

June

1. Participate in Senior 4-H Camp.
2. Participate in State 4-H Short Course.
3. 4-H Lamb Show & Sale.
4. Sell and take up wool.
5. Assist with lamb pool.
6. Tazewell Stocker Ewe Sale.
7. Send delegates to TVA Camp at Fontana Dam.

July

1. Operate county sheep dipping program.
2. Take feeder calf consignments.
3. Get a group to attend annual meeting of TVA test demonstration farm families at Sheffield, Alabama.
4. Hold 4-H leadership event.

August

1. Participate in Junior 4-H Camp.
2. Junior Market Hog Show at Bristol.
3. Prepare for County Agricultural Fair.
4. Hold Soil Conservation Cooperators' barbecue.
5. Emory Field Day.
6. Select baby beeves.
7. Army Reserve Camp.

September

1. Russell County Fair.
2. Organize 4-H clubs.
3. Atlantic Rural Exposition.
4. Visit Feeder Calf Consigners.

October

1. Hold 4-H County Council Meeting.
2. Hold tobacco plant bed weed control demonstrations.
3. Feeder Calf and Yearling Sales.

November

1. Hold tobacco grading demonstrations.
2. Annual report.
3. Bull Sales - Select Purebred Sires.

VIII. CALENDAR OF WORK

December, 1958

1. Raise money for the 4-H Center.
2. Hold baby beef tour.
3. Hold 4-H Achievement Day.

January, 1959

1. Attend State Soil Conservation District Supervisors' Meeting.
2. Organize soils program.
3. Hold annual meeting of Artificial Breeders Association.
4. Hold annual meeting of D.H.I.A.
5. Attend State Dairyman's Convention.
6. Get footrot eradication program started.

February

1. Attend Communications School.
2. Requisition spring TVA fertilizer.
3. Hold 4-H tractor school
4. Conduct drive for 4-H Center fund raising.
5. Attend annual feeder calf meeting.
6. Hold meeting of Russell County Feeder Calf Producers.

March

1. Set-up IBM records with two TVA demonstrators.
2. Apply fertilizer to alfalfa plots.
3. Hold agronomy school.
4. Make plans for Tazewell Ewe Sale.
5. Get out agronomy letter.
6. Soils program - take monoliths.

April

1. Hold 4-H Talent Show.
2. Hold 4-H Baby Beef Show in County.
3. Train 4-H Judging Team.
4. Hold 4-H County Council Meeting.
5. Publicize and attend annual meeting of Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association.
6. Inject steers on test with stilbestrol.
7. District Baby Beef Show.

May

1. 4-H Lamb Show & Sale.
2. 4-H Judging Contest.
3. Work on thistle control demonstrations.
4. Hold a TVA farm tour.
5. Hold field meetings on soils.
6. Get lambs on feed for 4-H fat lamb projects.

2. Work as closely as possible with the Soil Conservation Service personnel.

3. Educate farmers as to the advantages of good soil and water conservation practices.

C. Forestry Service

1. Encourage and aid farmers in getting and planting more tree seedlings.

2. Cooperate with State Foresters in every way possible and use them in the forestry educational program.

3. Take requests for timber estimating jobs and contact foresters.

D. Farmers Home Administration & Other Credit Agencies

1. Stay abreast of the credit situation so as to be able to advise farmers as to the wisest use of credit.

2. Cooperate fully with personnel of farm credit organizations.

layers and point out the hazards as well as the virtues.

b. Use letters, radio, and press to better inform the producers and others.

D. Russell County Fair

1. Assist with agricultural and educational phases of the Fair.

2. Assist farmers in readying exhibits for the Fair.

3. Arrange facilities for making and accommodating exhibits.

4. Serve as secretary and on Advisory Council of the Fair Association.

VII. Cooperation with Other Agencies

A. Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation

1. Serve as ex-office member of the county committee, and attend all meetings.

2. Use every method possible to educate farmers as to the ASC and ACP programs and how to better use them.

3. Cooperate with the committee and the office manager on everything possible.

B. Soil Conservation Service

1. Serve as secretary of the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

2. Goals

- a. Make available farm building plans and publicize that we furnish them.
- b. To request specialist help when needed.
- c. To have at least 25 new silos built this year. Will push the bunker type.

