

September Reorganize 4-H clubs throughout the county and secure leaders for as many clubs as possible.

October 4-H work, assist with marketing of cattle, calves, yearlings and purebreds. Encourage the use of artificial breeding in grade A dairy herds.

November 4-H work. Summarize the past year's work. Submit an annual Extension report.

CALENDAR OF WORK

- December To meet with community clubs for plans for coming year. Encourage participation in the ASC program for 1960. Fifteen days to 4-H club work.
- January Work on pasture improvement. Obtain specialist help for community clubs and other groups. Meet with commodity groups and the county agricultural board on plans for years work. Alert farmers as to controlling alfalfa weevil. Sixteen days to 4-H club work.
- February Pasture improvement. Obtain specialist for Community Improvement Clubs and other groups. Start campaign for increasing sheep numbers. Requisitions for TVA fertilizer. Eighteen days to 4-H club work.
- March Twelve days to 4-H club work. Continue to work on sheep numbers, pasture improvement, increase of alfalfa acreage, encourage increase in number of silos in the county. Work with individuals and groups on landscaping problems. Work with assistant agent in broadening 4-H club work in the county. Continue follow-up on 4-H Center quota.
- April Keep close check on insect damage throughout the county. Plans for 4-H camp. Survey sheep growers as to their needs for replacement ewes.
- May Continue to investigate insect damage and spread. Interest farmers in Weigh-A-Day program. Check on DHIA herbooks among members. Complete final plans for 4-H club camp. Relocate 4-H Pig chain. Assist county wool pool in sale of crop. Enroll campers for 4-H camp.
- June Continue work on insects. 4-H Camp one week. Stress importance of alfalfa and how and when it should be seeded. Assist in marketing the county wool pool.
- July Twenty days to 4-H club work, visiting projects and attending camp. Attend Institute of Rural Affairs and encourage at least two car loads to attend. Work with community clubs when requested.
- August Continue to work on seeding of alfalfa, have community clubs prepare for contests and judging. Assist in marketing of cattle and sheep. Continue the effort to place more ewes on more farms in the county. Work on consignment for feeder calf sales.

As in the past, the insect problem in 1960 will be as sure to occur as death. The striped alfalfa aphid was discovered for the first time in the county in the late fall of 1957. A close watch will be kept for all types of insects and farmers will be informed when they occur. Control methods will be gotten to farmers as soon as infestations are discovered.

of the present ones go off the program at the end of their seven years of demonstration work.

4. Farm and Home Development

This phase of the Extension Program has not received as much attention as it should. The families now being worked with have been selected by the agent or are being worked with because the family has requested that they be included. The present plan is to have ten farm and home families by the end of 1960.

5. Tobacco

a. Burley

In the past few years burley tobacco quality has seemed to be less important. The problem to be confronted with in the county seems to be producing early disease free plants. Therefore, most of the tobacco work this year will be devoted to this phase of production along with proper fertilization.

b. Aromatic Tobacco

Aromatic Tobacco is a profitable crop when grown under proper conditions. This crop is very exacting in it's soil and plant good needs. Farmers that have the correct soil types and labor for growing their crop will be encouraged to produce it. Others will have to be discouraged because of improper soil on which to produce a quality product.

6. Insects

c. Goals for The Year

To maintain the present enrollment of around 800 boys and girls and to increase the number of clubs from 21 to 25, new clubs being on a community basis.

It is hoped we will be able to have more 4-H boys and girls enter District competition than in the past.

F. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Southwest Virginia 4-H Center

During the past year, Grayson County 4-H members and leaders as well as other interested persons have been able to raise \$4,030.23 toward the building of a 4-H center for Southwest Virginia. It is hoped during 1960 the additional \$1,032.77 will be raised and Grayson County can say they have made their allotted quota of \$5,676.00 to the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center.

2. Community Clubs

There are five community improvement clubs now organized in the county. No change in numbers is anticipated, but these clubs will be worked with closely in their work for improving their communities.

3. Extension TVA Program

There are eight (8) Extension TVA Demonstrators in the county at this time. We have been told that ten more could be added, however, it does not seem feasible at this time since the fertilizer to be received in the county for 1960 is allotted to 48 tons for the year. Since most demonstrators have to be cut on their needs for 1960, no more demonstrators will be added until some

early enough for farmers to apply the treatment should they decide on one of the methods other than spraying. During April and May, fields will be checked in all parts of the county and reports made through the above media on the extent of the infestation.

c. Goals for Year

It is hoped that it will be possible to control the weevil on all farms at the proper time and that all farmers will realize the seriousness of this pest and will apply control measures.

E. 4-H CLUBS

1. Activity - 4-H Clubs

a. Situation

The Grayson County 4-H club program, it is felt is on a sound basis and is stronger over-all than it has been for any time in the past. Probably the weakest phase at this time, is the inadequate number of interested and devoted leaders in the prospective communities.

