage in the county can be increased by getting all of the people to use adapted hybrid corn; by using the maximum amount of fertilizer and side dress with nitrate of soda.
- c. All of the \$16,000 ASC money alloted to the county was not used in 1959. This was particaly caused by a high level of employment. When the people are working steadily at the mines, they are inclined to neglect the small farms and depend entirely on money taken in as wages.
- d. Gardening which is one of the largest phases of farming in the county - can be improved by the people using the latest information from the Agricultural Experiment Station.

With an income of only \$383,000.00 from agricultural products, it is evident that income from farms do not amount to much in the economy of Buchanan County. However, this is misleading, since practically every mining family live on a little farm and produce food for their table. The vegetables, milk and fruit produced and consumed in the county is of greater value than the products sold from the county.

There was \$183,000.00 worth of burley tobacco sold from the county in 1959. One of the problems of the County Agent is to get the farmers to produce a better quality product and grade it so that more money can be brought into the county from the tobacco crop. Another big problem of the County Agent - is to educate the people how to keep better lawns and landscape their places properly. Within the next few years - if the people of the county will beautify their homes and clean up some of the unsightly places, Buchanan County is destined to receive a lot of income from the tourist trade.

Along with a good percentage of wealthy people in the county - there is a fringe of poverty. The relief roll in Buchanan County is higher in percentage than many of the agricultural counties in the State of Virginia. One problem of the County Agent - is getting information to these people so that they can produce a larger percentage of their food. They may then use

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twenty-four (24) years he has lived here.

The County Agent is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and an honorary member of the Garden Club.

3. GENERAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE COUNTY -

The income from farm products sold in Buchanan County is only \$383,000.00. The income from mining is several million dollars each year. These two figures show that farming is a very secondary industry in Buchanan County. As stated previously in this report, practically every able bodied man in the county - works in the mines or some industry supported by the mines.

The mining industry at present is at a low ebb - to what it was a few years ago. The leaders in the county are trying to develop a tourist trade in this section. Kentucky and Virginia have appropriated \$100,000.00 each to develop the Breaks of the Cumberland in the edge of Kentucky and the Dickenson and Buchanan County line. There has been considerable development of the park area - and there will be more in the near future. One of the big problems in Buchanan County - is the improvement of homes and getting rid of eye sores such as automobile graveyards, dilapidated cabins and other unsightly places along the highway.

income can produce a lot of their food on their small farms and have the money from wages to spend for other necessities. The latest statistics released for Buchanan County - show that the medium income of families in Buchanan County is only \$2,100.00. This means that one-half of the people in the county must live on an income of \$2,100.00 or less. The relief roll in Buchanan County is far too great. Along side of a lot of poverty - there are people in the county who make enormous income and have all the luxuries anyone can desire.

Looking at the above situation - it is evident that we need a crop that will bring more income to the farmers and part time farmers. Strawberries is beginning to catch on in Buchanan County and several farmers have a small income from selling strawberries.

2. HOW THE COUNTY EXTENSION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED FOR 1960 -

This Plan of Work was developed from information furnished the County Agent by bankers, leading business men, coal operators and farmers. The Agent has also discussed the economy of Buchanan County with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Garden Club, Women's Club and Parent Teachers Association throughout the county. This Plan of Work was also formulated from all experiences the County Agent has had in the county throughout his

produced by small mine operators.

Very few of these small operators are unionized. These small mines pay whatever wages they can afford to pay. Some of the small mines pay from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per day. The large operations now operating in the county - pay union wages from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per day.

The above facts have been given in order to create a picture of the economy of Buchanan County. Although there are a good number of men working in the county, the total income in the county is far below what it was a few years ago. Most of these miners are part time farmers and live on small farms scattered over the county. These part time farmers need information on producing vegetables, truck crops, hay and pasture crops.

Less than ten percent of the people in the county make their living wholly from the farm. These full time farmers are on the south side of the county and are among the four hundred (400) people who have tobacco allotments. Very few of the full time farmers have an income of over \$1,000.00 per year.

The main function of Extension work in Buchanan County is to get information to the part time and full time farmer that will increase the food supply. These people with low

BUCHANAN COUNTY

PLAN OF WORK 1960

S. D. Woods, County Agent

A. ORGANIZATIONS -

1. County Board of Agriculture
2. 4-H Club Council
3. County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs
4. Buchanan County Forestry Committee
5. Buchanan County Key Bankers Association
6. Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee
7. Pasture Improvement Organization
8. ASC County Committee
9. Soil Conservation Committee
10. Buchanan County 4-H Club Center Drive Committee

B. 1. THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTY -

The coal fields were opened up in the early thirties. The County Agent came to Buchanan County in 1936 and the railroads were just being completed in the upper end of the county. When the development was completed - fifteen (15) large tipple mines were loading coal. Five (5) of these tipple mines have worked out and quit dumping coal. Sections of other large mines have been worked out.

During the early 1950's - truck mines began to open in the county. The large coal companies who owned most of the under ground coal - began leasing their coal to small operators. There have been over eight hundred (800) of these small mines opened in the county. About two-thirds of the coal produced in the county - is now

BUCHANAN COUNTY

PLAN OF WORK 1960

S. D. WOODS, COUNTY AGENT

GRUNDY, VIRGINIA