

1960 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

I. COUNTY SITUATION

The Orange County Extension Program is developed with the aid of various special interest groups as they meet from time to time throughout the year.

A. Agronomy

1. Soil Survey

a) Situation

Since the Orange County Progressive Soil Survey is now well underway, local area meetings will be held within two of the areas where the work has advanced sufficiently to include a cross section of the soils of the area. Farmers in the county recognize soil variations and differences in crop response in different situations. However, in most instances, they are unable to determine except by trial and error the adaptability of various crops, liming and fertilizing applications necessary and even the adaptability of crops to a certain area.

b) Objective

To point out the basic differences in soils of a given area, what crops are best adapted for the various soil types and what response can be expected from the various agronomy practices. This will be made available to all farmers in the area and any other interested individuals.

c) Methods

To hold at least 2 area meetings where the Soil Survey has been completed. Specialists of both Extension and SCS are to be used in the area field days.

2. Mechanized Forage Handling Program

a) Situation

Livestock numbers in the area have doubled in the last 20 years. If the trend in livestock numbers in the area continues to increase, adequate quantities of quality forage for winter feeding will become a critical need on many beef and dairy farms. Approximately 23% of all forage harvested is lost due to weather and improper management practices.

b) Objective

To show various methods of handling forage to maintain quality and increase efficiency. All farmers and interested individuals in the area will be invited to attend.

c) Methods

An all day meeting will be scheduled for farmers in the area and for others who might be interested. Agencies and organizations will be asked to participate, with specialists taking the leading part. The first meeting will be held early in the year, with a follow-up tour in the fall to farms in the area having up-to-date methods of feeding forage to livestock.

3. Crop Varieties

a) Situation

Generally seed dealers do not recommend specific varieties of field crops in absence of a recommended list, and farmers also rely quite heavily on recommended lists of crops for this area. Prepared recommended lists have been received favorably by both farmers and seed dealers.

b) Objectives

Prepare a list of recommended field crops for this area.

c) Method

Mail a prepared leaflet to all farmers, agencies and organizations in the county, particularly those organizations having contact with the people.

4. Lime and Fertilizer

a) Situation

The ASC Program in the county distributes \$60,900, which largely goes for lime and fertilizer, and approximately another 45% in addition to this is matched by the cooperating farmer.

b) Objective

To assist the farmer in every way possible to see that this material is profitably and wisely used.

c) Method

Work closely with ASC County and State officials in

making recommendations for lime, seed and fertilizer.

B. Beef Cattle

1. Situation

Although there may be some slight decrease in beef cattle numbers in the next 2 to 3 years due to high cattle numbers throughout the country, the long-time trend in beef cattle in the county appears to be one of a gradual increase. This will mean that income from beef cattle will be relatively more important in the future than at the present time. It is from this standpoint that our producers feel that we should not lose sight of a sound breeding and marketing program.

2. Goals

- a) Increase consignments in our local feeder calf sale by at least 300 calves over 1959.
- b) Have at least 6 production tested sires head commercial cow herds during the year.

Continue to stress the importance of a production testing program for beef producers, whether it be in the BCIA Program, a breed sponsored program, or a modification of these programs where a producer can do essentially the same thing by a simplified record keeping on rate of gain and confirmation of individual animals by tracing sires through the feeder calf sales.

3. Methods

- a) Supply each county feeder calf committeeman with detailed information on feeder calf sales in order that they may

be in a position to interest additional breeders whenever the opportunity presents itself on a year around basis.

Set up tentative goals on an area basis, so that the committee members and others interested can contact prospective consignors in their immediate vicinity.

Start local publicity through press, letters, and through personal contact during May, June and July in order to give a new consignor sufficient time to not only make his decision but to have his herd tested and calves vaccinated and other necessary requirements in order to meet the specifications of the sale.

- b) Publicize and otherwise distribute information on sales of production tested sires and refer producers to those already participating in the program. Make tours of feeding trial stations where production testing is in progress.

#### C. Dairy Cattle

##### 1. Situation

Dairymen continue to experience difficulty in the control of Mastitis. Federal authorities have threatened to take drastic action against dairymen who continue to permit antibiotics to contaminate milk and milk products.

The Orange County DHIA is not large enough to keep one DHIA supervisor busy throughout the month.

##### 2. Goal

- a) To make every dairyman in the county aware of the situation relative to antibiotics.

b) Increase membership in the Association by at least 5.

3. Methods

a) Cooperate fully with the Virginia Mastitis Control Program by distributing to farmers all information prepared by the State organization in cooperation with this program. Inform dairymen by letter and at meetings of the progress being made in eliminating antibiotics in dairy products.

b) Personal contacts with perspective dairymen. Also have supervisor call on these individuals as well as a member of the Dairy Committee or a member of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Explain and show perspective members the type of records that will result from membership in the Association and the various ways in which the records can be used to produce more income for the farm.

D. 4-H Club Work

1. Situation

There are 7 4-H Clubs organized in the county schools, with an enrollment of 220 boys.