3. Methods

- a. Work individually with farmers as much as possible on building problems.
- b. Write news articles and stories on buildings this year.
- c. Plan to look at some good buildings and silos on tours.

C. Poultry

1. Situation

Most of the poultry is raised for home use. There is room for expansion in egg production to some degree. The near-by coal-field market is generally good.

2. Goals

- a. To expand and encourage laying hen business wherever feasible.
- b. Provide more information on poultry.
- c. To work with the existing egg producers more closely.

3. Methods

- a. Visit farmers that can expand or put in

- d. To work closely with new and old demonstrators on records.
- e. To cooperate in the Valley-wide Meeting of TVA Test Demonstration Farm Families and encourage several to go.
- f. To ask the local Association for a donation , toward the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center.
- g. To send two delegates to the Fontana Camp.
- h. To encourage attendance to the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association meeting and the Emory Field Day.
- i. To work more closely with these farmers on crop and farm management.

3. Methods

- a. Use Board of Directors in the selection of new farms.
- b. Cooperate with the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District on tours and other things.
- c. Work more individually with these farmers and the solving of their problems and trying new things.
- d. Have all demonstrators do a complete job of soil testing on their farms.

B. Farm Buildings

1. Situation

Farmers in general are in need of better planning when building or remodeling farm buildings. More silos are needed to increase feed supply.

8. All County Council meetings (fall and spring) will be pre-planned with officers and leaders. These meetings will be used to train officers in their duties, and ways and means of carrying out objectives.
9. Cooperation of rural ministers will be secured in the observance of Rural Life Sunday. Ministers will be urged to have 4-H members participate in the service.
10. Extension personnel and County Council officers will work closely with the county newspaper editor in securing news coverage for 4-H events on county, state, and national levels.

VI. Minor Project Activities

A. TVA-Extension

1. Situation

At present there are eighteen unit test demonstration farmers in the county. This is two short of the quota of twenty. During the present fiscal year, Russell County was allotted 140 tons of test demonstration fertilizer.

2. Goals

- a. To hold an annual meeting of demonstration farmers and wives.
- b. To hold at least two farm tours.
- c. To add two farms to the program by September.

thirty minutes of instruction. As many members as possible will be visited during the year to check on progress of project.

2. Each member will receive a record book and will be instructed on the importance and methods of keeping it, in order to do a good job in 4-H work. The instruction time of one meeting will be set aside to instruct on project record books.

3. Judging teams in Livestock, Dairy, and Land Appreciation will be trained in special conducted meetings on Saturdays and on field trips.

4. Members will be enrolled in baby beef projects early. Standards of feeding and management will be given by letter and calves will be visited monthly by the agents. Fitting schools and tours will be held to maintain interest and to instruct the members on how to do the best job.

5. Committees will be selected to plan and construct educational booths for the County Fair.

6. The "Share-the-Fun" Talent Show will be planned far enough in advance to have each club prepare one or more talent acts to present at their 4-H meeting. The top act from each club will be given at the county show.

7. Delegates to Short Course, Conservation Camp, Forestry Camp, and TVA Camp will be selected on the basis of age, leadership, project work, interest, and ability.

junior leader or sponsor.

3. Every club sponsor one recreational event where leaders and parents assist.
 4. Have 90% completion of projects with records turned in.
 5. Observe National 4-H Club Week and 4-H Club Sunday.
 6. Sponsor a County Baby Beef Show.
 7. Raise as much money as possible for the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center.
 8. Each club member make an exhibit of project work at the County Agricultural Fair. Have at least 10 clubs put up educational exhibits.
 9. Club members participate in out-of-county livestock shows open for participation.
 10. Sponsor county-wide money making activities for county 4-H Council.
 11. Have maximum participation in District 4-H Camp, State Short Course, Achievement Day, Conservation Camp, and Forestry Camp.
 12. Hold a "Share-the-Fun" Talent Show.
 13. Each club have 100% of its officers attend County 4-H Council meetings.
 14. Have more contest participation.
- C. Methods of Accomplishing Goals
1. Each 4-H club will be met once each month. A ten minute program will be presented by the members and the agent will give approximately

month in the schools. There is one livestock club which meets at night. This club is made up of older boys who are interested in livestock production.

