

PLAN OF WORK

FILED

RUSSELL COUNTY

1955

B. O. Porterfield .....Assistant County Agent

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FOREWARD

At the present time the Extension Office is staffed with a home agent, an assistant county agent, and the secretary. It is uncertain when a county agent will be selected; therefore, the Program of Work takes this into account.

The Program, as outlined, includes only two major adult projects and the 4-H Program.

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## HISTORY OF RUSSELL COUNTY

In the year of 1735 a son was born to a man who was known as the Knight of the Golden Horseshoe. The man's name was William Russell who came to Virginia in 1710 with Governor Alexander Spotswood. This son was born in Culpeper County, on a plantation, near Germania. The son was given the first name of his father, and along with the name went his father's adventurous spirit, and the desire to see new land.

Just three years after the birth of George Washington, the young William Russell was receiving elementary and secondary education in the local schools; and in the year of 1754, at the age of 19, he entered the college of William and Mary.

Space will not permit going into details of the adventurous life of William Russell, after his one year at William and Mary. However, from the year 1756 to 1770 his life was full of Indian raids, French encroachments, love and marriage, diplomatic activities with the Cherokees, exploring new lands, and many other experiences that were fitting to an adventurous man of tall and commanding presence, courteous manner, and refined conversation.

In the year of 1770, William Russell, a frontiersman in his own right, built his log cabin at Castlewood on the Clinch River. Still adventurous and speculative in nature, he at once began developing the interest of the colony through land speculation and ridding the settlers of Indian danger.

William was a patriot of the formation of Fincastle County in 1772 from a division of Botetourt. Following this year of 1772, we read of Russell's adventure with Daniel Boone, travels into the New River territory, travels into Kentucky, and a thousand other hair-raising experiences of a diplomat and military leader. He became a Colonel in the Revolutionary War and served his country faithfully during the war, and ranked as General at the end.

In the year of 1785, he was elected to a second term to the House of Delegates from Washington County, and it was then that he promoted a bill having for its purpose the division of Washington County. This bill provided that "from and after the first day of May, 1786, the county of Washington shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say: all that part of said county lying within a line to be run along the Clinch Mountain to the Carolina line, thence with that line to the Cumberland Mountain, Clinch Mountain and the line of Montgomery County, shall be one distinct county, and called and known by the name of Russell, and the residue shall retain the name of Washington."

Therefore, the Clinch Valley home of William Russell was destined to be known afterwards by the name of Clinch Valley's first noble patriot.

Other counties have, of course, been formed since then in the Southwest - thus changing the original boundaries of Russell County as laid out in the Bill by General Russell to the General Assembly of Virginia, in 1785.

## TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Russell County is one of the bluegrass cattle kingdoms of Southwest Virginia - "cattle on a thousand hills." Mingled among the predominate white-faced Herefords, a few Angus and Shorthorn beef cattle, some fine flocks of Hampshire, Southdown, Dorset and some cross breeds of sheep, also a few hogs scattered here and there mainly for home use; all these go to make Russell predominately a livestock county.

The twenty-one Grade A Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey and Ayshire Dairy herds named in order of predominance, along with numerous small Grade C herds of predominate Jersey breed, brings some monthly cash income into the county.

So these, along with a few poultry flocks round out the livestock phase of farming that possibly can be improved by increasing the number of sheep and the number of both layer and broiler flocks, with a few more gradually working into the Grade A Dairy business.

The 141,000 acres of mainly limestone origin soil that is, during normal years, covered with bluegrass and white clover, with acres of Ladino clover and tall grass mixture, and lespedeza and tall grass scattered here and there in a county of such terrain that it is highly susceptible to erosion, makes it only natural that this should be predominately a livestock county. Most of the grain and hay for winter feeding is produced on the farms.

The county boundaries enclose a total of 296,000 acres. In the year 1954, 2223 farms of the county had tobacco allotments totaling 1993.1 acres; 1947.7 acres of which was harvested and 2204 farms that used allotments. This brings a neat cash income, and places tobacco as second in importance as a source of farm income.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Russell County agricultural organizational set-up is as follows:

The Russell County Board of Agriculture

The Russell County Cooperative

The Russell County Fair Association, Inc.

The Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District.

The Russell County Artificial Breeders Association

The Russell County Purebred Hereford Association

The Russell County A.S.C. Program

The Russell County F.H.A. Program

The Russell County 4-H Clubs.

The Russell County Home Demonstration Club Committee

The Russell County Home Demonstration Clubs.

The Russell County 4-H Club Council

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1. ADULT PROGRAM

A. Small Fruits & Vegetable Project

1. Situation

Much of the land of Russell County is suited for the production of small fruits and vegetables. The climate is also suitable.

Many farmers need additional cash income in lieu of decreased tobacco allotments. The local population of towns and nearby cities could consume many more strawberries and raspberries than are grown. At present, there are only five or six farmers growing a small acreage of strawberries.

2. Goals

To establish such acres of fruits and vegetables as market will support.

3. Methods

- a. Call meetings to discuss the development of such enterprise with the farmers.
- b. Use radio, newspapers and letters in getting information to farmers.
- c. Conduct classes for those who decide to grow with help of specialist.
- d. Visit growers to help with problems.

B. Alfalfa Project

1. Situation

Alfalfa acreage is far below what it should be in the county. Much of the land is suited to alfalfa, and more economical beef, sheep and dairy production could be realized with more use of alfalfa.

2. Goals

Establish at least 300 new acres of alfalfa.

3. Methods

- a. Use radio, newspaper and letters in promotional work.
- b. Encourage farmers to use A.S.C. practice in establishing alfalfa.
- c. Offer soil sampling service to those who will grow alfalfa.

C. General Adult Work

- 1..Cooperate in having a Russell County Agricultural Fair.
2. Cooperate in promoting soil conservation district work.
3. Conduct a Feeder Calf Sale.
4. Continue all methods of instruction to keep the public advised and informed on all agricultural projects, such as, by radio, newspaper, farm visits, letters and office calls.

11. 4-H Club Program

The following goals are selected for the year 1955:

1. Increase membership.
2. Meet each club monthly.
3. Organize clubs in more schools.
4. Conduct one special class in Livestock Management and Judging.
5. Conduct one special class in Farm Machinery Maintenance.
6. Conduct one group project that all members can participate in.
7. Have a 4-H Achievement Program.
8. Send members to 4-H District Camp.
9. Send members to 4-H Conservation Camp.
10. Send delegates to State Short Course.
11. Have 85% completion of projects.
12. Participate in Bristol Baby Beef Show and Sale.
13. Participate in Bristol Pig Show and Sale.
14. Participate in Russell County Agricultural Fair.
15. Have a livestock judging team.
16. Have a Tractor Operator's Contest.