

PLAN OF WORK

Name of County - King George

Year 1955

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1955 PLAN OF WORK FOR KING GEORGE COUNTY

1. Description of County:

King George County is located at the Northwestern area of the Northern Neck Area of Virginia. A small county, having 180 square miles, and consisting of 585 farms. The total land area in farms consists of 76,993 acres with 24,172 acres cropland, 6,748 acres pasture and 46,821 acres in farm woodland.

Elevations are generally from 100-200 feet above sea level. Temperatures average 36° in January, 77° in July, precipitation around 40 inches annually. The past three years precipitation has been running around 50% of normal during the growing season and below normal for the year. This has brought on the problem of water shortage on many of the farms and rural homes in the county.

2. The livestock and crop producers in the county are faced with a much greater financial problem than they have had for some time. They have witnessed three consecutive years of drought and on the majority of the farms this has meant a reduction in farm income to about 40% normal. On many crop enterprise farms the reduction in farm income is much greater.

The drought that prevailed in the county during 1954 created a problem among agricultural workers on the local level. A lot of hard feeling is created on such a program as the National Drought Disaster when it is restricted to such a small area as a county boundary. It is hoped that we never have such a drought again, but, in the event we do, the size of the area be greatly increased.

3. The County Extension Program was developed by the Extension Advisory Committee, who represent most segments of agriculture in the county. This group consist of eight farmers, Agricultural Instructor and the County Agent. A planning meeting was held in February outlining the major activities for the coming year. The group suggested that general method demonstration meetings be held monthly with speakers on current agricultural recommendations and problems affecting farmers in the county. Listed are some of the planned meetings and demonstrations to be established for the coming year. A tour of these demonstrations will be conducted in July or August.

- January 1955 - Swine Disease - Dr. Wake, Assistant State Veterinarian.
- February 1955 - New Bang's Program - Dr. Lambeth, Assistant State Veterinarian
- March 1955 - Corn and Soybean Production, Houston Camper, Superintendent, Tidewater Experiment Station
- April 1955 - Alfalfa Insect and Spray Program, Extension Entomologist
- June 1955 - County Home Demonstration Activities - Home Agent
- July 1955 - County Tour of the following demonstrations:

1. Renovated Pasture
2. Summer Pasture
3. Corn under irrigation
4. Pasture under irrigation
5. Alfalfa seeding in small grain
6. Forest Stand Improvement
7. Soybean Varietal Demonstration
8. Land Appreciation
9. Farm Building and Livestock Management
10. Phase of Home Demonstration Activities

October 1955 - What State Services Do We Want and How Shall We Pay For Them, D. V. Livermore

November 1955 - Forest Improvement and Tree Planting, F. W. Patton

December 1955 - Outlook Meeting - Dr. H. N. Love

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES 1955

I. NEW BANG'S PROGRAM

A. Situation

There are approximately 70 cattle farmers in the county with only 7 who are following a health program projected toward the establishment of a Bang free or certified herds. For the past four years an Extension program has been conducted with the aid of the local veterinarian in getting a large number of herd owners to vaccinate replacement heifers at four to eight months of age. With the Federal and State Government joining hands in promoting a National Program directed toward controlling Bangs disease, many of the farmers in the county will be ready to start with Plan A during the year without worrying too much about an economic loss..

B. Goal

1. Continue to educate and encourage more cattle producers to start vaccinating replacement heifers.
2. To urge cattle producers who have been vaccinating heifers in the past, to go ahead with Plan A and certification of herds.

C. Method To Be Used:

1. To discuss New Bangs Program with Planning Committee.
2. The Agent will be responsible for getting the State Veterinarian or Local Veterinarian to county meeting of farmers explaining the New Program.

3. The Agent along with Planning Committee to be responsible for scheduling work for Veterinarian on group basis for testing and vaccinating.

4. To use the local newspaper, radio station, farm organization, circular letters, individual contacts as media for a program of action.

5. Testing of cattle will start after calving season, March and April, with vaccinating of heifer replacements commencing in July and continuing through the year.

6. The tentative goal set by the Planning Committee and the Agent has been 40% of the herds on some phase of the Bang's Program during the year.

II. FOREST CONSERVATION

A. Situation

About 60% of the land area in the county is in farm woodland. At the present time there are 14 saw mills operating in the county providing employment for many local people. More farmers have turned to the farm woodland for needed capital for indebtedness and operating expenses.

It is certainly true many of the farm woodland owners and saw mill operators look upon the forest resources as the "forgotten acres" and every effort has been made by the Agent to visit landowners and saw mill operators to correct this constant exploitation of the forest resources in the county.

B. Goal

The immediate recognized need is a strong educational program that will reach the farm woodland owners to start a re-forestation and forest replacement program immediately after harvest.

C. Method to Be Used:

1. The Agent will continue individual farm visits where timber is being harvested, urging re-forestation with seedlings.

2. The Agent will need the assistance of Extension Forester in February and November for educational meeting with Young Farmers Club and Farm Bureau Organization.

3. The Agent will establish five demonstrations on the use of chemicals in controlling undesirable species of trees where spot planting of seedling has been started.

4. The Agent will include forest conservation demonstration in a planned county wide tour to be held in July or August.

5. Efforts will be made to organize farmers who have been doing some phase of forest conservation practices into a county forestry club. This will be done in November with the help of Extension Forester, Virginia Forest Service and local business.