This year three group projects were offered to the 4-H clubs. Each club selected one project. These projects were Electric, Safety, and Soil & Water Conservation. The Electric and Safety projects were about evenly divided, with one senior club taking Soil & Water Conservation.

The most popular projects with Russell County boys are Electricity, Garden, and Livestock. The county is becoming more urbanized and many of the boys living in urban and in the coal mining sections of the county are unable to take Livestock projects, and are, therefore, taking projects such^{as} Electricity, Garden, and related projects which do not require the use of any or much land.

Although most of the clubs meet in the schools during the school hours, adult leaders do a great deal in keeping the program working from month to month. In many cases the teachers in the school are active leaders. In addition, there are several All-Stars and other former 4-H members and leaders who work with the 4-H clubs.

B. 4-H Objectives

1. Work for quality and not quantity of work.
2. Every club have an active adult leader and

3. Burley Tobacco

a. Situation

Weed control methods in plant beds are inefficient on a lot of farms. Yields are comparatively low on some farms. Many farmers are using old varieties that are not good yielders. Emphasis on grading has been slack during the last few selling seasons.

b. Goals

1. To get out fertilization information in agronomy.
2. To hold weed control demonstrations on at least two plant beds.
3. Hold at least two grading demonstrations in the fall.
4. To work with some low producers individually.

c. Methods

1. Send out agronomy letter.
2. Invite farmers to plant bed and grading demonstrations.
3. Use press and radio whenever possible.
4. Get out information on insect control.

IV. 4-H Club Program

A. Situation

There are 571 boys enrolled in 28 clubs in the county. All except one of these clubs meet each

of economical silos such as bunkers.

(6). Make full use of press and radio and make as many personal contacts as possible.

2. Soils Program

a. Situation

Most farmers have very little information on the soils on their farms and are not using their soils to best advantage. Far too few soil samples are being taken and analyzed. No 4-H land appreciation team has been trained in the past.

b. Goal

(1). To increase the number of soil samples taken by 300.

(2). To educate as many farmers as possible as to the soils they have and how to use them.

(3). To train a 4-H land appreciation team.

c. Methods

(1) Organize a county soils program.

(2) Hold meetings of professional workers and farmers on soils.

(3) Make soils testing equipment available to farmers in each community by placing them in seed and fertilizer stores.

(4) Publicize program through press and radio, etc.

b. Goals

- (1). To increase corn and grass silage by 20%.
- (2). To increase alfalfa acreage by 1000 acres.
- (3). To put out two alfalfa topdressing demonstrations. (Fertilizer & Heptachlor)
- (4). To encourage more pasture fertilization and seeding of alfalfa and orchard grass, fescue, and ladino clover.
- (5). To enter the 12 months forage plan contest in an attempt to make farmers more forage conscious.
- (6). Strive to get farmers to fertilize more heavily on all crops to improve yield.

c. Methods

- (1). Send out an agronomy letter carrying recommendations on fertilizer and seed on all crops to all farmers.
- (2). Encourage farmers through radio, press, and personal contact to make full use of the ACP funds.
- (3). Work with John Shoulders and Jack Rowell of the VPI Agronomy Department in putting out the alfalfa fertilization plots.
- (4). Encourage farmers to grow less corn and clean cultivated crops and divert more of this land to alfalfa and other permanent grasses and legumes.
- (5). Aid farmers in planning the construction

The disease that causes the most trouble is brucellosis in cattle. This is the disease that we will work most with this year.

2. Goals

- a. To get all the cows in Russell County tested under the federal program.
- b. To have a significant increase in the number of heifer calves vaccinated with Strain 19.

3. Methods

- a. Get names of all farmers with cows to be tested and turn over to the veterinary force.
- b. Write circular letters and news articles to push the vaccination program.