While several new community clubs have been organized, it is felt that there is a definite need for more.

b. Extension Methods

Efforts will be made to secure more local leaders not only in the communities where there are existing clubs but in new communities as well. The County Council will continue to meet and make plans for future operations of the 4-H clubs in the County. These Council members will discuss the needs and decisions reached with their respective clubs.

A demonstration will be conducted on aerial-top-dressing of steep pasture land in March. Farmers will be invited to attend the demonstration and the practability of such practices will be discussed.

c. Goals for Year

To get across to the farmer that even though some farm prices do not seem to encourage pasture improvement, this is still the cheapest form of feed we grow and by growing more of it, we cheapen the over-all feed cost on our farms. It is hoped that farmers of the county will again become pasture improvement minded and that much of the ACP payments will be made for pasture improvement in 1960 and 1961.

4. Activity - Control The Alfalfa Weevil

a. Situation

The alfalfa weevil made it's first appearance in the county in 1957. Alfalfa is our most important hay crop and if this weevil is not controlled, they will kill the alfalfa stands. Most farmers are prone to be too lax on using control methods, particularly on the fringe area of the most heavily infested area.

b. Extension Methods

The importance of control will be kept before the farmers through community meetings, radio, newspapers and personal contact. The three methods of control will be given full treatment, spraying, using granulated heptachlor and fertilizer-heptachlor mixture. Advantages and disadvantages of eabh will be given from January to March. This will be

grass silage from trenches; the other will be on a farm feeding corn silage from a relatively cheap upright silo filled with corn. This second farm using both permanent and temporary types of silos. A county wide meeting will be held in January by Extension Agricultural Engineers with silage and silo construction being one of the topics on the program. A silage club will be formed and yields will be published from individual farms, plus cost figures for producing silage.

c. Goals for Year

To have 15 new farmers feeding silage for the first time during the winter 1960-61.

3. Activity - Pasture Improvement.

a. Situation

Grayson County has about 90,000 acres of pasture land. Seventy percent of this pasture is not as productive as it should be. Most farmers, particularly beef cattle men, do not feel that they have the money to spend for pasture improvement at this time. Much of this pasture improvement work either reseeding or top dressing could be done through the ASC program and would only cost the farmer about one-half of the total bill.

b . Extension Methods

With the help of the Agronomy Committee; the improve your pasture for one-half the price idea, will be presented to the people through radio, newspaper, meetings and personal contacts. This idea will be presented to the farmers in January and February before the ACP allocations are allotted.

farms in the county which seem to be the most successful ones in which a large acreage of alfalfa is growing. Farmers will be reminded of the ASC program, that alfalfa can be seeded with less expense. But whether or not it is seeded through this program, or if no assistance is obtained, alfalfa in the long run is the cheapest source of hay that can be grown in the county considering quality and tonnage that is produced from an acre.

c. Goals for Year

To further increase alfalfa acreage in the county by having it produced on at least 20 new farms this year for the first time. By the end of the year, to have many more farmers who do not have alfalfa now, planning for this crop to be seeded in 1961.

2. Activity - Increase Use of Silage

a. Situation

Pasture land in the county is not good enough but we can still pasture more cattle than can be wintered adequately. It is felt that one way to get a larger quantity of winter feed is by using more silage.

b. Extension Methods

Through newspapers, radio and community meetings, the value of silage will be called to the attention of the farmers in the county. This publicity will include statements and success stories from farmers who have been using silage for a relatively short period. There will also be two field meetings held in March, one on a farm using both corn and

western ewes, so that farmers can see these ewes and by the end of the year to have at least 200 of these ewes in the county. The final goal, of course, is to help farmers of the county find a successful way to maintain or increase their standard of living.

D. AGRONOMY

1. Activity - Increasing Alfalfa Acreage

a. Situation

There are only about one third of the farmers in the county growing alfalfa and from these about 6,500 acres of alfalfa is being grown. This is about three times the acreage grown eight years ago. This increase has been satisfactory, however, more alfalfa is still needed on most farms in the county. We still have too many farms that start through the winter feeding period with an insufficient amount of hay to adequately winter their livestock. In some cases when the tonnage is sufficient, the quality is low.

b. Extension Methods

With the aid of the Agronomy Committee, field meetings will be held to study alfalfa production, varieties, yields and insect control. Through newspapers, the importance of alfalfa will be called to the attention of Grayson County farmers. The latest experimental data on seeding and varieties will be published. These stories will be localized whenever possible, to what has been done on Grayson County farms. Attention will be called also to the farmers that owns

