

PLAN OF WORK
SURRY COUNTY
1960

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COUNTY AGENT

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1. Surry County is located in the Coastal Plains section of the State. The soil is relatively light and well suited for peanuts, corn, soybeans and small grain. The county covers 306 square miles, with approximately 678 farms. Surry County is strictly an agricultural county, with 63% of the population living on the farm, and 37% being rural non-farm. The total population is 6,220, and the average size of the farms is 145 acres.

The chief money crop is peanuts, of which 58% of the income of farmers is derived from. The chief livestock is hogs, with 36% of the income of farmers coming from this source. Hogs fit in well with the type of farming. Beef cattle production has doubled in the past five years. There are approximately 2,000 head of beef cattle in the county.

Practically all of the farms are owner-operated, and there is very little tenant farming.

2. Surry County farmers exceeded the State average in all crops produced in the county in 1958. Weather conditions were ideal for planting, growing and harvesting. Farmers did not realize the gains from their crops in 1959 though, that they did the year before and will have to buy some feed for their livestock.

The outlook for the price of finished hogs is still not too bright, and many farmers have cut down on their number of breed stock.

3. The County Extension Program was developed through the aid of the County Board of Agriculture. The following special interest committees were set up by this Board:

1. Agronomy Committee
2. Livestock Committee
3. Forestry Committee

The three special interest committee meets each year and works with the Agent in setting up goals, objectives, and ways of reaching these goals and objectives.

General County problems and needs:

1. Increased yields of corn and peanuts.
2. Increased number of weaned pigs per litter.
3. Better management of forestry land.
4. Better management and sanitation program in regards to swine.
5. Better marketing.

Agronomy

1. Corn

Corn acreage in Surry County increased for fifteen years from 1940 to 1956. The acreage was 10,372 acres in 1940 and the 1955 acreage was 13,600 acres. The corn acreage decreased during the years 1956, 1957 and 1958. This was due to quotas and farmers

putting part of their acreage in the soil bank.

Corn acreage increased in 1959 due to regulations not allowing corn to be put in the soil bank. The average yield of corn in Surry County for 1959 was approximately 60 bushels per acre.

Problems

1. Insect Control

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

2. Improper spacing

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

3. Inadequate Fertilization

Program of Extension Activities

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

4. Inadequate Varieties

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings
- (4) Demonstrations

5. Insufficient Cover Crops

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

6. Improper Storage - Weevil Damage

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

The Agronomy Committee set up an objective of 65 bushels per acre average for 1962. The goal for 1960 is 63 bushels per acre average.

Peanuts

Peanut acreage has decreased slightly for the past several years. The reason for this decrease was due to allotments. The 1950 acreage was 11,070 and the expected 1960 acreage will be approximately 9,000 acres.

Yields have increased a great deal in the past several years. The ten year average from 1945 to 1955 was 1,735 pounds per acre. The average yield from 1956 through 1959 was approximately 2,100 pounds per acre.

Problems

1. Controlling subterranean insects.
2. Controlling leafspot and leafhopper.
3. Controlling stem rot.
4. Inadequate fertilization.

Objectives and Goals

1. Increase yields from 2,400 to 2,600 pounds per acre by 1960.
2. Get 70% of farmers to properly dust with sulfur and DDT to control leafspot and leafhopper by 1960.

3. Get 70% of farmers to use Experiment Station recommendations on fertilization and rotation by 1960.

Program of Extension education and teaching methods

1. Hold fertilizer meeting for farmers and fertilizer dealers. This meeting to be held in February.
2. Inform farm people of Experiment Station recommendations for controlling stemrot. A demonstration will be conducted in March showing new equipment that can be used for controlling stemrot. Extension personnel will show and demonstrate the use of chemicals for controlling grass and weeds in peanuts which is a factor in controlling stemrot.
3. Hold meetings for farmers in regard to insect and disease control.
4. Use mass media demonstrations and educational meetings to get the program before the people.

Pastures

The pasture land in Surry County has increased very little for the past five years. In 1950 Surry County had a total of 2,879 acres in cropland pasture. In 1955 the cropland pasture figure was 4,361. The number of livestock, mostly hogs, has increased approximately 50% in the past five years. The number of beef cattle has increased 100% in the past five years. The acres of pasture has increased only about 45%. These figures show that for farmers to raise livestock on a profitable basis, more pasture is needed.

The Agronomy Committee set a goal of 6,000 acres of cropland pasture for Surry County by 1960.

Problems

1. Lack of proper fertilization

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

2. Lack of supplementary pastures

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters
- (3) Farm meetings

3. Control of Insects

Program of Extension education

- (1) News letters
- (2) News articles

4. Renovating old pastures

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) News letters

Soybeans

The soybean acreage in Surry County has doubled since 1950. In 1950 there were 1,519 acres of soybeans, and in 1955 there were 3,039 acres of soybeans planted in the county. The reason for this increase was due to allotments on peanuts and quotas on corn.