D. Agronomy

1. Feed Supply

a. Situation

It has been brought out in committee meetings that ordinarily the feed supply of the county is about 75% of what it should be. It has been pointed out that only a relatively small proportion of the pasture land has been fertilized. Only a small percentage of the farmers use silage. An increase here would improve quality and quantity of forage for feed. Alfalfa acreage still needs to be increased on the uplands that should come out of rotation. Alfalfa as a whole is not top-dressed correctly or often enough.

2. Goals

a. To get at least four more Grade A herds on DHIA testing and six Grade C herds on Owner-Sampler or Weigh-A-Day-A-Month.

b. Locate replacement calves and springing heifers in northern Virginia and other places for farmers to buy. Also try to get a local man to act as dealer.

c. To decrease the incidence of mastitis.

d. To work toward better feeding and greater efficiency in feeding.

e. Get 500 cows bred artificially.

3. Methods

a. Contact Grade A producers personally about testing.

b. Work with Extension specialists and direct in finding replacement heifers. Go with farmers and select replacements.

c. Hold barn meetings and through all publicity media available educate farmers on how to handle cows to lessen mastitis.

d. Get out feeding information to all dairymen and encourage those on DHIA to use feed charts.

e. Push artificial breeding and use County Agents' Office for call-in point for farmers who want cows bred each day.

C. Livestock Health

1. Situation

c. Methods

- (1). Continue the Sears Pig Chain and get a certified meat-type boar this year.
- (2). Encourage farmers to buy from Pig Chain.
- (3). Aid farmers in selecting good registered boars.
- (4). Use newspapers, radios, and personal contacts as much as possible on hog problems and management.

B. Dairying

1. Situation

Only half of the Grade A producers keep production records. None of the Grade C producers keep records.

Securing the right kind of replacement heifers is very much a problem. Dairymen do not have a good source.

Since quality of cattle is relatively low, more farmers should definitely be breeding artificially.

Mastitis control is a problem that robs a large proportion of the dairymen of considerable profit.

Poor feeding is a problem that could be corrected to a large degree with better record-keeping.

footbaths for footrot control to be used as demonstrations. Get out educational material on controlling footrot to all farmers.

(4). To work with the Tazewell Ewe Sale and get in westerns for any farmer desiring them.

(5). To work with wool pool committee in marketing wool.

c. Methods

(1). Hold castrating demonstrations and through mass media educate farmers to the fact that buck lambs will sell at a discount.

(2). Run dipping vat on community basis and secure a local man to do the work.

(3). Do intensive job on informing farmers about footrot control.

(4). Work closely with the Tazewell Ewe Sale committee and take orders for western ewes.

(5). Help farmers select better, purebred rams in sales and privately.

4. Hogs

a. Situation

The quality of hogs grown generally in Russell County is low. More meat-type hogs are needed.

b. Objectives

(1). Improve quality of hogs.

(2). Find better markets for feeder pigs.

c.

(4). To help farmers select at least 50 good quality registered bulls to replace some scrubs now in use.

(5). To aid farmers to do a better job in feeding cattle and especially calves they are keeping for yearling steers.

c. c. Methods

(1). Personal contacts.

(2). Demonstrations.

(3). Educational media such as circular letters, newspapers, and radios.

3. Sheep

a. Situation

The sheep business in Russell County has lost considerable ground due to several problems which are growing increasingly worse. Two of the major problems are dogs and footrot. Procurement of the right kind of replacement ewe is also a problem. Sheep scab and ticks are also still somewhat of a problem. There are still a good many buck lambs being marketed.

b. Objectives & Goals

(1). Get a better job of marketing done and strive to get 90% of the buck lambs castrated.

(2). Supervise the portable dipping vat in August which will be available to all farmers.

(3). Aid a few farmers in constructing

meeting of the Russell County Feeder Calf Producers.

(2). To have a delegation of producers attend the annual state meeting.

(3). To send a copy of the rules and regulations of the sales to all producers.

(4). Through personal contacts and correspondence get more calves consigned.

(5). Visit all new consigner's herds.