Special interest clubs are functioning, these being The Baby Beef Club, The Market Hog Club, The Jr. Broiler Growers and the Orange County Dairy Club. Tractor Maintenance Club members are active in other projects but are not set up as special interest clubs, such as, Electric, Breeding Hogs, Entomology, Garden, Commercial Broiler Growers, Small Fruits, Forestry and Safety. A Light Horse and Pony Club is in its organizational stage.

The County Council is scheduled to meet quarterly.

2. Goal

To have at least 250 members enrolled with 80% completion.

3. Methods to Be Used

- a) Visit each club member at least once during the year and at other times as the need arises.
- b) Enlist the cooperation and interest of the parents.
- c) Enlist the aid of the banks and other business organizations in providing financial aid to the more outstanding members.
- d) Have more local leader activity.
- e) Continue to use Project Committees and organize additional ones.
- f) Use older members as Junior Project Leaders.
- g) Encourage members who are capable of carrying more than one project to do so.
- h) Require each club member to complete at least one project to continue in 4-H Club work.
- i) Have members exhibit their projects at local, area and State fairs.
- j) Publicize outstanding achievements of individual 4-H Club members by use of newspaper and radio.
- k) Enter outstanding records of members in State Achievement Contests.
- l) Have Judging Teams compete in District Contests.
- m) Have demonstrations given in District Contests.

- n) Continue social activities, placing responsibility for planning and conducting on the 4-H members rather than on the agent.
- o) Hold club meetings each month at the schools.
- p) Continue and strengthen special interest clubs.
- q) Have club members attend Short Course and Summer Camps.

E. Individual Project Objectives and Goals

1. Dairy

Encourage all club members with dairy animals to attend meetings of the newly formed Dairy Club.

Encourage Dairy Club members to exhibit animals at the Orange County School Fair, the Northern Virginia 4-H Dairy Show, the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair and the Atlantic Rural Exposition.

Hold educational and interesting Dairy Club meetings.  
Develop a representative Dairy Judging Team.

2. Poultry

Have at least 10 club members enter the Jr. Broiler Growers Contest and carry it to a successful completion.

Have 4 club members carry out the Jr. Commercial Broiler Growers Contest to a successful completion.

Promote and encourage efficient methods of poultry production so that the club may be represented in the State Contest.

Develop a representative Poultry Judging Contest.

3. Beef Projects

Have 18 members complete the Baby Beef project.

Have at least one member exhibit a steer at the Atlantic Rural Exposition.

Encourage the members to purchase purebred breeding stock for their heifer projects and beef herd projects.

Encourage the Baby Beef Club members to raise or purchase purebred steers that will grade in the two top grades with proper feeding and management.

Train a representative Livestock Judging Team.

4. Market Hogs

Have 30 club members complete the Market Hog Project and enter them in the Orange Area Market Hog Show & Sale.

Aid the members to raise or purchase good meat-type hogs that will grade US#1.

5. Breeding Pigs

Have club members select meat-type breeding stock that will meet market demands.

Have club members set up their breeding schedules permitting sows to farrow so that the pigs will be the right age for the Orange Area Market Hog Show & Sale.

Encourage members to purchase registered gilts and those who have grade sows to purchase purebred boars and to develop their projects into a paying business, using these practices.

Continue with the Sears-Roebuck Pig Chain.

6. Rural Electrification

Have 170 members complete the Electric project, with demonstrations to be given by the Virginia Electric and Power

Company representatives.

Have a field trip to observe Electricity in use.

Send two members to the Electric Congress in Richmond, Virginia.

7. Tractor Maintenance

Conduct Tractor Maintenance course with cooperation of all Implement Dealers in Orange.

End Tractor Maintenance Program with an Operators' Contest and send the winning boys to the District Contest.

8. Garden

Have 40 boys complete the Garden project and have members take soil samples.

9. Forestry

Have 10 members plant a minimum of 500 seedlings each.

10. Safety

Stress in all 4-H Club work SAFETY. Also have a Safety project as a special project in order that members will learn to use safety precautions.

F. Club Activity Objectives and Goals

1. Send at least 15 boys to the 4-H Club Camp at Holladay Lake.
2. Have a 4-H County Achievement Day Program.
3. Hold a "Share-the-Fun" Program.
4. Have a county-wide picnic.
5. Have a full quota of delegates attend the Short Course.
6. Have a banquet for Baby Beef exhibitors, parents and guests.
7. Have a banquet for the Orange Area Market Hog Show & Sale group.

8. Have a barbeque and auction for the Jr. Broiler Growers.
9. Plant a 1,000 tree Forestry Demonstration Plot.
10. Promote some social functions throughout the year to hold interest of older 4-H Club members.
11. Encourage members to purchase "4-H Club Member Lives Here" signs for home and farm entrances.
12. Have two clubbers attend Senior 4-H Club Camp at Holladay Lake.
13. Have County Council Meeting every quarter.