5,800. In 1954 the number had grown up to 6,251. At the present time it is estimated that the sheep number is approximately 6,500. There are two thousand, six hundred and twenty six (2626) farms in the county and sheep are found on only about 400 of these farms. Many of the flocks have from 8 to 14 sheep. On most of these farms, an increase could be made since the feed supply is adequate. While many of our farms have a place for sheep along with their cattle enterprise. The money invested in sheep by farmers in the county has made them more profitable during the past few years, than any other class of livestock.

b. Extension Methods

In the past it has been difficult to get the right type of replacement ewes locally, and no one has wanted sheep badly enough to go to much bother about securing ewes elsewhere. A source of supply will be located for interested farmers and arrangements will be made to get these ewes trucked in from other states, through the use of media available: radio, newspaper, circular letters as well as through personal contacts and it is hoped that farmers of the county will become aware of the possibility of increasing their present operation or by increasing their present flocks to a more economical size. After having the first ewes placed in the county, other interested farmers will be invited to look these ewes over to give them an idea of what they will be getting if they place their orders for replacement ewes.

c. Goals for Year

To have field meetings on the farms that have secured

The local livestock market cooperated with the Extension Agents of Grayson and Carroll for the past year in promoting two feeder cattle sales. Plans are now in the making to hold two sales in 1960; one in September and the other in October. Farmers will be advised of the plans early, by not only the agents from the two counties, but also by the management of the livestock market. These sales will be advertised by the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association throughout the cattle feeding areas.

b. Extension Methods

Plans for the sales this year will be given to the farmers through radio, newspapers, correspondence and through personal contacts by the agent. The management of the livestock market will also contact all patrons of the market in an effort to solicit cattle for the sales. This will be done during the early spring, before out of state buyers come into the county. An earlier sale date will be selected so the demand will still be high for such cattle.

c. Goals for Year

To help promote more successful feeder cattle sales for cattle producers of Grayson and Carroll, rather than having one thousand head sold through the sale, a goal of at least two thousand is planned.

3. Activity - Increasing Sheep Number in Grayson County

a. Situation

Sheep production in the county had a population of around 8,000 in 1945. In 1950, this number had dropped to about

that were sold in feeder calf sales last year were sold in Wytheville and West Jefferson sales. The number that these sales can take is limited.

b. Extension Methods

This annual loss will be called to the attention of our producers. They will be furnished with records of last years sales and be asked to compare those figures with the prices they received for their last years crop. They will also be told that the local livestock market has recognized the need for a sale and that they are anxious to conduct a joint sale for Grayson and Carroll producers. Producers from both counties will receive the above information from the Extension Agents, as well as other agricultural workers through meetings, radio, personal contacts and correspondence.

c. Goals for Year

To see that every producer in the two counties gets the story on the feeder calf situation and the proposed sale. Rather than having a few Grayson County producers consign 60 calves to an already crowded sale; at least 15 producers should consign 250 calves to the proposed sale from Grayson County alone.

2. Activity - Marketing Yearly and Feeder Cattle

a. Situation

Most of our yearlings are feeder cattle and are contracted to out of county and state buyers early in the summer before the demand for such cattle has reached it's peak and before a price trend for such cattle has been established.

existing buildings that can be converted to this type of barn. Those that do not have existing buildings can construct a building with farm labor and rough timber thereby keeping the total cost low.

b. Extension Methods

Success stories will be used in newspapers and on the radio to farmers who have installed such barns; pointing out that they can do the milking in less time and much easier. Also, that with the same labor used previously they have been able to increase the number of cows milked.

c. Goals

To have built on Grayson County farms at least fifteen more V Type Milk Barns with milking machines on Grade C farms in 1960. To make the chore of milking easier for those farmers and to increase the number of cows milked on all farms putting in V Type barns and milkers and thereby raising the farm income on each farm.

C. BEEF CATTLE

1. Activity - Marketing Feeder Calves

a. Situation

Grayson County Feeder Calf Producers are losing from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per hundred weight on the calves sold in the fields and through regular weekly auction sales. This has been proven for the past two years by the few that have consigned calves to the regular feeder calf sales. Most of our farmers, that winter calves prefer to buy from a feeder sale. Therefore, many of our good calves are sold to out of county buyers at a sacrifice price. The calves from the county

Actual records taken from the herds using DHIA in the county on artificially bred daughters, compared to their dams will be published in newspapers, discussed at Community Clubs and other meetings. These records will be made available to the inseminators as well as to field men of the milk companies buying milk in the county. With these figures all concerned will have a better story to tell the dairymen as they are approached in using artificial breeding.

c. Goals For the Year

To work more closely with the Artificial Breeding Association, Board of Directors, Technician, other agricultural workers and field men representing the milk companies in an effort to get the dairyman to understand that artificial breeding has a definite place on the farm. There should be response enough from the program outlined above, to increase the number of cows bred artificially in the county to 1,500 in 1960.