III. AGRONOMY ACTIVITIES

A. Situation

Corn, soybeans, small grain and alfalfa hay represent roughly 2/5 of the total agricultural income in the County. Under normal growing conditions, the average yield on the majority of the best farms in the county is considerably above the state average yield.

B. Goals

The immediate need of all these crops is to continue with the educational program on varieties and fertilization. With alfalfa the need exists for special insect control measures and an increase in the acreage on many of the livestock farms.

C. Method To Be Used:

1. The Agent will conduct two fertilization demonstrations on corn production under irrigation.
2. The Agent will conduct three separate soybean demonstrations using the early, medium and late maturing varieties.
3. The assistance of Extension Agronomist is needed during March for a general discussion on fertilization and varieties for corn and soybean production.
4. The assistance of Extension Entomologist will be needed in April for discussion on insect feeding on alfalfa and spray control measures.
5. To establish two demonstrations on the seeding of alfalfa in small grain during the spring seeding period.
6. To establish one demonstration introducing grain sorghum.
7. The Assistance of Extension Agronomist will be needed in July or August for a planned county wide tour.
8. To continue with two pasture fertilization demonstrations sponsored by Plant Food Institute.
9. To establish one demonstration introducing Coastal Bermuda Grass.
10. To work closely with ASC and SCS on General Agronomic problems

offering assistance on fertilization, seed mixtures, soil samples and rotation.

IV. LIVESTOCK

I. Goal

A. To promote better livestock in the county through the use of purebred sires.

a. Increase the sheep flock on beef cattle farms.

B. Method To Be Used:

1. To notify farmers of purebred livestock sales.

2. To assist with selection

3. To encourage farmers to improve the quality of hogs by purchasing purebreds from 4-H Club Pig Chain Members.

4. To encourage more beef producers to add sheep as a supplemental livestock enterprise.

II. A. To assist with marketing and disease control.

B. Goal - To promote Feeder Calf Sale and livestock management practices.

C. Method To Be Used:

1. To encourage the Feeder Calf Sale

2. To emphasize the importance of quality

3. To encourage the use of preventative vaccines.

4. To assist with dehorning, castrating, internal and external parasite control and vaccinating.

V. 4-H CLUB WORK

1. Situation

The County 4-H Club received tremendous help in having the service of a Home Agent for the first time in the County. Her work with the youth during the three months in the county has already shown very promising results in organization, project and enrollment.

The first joint effort of both Agents has been the organization of a 4H Club County Council who have met twice and selected the following goals for the coming year.

2. Goals listed for each Month

A. March - Observe National 4 H Club Week

1. 4H Radio Program
2. Conduct fund raising campaign
3. Display of National Posters

B. May - Observe National 4 H Sunday

1. Special Church Bulletin to be distributed to County Ministers.
2. Club Members to appear on Church Program
3. Participate in the Spring School Fair
4. Assist with a Forestry Educational Exhibit at Fair

June - County to be represented at State Short Course

July - 20% 4H Members represented at 4H Camp

September - 1. To strive for 100% completion of records

2. Greater participation in Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair.

Other Goals listed:

1. To participate in County tree planting Program
2. To continue with Sear's Pig Contest
3. To participate in Baby Beef Show and Sale
4. To establish a local pig chain with local bank and farm organization.
5. To plan a 4H rally day to be held in the Fall.
6. To assist with handicraft project with Potomac Elementary Group.
7. To assist with health project with Shiloh and King George Group.

3. Method To Be Used

A - Through County 4 H Club Council, Club Members and Parents.

- B. Through subject matter bulletins.
- C. Through Club Programs built around project work.

V. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

This phase of Extension Work in King George County will be introduced to the people for the first time this year due to the fact that the County did not have a home demonstration Agent until recently and the extension program has been unbalanced.

After a special training school held at V.P.I. Blacksburg in December 1954 for extension workers, the cooperating agents of the County decided that an effort would be made to introduce this new phase of extension work to a selected group of families. The number of families involved will be limited since the present County Agents will supervise this phase of the extension program without additional extension personnel.

At a program planning meeting in February, an explanation of the Farm and Home Development phase of the extension program was given by the agents to the Adult Planning Committee. This Committee recommended the following:

1. That the Agents conduct the Farm and Home Development Phase on a county basis.
2. That the farm family selection would represent the various types of farm families in the County.

After much consideration, the Committee selected the following farm families: three full time farmers; three part time farmers who supplement their income by working at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, which was originally a part of King George County and two tenant farmers.

The procedures which will be used by the Agents are:

1. **Separate** inventories will be made for the farm and for the home. After a study of these inventories, the Agents will assist the families in setting up objectives which will lead to better rural living. At this time, the families will determine what goals can be accomplished in 1955. Plans and procedures for reaching these goals will be developed to fit the individual situation.
2. Joint visits on the part of the County Agents will be made periodically to the homes and farms for the purpose of offering alternatives; supplying information and giving technical assistance on problems related to the family unit.
3. A meeting of all families involved will be held. At this time an explanation of plans and procedures used in conducting this phase of the extension program will be given. Further meetings will be held as the need for such arises.

4. A complete file on each family worked with will be maintained through out the year.

5. A training meeting will be held for these families on Keeping Farm and Home Records. A Specialist from V.P.I. Blacksburg will assist the Agents with this meeting.

6. County Agency personnel will assist individual families on problems related to their field of work as need for such arises.