The recommended varieties are passed on to farmers at farm meetings, newsletters and news articles.

The intermediate varieties are more suitable for our type of farming. These varieties mature earlier and the farmers can harvest them at a more convenient time than late varieties.

Livestock

Swine

Swine production has increased approximately 50% in the past several years. The grading system has educated farmers on improving the type of hogs for marketing. Considerable interest has been shown in regards to feeding hogs by confinement on cement flooring.

Problems

1. Need for desirable breeding stock.
2. Ineffective parasite control.
3. Inefficient feeding practices.
4. Disease control.
5. Not enough farmers using farrowing houses.

Objectives

1. An average of 8 pigs per litter weaned.
2. Get 75% of farmers to use a desirable meat type boar by 1961.
3. Increase the number of farrowing houses through new construction.
4. Improve feeding practices.
5. Control of external and internal parasites.

Extension education and teaching methods

1. To hold swine meetings for farmers. This meeting to be held in February. The meeting will be conducted by R. M. Godsie and J. H. Carter, Extension swine specialists.
2. Demonstrations showing good management practices.
3. Use mass media by means of news articles and news letters publicizing the need for desirable breeding stock, parasite control and importance of farrowing houses.

Beef Cattle

Beef cattle has increased a great deal in Surry County for the past several years.

There were approximately 800 head of beef cattle in Surry County in 1950. There are approximately 3,000 head in the county at the present time.

Educational practices will be continued in 1960 in regards to beef cattle management. These educational activities will be discussed at farm meetings, through news articles and personal visits by the Agent. The Agent feels that more permanent pasture is needed as the pasture acreage has not increased in proportion with the increase in beef cattle. Publicity will be given to this at farmers meetings, in news articles and news letters.

Forestry

Surry County has approximately 61% of it's total farm area in woodland. Farmers do not seem to be interested in the care of their woodland in regards to thinning, killing of hardwood and planting of pine seedlings. In 1955 forest products supplied only 2.3% of the total value of farm products sold. That figure has not increased to over 3.5% since 1955.

The Agent, with the assistance of the Extension Forestryman and the District Forester, has visisted a number of farmers in Surry County. The purpose of these visits was to work with farmers on their forestry problems.

Program of Extension education

- (1) News articles
- (2) Demonstrations and tours

Farm and Home Development

The Agent, with the Home Agent, is working with four families on the Farm and Home Development Program. The Agent is working with two farmers on the farm program along with the four families that both agents are working with.

The Agent is working with these farmers on their crop and livestock programs and other things in regard to farming that will increase their income and save labor.

The Agent and Home Agent plan to include two more farm families in the program in 1960.

Extension 4-H Program

A. Organization of Clubs in the County

1. Where possible, secure leaders for each club.
2. Train officers in their duties and responsibility in conducting meetings.
3. The 1960 4-H enrollment goal will be 85 active members.

B. Project Work

1. The Agent will work with each member in selecting projects most suitable for his needs.
2. Encourage each member to complete his project and complete records on the project.
3. Encourage cooperation and assistance of parents with members on this project work.
4. Visit 4-H members and assist them with their projects and record books.
5. Monthly meetings will be held in the school by

each club for the months during the school session.

6. Schedules will be set up as to the time and place of club meetings by the Agents and principal at the beginning of each school year.

C. Have regular meeting of the County Council for advancing 4-H Club work in the county.

D. Set goal of completion at 80%.

E. Use all available contests on county, district and state levels.

Calendar of Work for 1960

January -

Make arrangements for special interest committees.

February -

Hold Special Interest Committee meetings. Urge farmers to take soil samples. Hold county-wide Agronomy Meeting for farmers, assisted by Extension specialist. Hold county-wide Livestock meeting for farmers, assisted by Extension Animal Husbandman.

March -

Conduct a demonstration on new type cultivators for use in controlling stem rot. Work on Farm and Home Development Program for 1960.

April -

Work with sheep producers in regards to lamb sales. Make arrangements for sheep producers to get their sheep sheared by custom.

May -

Publicize farms on which crop demonstrations will be conducted in 1960.

June -

Work with 4-H Club members in regards to Short Course, 4-H Camp and project work.

July -

Work with Farm and Home Development families. Institute of Rural Affairs.

August -

4-H Camp. Agent's Conference

September -

Work with school principal and teachers in setting up
4-H Club meeting for 1960-61. Start collecting 4-H record books.

October -

Annual Surry County Picnic

November -

Annual Report

December -

Make plans for 1961 farm meetings to be held in January
and February.