4. Activity - Increase the Number V Shape Milking Barns

a. Situation

There are more than one thousand farms in the county producing Grade C milk. These producers milk from two to fifteen cows per farm. On some of these farms, the number of cows milked is limited because of hand milking and inconvenience of milking. On these farms a V Type milking barn with milking machines would allow more cows to be milked and with less labor and more convenience. Some farms have

cows or more.

Many Grade C producers are milking cows that are not paying their way. This, they do not realize, but if they were to keep records for a year they could soon see which cows were paying and which were losing money.

b. Extension Methods

With the help of Extension Dairy Specialists and field men from the two companies buying Grade C milk and through meetings, newspapers and radio as well as personal contact, endeavors to show producers that by keeping records and having the herds on the Weigh-A-Day Program they will be able to cull the cows intelligently and make more money on their dairy operation.

c. Goal for the Year

To have at least twenty five producers on this program by the end of 1960.

3. Activity - Increase Number of Cows Bred Artificially

a. Situation

There are about twelve thousand (12,000) cows in the county producing both Grade A and Grade C milk. Of these, only one thousand, four hundred (1,400) were bred artificially. High production per cow is one of the keys to more efficient milk production. It has been proven that by the use of artificial breeding, a dairyman can build his milk production more economically by breeding to the top bulls of the nation at a reasonable fee.

b. Extension Methods

This is the first time the DHIA has been filled up (25 herds) since it was started. It is on a sound basis now, with a good supervisor who has a full month's work. There are a few weak herds that will have to get stronger or drop from the dairy business. These herds will be worked with to help them on a paying basis or encourage to change farm enterprises. Should those herds that are not showing a profit insist on having records, some may be switched to Owner-Sampler. This will leave room for other herds that would like to go on DHIA and at the same time would provide records of milk production on the low producing herds at less cost.

b. Extension Methods

A DHIA analysis meeting will be held in March. This meeting will deal with not only how to use the information obtained from the records, but other information will be discussed along the management phases of dairying.

c. Goals for the Year

To keep the DHIA Program on a sound basis. This will be done by keeping a close check on each herd's production and working especially with the herds that are on the border-line as to profit and loss. These border-line herds will be encouraged to switch to Owner Sampler when feasible.

2. Activity - Starting Weigh-A-Day-Program with Grade C Producers

a. Situation

There are approximately 1,000 farmers in the county selling Grade C milk. This milk goes to a cheese factory or to a condensory. These farmers milk from two (2) to fifteen (15)

farms went from 80.3 to 86.2 acres. Three hundred and thirty three (333) of these farms have less than ten (10) acres while there are four hundred and eighteen (418) that have from thirty to forty-nine acres of land. Therefore, there are 1,267 farms in the county with less than fifty (50) acres of land. Many of the occupants on these 1,267 farms work at nearby mills or off the farm most of the year. However, there are perhaps forty (40) percent of them that seem to be able to make an existence on these small farms.

This Plan of Work has been developed through the cooperation of the County Board of Agriculture. This Board consists of twenty members, of which seventeen took part in this plan. Members of the board are composed of representatives of commodity groups and others which include: Wool Pool Committee; Artificial Breeding Association; DHIA; Hereford Breeders Association; Feeder Calf Sale Committee; Agronomy Committee; Tobacco Growers, both Burley and Aromatic; Purebred Sheep Breeders Association; one member from each of the Community Improvement Clubs in the County; ASC Committee; Soil Conservation Technician; Clerk of the ASC Office; Representative from both the Vocational Agricultural Instructors and Veteran Teachers and the three farm organizations, Farm Bureau, Grange and Farmers Union.

B. DAIRYING

1. Activity - Maintain a Strong DHIA
 - a. Situation

A. INTRODUCTION

Grayson County has been described as the plateau deeply cut by streams and broken by mountains and by high hills which have round tops and steep slopes. The County is often called the "Roof of Virginia" because of the two highest mountains of the state being located here. The elevation ranges from 2,000 feet where New River leaves the County on the East to 5,715 feet at the top of Mt. Rogers in the West. Eighty-five percent of the land is cleared and about the same percentage is either steep or rolling. The steep rough pasture on most of the 2,626 farms that average 86.0 acres per farm, can be utilized only by beef cattle or sheep which rank second and third as the main source of income for the County. Dairying ranks first from the standpoint of income. The large dairy herds are concentrated in the central and eastern part of the County, but dairy cattle are found in all sections. With livestock as the major enterprise, the cropping system of the county is devoted to production of feed crops, mainly pasture and forage crops. About one-fifth of the farms produce some type of cash crop, such as tobacco, poultry and fruits. These are found on most farms but mainly for home use. There is only one commercial orchard in the County. This orchard has about forty (40) acres of trees. The number of farms in the county dropped from 2,819 to 2,626 during the past five years, but at the same time the average size of

PLAN OF WORK
1960
GRAYSON COUNTY

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