

Have as many club members as possible participate in shows, and on judging teams etc.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Farm and Home Development Program:

(a) Goal:

At least 25 cooperators in program.

(b) Methods:

Set up committee from several commodity organizations to select these families to participate in program.

Farm and Home Agent make personal visits to families, analyze present operation and set up new program.

(b) Methods of Overcoming Problems:

1. New plantings of orchards in new locations and in new varieties.
2. Encourage increase production of the higher grade apples.
3. Hold two joint meetings of Amherst-Nelson fruit growers and discuss ways and means of producing and better fruit.

D. FORESTRY

(a) Goal:

Encourage reforestation of cut-over woodlands.
Sponsor 5 reforestation demonstrations in county.

(b) Methods:

Reforestation demonstrations in planting seedlings and thinning undesirable trees.

(c) General Educational Activities

Educate farmers with fact that timber cruisers are available from the Forest Service and Extension Division.

Newspaper articles on good forestry practices.

E. 4-H CLUB WORK

(a) Goal:

Cooperate with Home Demonstration Agent and Assistant Agent of county in promoting 4-H Club Work in the County.

Attempt to increase enrollment and project completions.

(b) Method:

Assist with 4-H Club meetings and visit 4-H Club members as often as possible.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Give publicity to any special 4-H club activity through newspaper articles.

(b) Methods:

Encourage home-grown dairy rations.
Encourage milk producers to build proper barns to enable them to participate in a higher grade market.
Urge 100% participation in livestock health program.
Encourage use of only registered bulls.

(c) General educational activities:

Circular letters, newspaper articles etc. giving timely information on dairy production.

4. Sheep

(a) Goal:

Establish 5 additional flocks in county.
Improve quality of wool marketed.
Hold Spring Lamb Sale for Amherst and adjacent counties.
Sponsor purebred Ram Sale to be held in Lynchburg for the convenience of 17 counties in this area.

(b) Method:

Cooperate with the Livestock specialists in sponsoring sale and secure consignments from State purebred sheep breeders.

(c) General Educational Activities

Circularize farmers before sheep shearing time giving information on preparation of wool for market.

Newspaper articles on sheep production and the production of clean wool.

C. HORTICULTURE

(a) Some problems:

1. A variety of peaches that will suit time and market.
2. Drought and hurricanes cutting down yield.
3. To have enough to each grade of each variety to refill orders.
4. Location of orchard on individual farm.



E. LIVESTOCK

1. Feeder Calf Program

(a) Goals:

Spring Beef Calf Sale
Fall Feeder Calf Sale
Lower percentage of cattle in sales grading Medium.

(b) Methods:

Encourage better quality cattle for sale through:
(1) Educational program on Bangs Disease control;
(2) Dehorning and castrating demonstrations.
Encourage more farmers to participate in Feeder Calf Sales.
Encourage creep feeding of calves for sales if pastures are short.
Furnish information on grain mixtures for creep feeding.
Encourage replacement of inferior or grade bulls.
Cull inferior and shy breeders and cows which are low milk producers.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Publicize regulations for feeder calf sale.
Enlist cooperation of State Division of Markets.
Extension Division Specialists and farmers who purchase feeder calves and livestock dealers.

2. Purebred Beef Cattle:

(a) Goal:

Improve quality of beef producing characteristics of herds in the county.

(b) Method

Dispose of bulls and breeding cows whose progeny does not improve quality of beef cattle.

3. Dairy Cattle:

(a) Goal:

Establish control program for Bangs Disease in the County.
Assist in establishing county organization to take advantage of State and Federal program to calfhood vaccinate all females between the ages of 4 and 8 months for Brucellosis.

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3. Corn:

(a) Goal:

Strive for at least 65 bushels per acre as average yield for county.

(b) Methods:

1. Use recommended, proven hybrid varieties for county.
2. Fertilize corn liberally, using not less than 600 pounds per acre of a complete fertilizer.
3. Increase stalks per acre to 14,000 or 16,000.
4. Oats or Barley recommended to follow in crop rotation due to high cost of producing wheat.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Sponsor 100 Bushel Corn Contest if sufficient interest to justify.

Give publicity to recommended varieties for county.

4. Tobacco:

(a) Goal:

Increase yield per acre from 1200 pounds to 2,000 pounds per acre if possible.

(b) Methods:

1. Increase number of tobacco plants per acre.
2. Three-year rotation for tobacco fields: Tobacco, small grain; red clover-orchard grass hay mixture.
3. Apply complete fertilizer and use as much manure as possible on tobacco shift.
4. Control insect pests by use of chemical sprays.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Publish information on radio, TV and newspapers on Plantbed management, insect control, etc.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

A. AGRONOMY:

1. Alfalfa:

(a) Goal: (for dairymen especially)

Seed sufficient alfalfa to produce at least 1½ tons of hay for each cow during winter feeding and milking period.

(b) Methods:

1. Seed alfalfa according to standard procedure furnished by county agent's office.
2. Before considering seeding alfalfa, plan ahead for power spraying equipment. Alfalfa is not an economical crop unless the insect pests can be controlled. The three pests already in county are: Spittlebug; Alfalfa Aphids and Alfalfa Weevil.
3. Prior to seeding alfalfa, soil samples should be taken at least 6 months ahead of time to determine the lime and fertilizer needs for the crop.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Newspaper publicity on best time and method of seeding alfalfa. Also publish insect control information.

2. Pastures:

(a) Goal:

At least 2½ acres of well fertilized and limed pasture per animal unit on the farm.

(b) Method:

1. Take soil samples to determine the amount of lime and plant food needed.
2. Set up three to four year fertilizing program. Meet requirements set up by the ASC Office in their Agricultural Conservation program of the county.

(c) General Educational Activities:

Newspaper articles on importance of good pastures. At least one TV Show on pastures.

PLAN OF WORK

FOR AMHERST COUNTY

O. B. ROSS, COUNTY AGENT

1956