(6). Organize a local group to make a promotional trip or two.

(7). Contact all Angus calf producers personally and work out a pooling agreement.

2. Increase Beef Cattle Efficiency

a. Situation

Very little production record keeping is done in cow herds. Poor bulls are used by many farmers to sire feeder calves. Yearling steer gains are many times below average and are thus uneconomical. Parasites are also a profit killer. These and other factors serve to lower efficiency and thus, profit.

b. Objectives and Goals

(1). To get at least three new herds on the BCIA program.

(2). To demonstrate the use of sibilbestrol implants on steers on grass on at least 5 farms.

(3). To do more education and demonstration work on parasite eradication.

IV. Major Project Activities

A. Livestock

1. Feeder Calf & Yearling Sales

a. Situation

Russell County annually sells approximately one half of the calves in the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale and a like number of steers in the yearling steer sales. The major problems are that two few of our calves are marketed through this type sale. Also, there is no market for Angus calves in form of a feeder calf sale. The steer sales are not cooperating with the state organization or the standard S.O.P.

b. Objectives and Goals

- (1). To get more calves consigned to the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale.
- (2). To encourage producers to abide strictly by the rules set-up for our feeder calf sale.
- (3). To handle the consignment of calves.
- (4). To look into the possibilities of setting up an Angus calf pool in the county to provide an organized market.
- (5). To work more closely with the steer producers and the market in getting the steer sales reinstated under the state feeder sale S.O.P.

c. Methods

- (1). To hold an educational and organizational

III. Program Development

At present we have no County Board of Agriculture. This is a needed organization that must be organized.

The plans for the program for the year 1959 have been made by consulting with commodity groups in each area of production. By making plans in this manner, we find they are sounder and have more of the farmers' viewpoints in mind.

The three major projects in Russell County are livestock, agronomy, and dairying. An important phase of agronomy this year is soils education.

The 4-H County Council is the guiding body in setting up the 4-H Club Program. The objectives for 1959 were set-up in the meeting held last November.

Other phases of the program have been set-up by the agent and assistant with the consultation of farmers and Extension specialists.

II. Changes in the Agricultural Situation

Changes during the past year have been relatively few. The trend toward more dairying is still a significant one; and therefore, more time will be spent on this commodity than formerly.

The emphasis on greater efficiency in all aspects of farm management is more pronounced now than ever before, and farmers are becoming aware of it. More efficient marketing methods are also going to command more attention.

Outlook information on all agricultural commodities is becoming more reliable all the time. It is our job to see that this information is dispursed correctly.

The farm programs such as soil bank, ACP, and controls and support price are requiring that a better, wider educational job be done.

a permanent nature. Very little grain is produced other than what is fed to livestock. Roughly speaking, there is about one acre of cropland for every three acres of pasture.

Farmers ordinarily produce only enough forage and grain to get livestock through the winter. Quality and quantity of roughage have greatly improved during the past few years with the advent of increased acreage of alfalfa and better fertilization.

I. Description of Russell County Agriculture

Although Russell County is becoming somewhat industrialized in some areas, it is still predominately an agricultural county. The new industry is providing off-farm employment for many part-time and submarginal farmers.

There are 254,234 acres in farms in the county which represent 82% of the total land area. Farms are still getting fewer in number but larger in size. 2,355 farms average 108 acres in size.

With 32,000 cattle, 24,000 sheep, and 46,000 hogs, Russell County is clearly a livestock producing county and the larger portion of the farmer's income is derived from livestock and dairying. Some 1,500 acres of Burley tobacco are grown on about 90% of the farms, making the Burley leaf quite an important avenue of income also.

Russell County, lying in the limestone valley, is made up of alternate valleys and ridges which run in a northeast-southwest direction. The majority of the agricultural soils are underlain by hygrade and dolomitic limestone and are heavy in texture which makes them respond favorably to fertilizer, lime, and good management practices.

Because of the rugged topography of much of the farming land, cropland is at a premium on most farms. The best suited crops are pasture and forage crops of

PLAN OF WORK

RUSSELL COUNTY

1959

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