

PLAN OF WORK
JAMES CITY COUNTY

1961

Melvin W. Bryant, County Agent

Rhoda H. Moyer, Secretary

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Determining Plan of Work

The plan of work is developed with the assistance of commodity committees appointed by the chairman of the James City County Board of Agriculture.

The County Board of Agriculture sponsors regular monthly dinner meetings of all farmers and others who are interested in the Agriculture of James City County

Through the meetings of the County Board of Agriculture and its committees the plan of work is determined each year.

A. Agronomy

1. Committee:

G. H. Mepham, E. R. Meadows, Robert Wright, E. J. Hofmeyer,
George Thoneson

2. Problems

- (a) Grains are being produced for market rather than as a livestock feed supply.
- (b) Considerable acreage should be diverted from row crops where erosion is a problem.
- (c) Inadequate weed control causes poor yields and quality of crops.
- (d) There is a need for more farm storage facilities.

3. Methods

- (a) Encourage producers of soybeans to enter the growers' contest to determine the best varieties and practices to follow in production.
- (b) Schedule agronomy meeting in order that farmers will get benefits of latest experimental research.
- (c) Set up demonstrations on weed control in field crops on several farms.
- (d) Schedule on farm grain storage meeting to assist farmers in planning needed facilities.
- (e) Encourage soil sampling and proper land use, especially on steeper eroding slopes.
- (f) Use news releases, radio, circular and personal letters, office, telephone and personal calls as needed for informing the public.

4. Goals

- (a) Thirty-five farmers to make changes in general crop production practices in line with recommendations proven through research.
- (b) More efficient land use on ten farms where erosion is a problem.

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- (c) Improved crop and machinery storage facilities on ten farms.
 - (d) Improved pastures and rotational grazing practices on fifteen farms.
 - (e) Analysis of records on five farms to determine ways of increasing net income.
 - (f) Six farms to participate in a cooperative marketing program on sweet potatoes and watermelons.

B. Livestock

1. Committee:

D. C. Renick, Phil Rutledge, W. G. Rankin, H. J. Hunt, Jr.,
E. R. Meadows, R. B. Gilliam, W. B. Piggott, G. A. Marston,
J. M. Cottrell, C. H. Branch, H. P. Hazelwood, Jr.

2. Problems

- (a) Breeding stock being moved from farm to farm causes the spread of contagious diseases.
- (b) Inadequate physical facilities on many livestock farms.
- (c) Insufficient numbers of livestock to consume grain and available pasture.

3. Methods

- (a) Schedule livestock marketing meetings to keep producers informed of market demand, and alternatives in production to meet the demand and secure the maximum net income.
- (b) Emphasize through meetings, personal visits and mass media the need for a strict sanitation and disease control program on each farm. Especially urge farmers to discontinue the practice of landing breeding stock to neighbors.
- (c) Conduct a tour of the livestock farms doing the best all-around job of general management and marketing.
- (d) Encourage farmers through all means available to increase livestock numbers to utilize grains now being sold on the market.
- (e) Urge marketing specialists to improve the reports used by farmers in daily trips to market.
- (f) Inform producers at all times through monthly meetings, personal visits, telephone, news articles, and circular letters of the latest experimental research and recommendations from the V.P.I. and other sources.

4. Goals

- (a) Thirty farms to improve breeding stock in swine, beef cattle and sheep enterprises.
- (b) Ten farms to make substantial improvement in facilities for livestock production.
- (c) Increase livestock numbers on twenty farms in line with available pasture and grain acreage.
- (d) Twenty farms to carry out sanitation and disease control measures.
- (e) Analyze livestock production on five farms to determine ways of increasing net income.
- (f) Initiate feeder livestock production on five farms to supplement other farm income.
- (g) Five farmers to use cooperative feeder livestock marketing facilities.

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C. Dairying

1. Committee:

David Falk, J. H. Wenger, Willard Gilley, J. L. Massie,
H. L. Young, Jr.

2. Problems

- (a) Inadequate use of D.H.I.A. Records.
- (b) Sanitation, disease and insect control programs need attention.
- (c) Due to limited acreage more emphasis should be given to maximum feed production, rotation of pastures and use of supplementary pastures.

3. Methods

- (a) Schedule dairy meetings to make better use of D.H.I.A. and other records.
- (b) Assist dairymen through specialist's visits with improvement in dairy breeding stock and physical facilities.
- (c) Inform dairymen through meetings, personal visits, news articles, letters, etc., of alternatives in feeding for maximum profit.
- (d) Schedule meeting of dairymen with specialist veterinarian to improve sanitation and disease control program.

4. Goals

- (a) Analyze dairy records on five farms to determine ways of increasing net income.
- (b) Work with D.H.I.A. supervisor and dairyman on five farms to improve breeding and increase production.
- (c) Improve sanitation, insect and disease control program on all eight dairy farms.
- (d) Assist eight dairymen in more efficient production and handling of feeds.

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D. Forestry

1. Committee:

G. A. Marston, Robert Piggott, H. J. Hunt, Jr., Phil Rutledge,
C. H. Branch.

2. Problems

- (a) Much acreage is harvested with little planning toward reforestation.
- (b) Acreage is devoted to crops and pasture which should be in forestry.
- (c) Lack of interest in securing the maximum income from forest land.

3. Methods

- (a) Schedule forestry demonstrations on reseeding cut-over areas of woodland.
- (b) Encourage through mass media and personal visits forest improvement practices.
- (c) Secure assistance of bulldozer in forest improvement work.
- (d) Work with forest service personnel and specialist in informing farmers of forest improvement methods.
- (e) Inform farmers of A.S.C. assistance in certain practices.

4. Goals

- (a) Set up demonstrations in forest improvement on five farms.
- (b) Five farms to secure A.S.C. Cooperation in forest improvement.
- (c) Analyze fifteen farm forestry records to determine ways to achieve maximum income.
- (d) Encourage the seeding of pine seedlings on fifteen farms on areas too steep for cultivation and where erosion is severe.

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E. 4-H Club Work

1. Committee:

J. M. Cottrell, C. H. Pritchard, Mrs. Wesley Sheldon,
Mrs. T. H. Hedrick, Mrs. L. N. Ophela.

2. Problems

- (a) Insufficient number of leaders in community clubs due to parents working, activity in social clubs, etc.
- (b) Numerous activities and organizations compete for attention of youth.
- (c) Arranging meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with other activities.
- (d) Locating adequate meeting space in some communities.

3. Methods

- (a) Meet with interested individuals and organizations to secure leadership and sponsorship of 4-H Clubs and their related activities.
- (b) Publicize 4-H activities and project work at every opportunity.
- (c) Visit with parents in communities to investigate the possibility of organizing new 4-H Clubs.
- (d) Visit individuals who show an interest in serving as leaders of 4-H Clubs.
- (e) Work with program committees of each club to plan interesting and helpful programs.
- (f) Hold officer training programs for all county officers to generate pride in conducting 4-H meetings.
- (g) Encourage members through all means available to keep accurate project records and earn awards, trips and participation in other 4-H activities.

4. Goals

- (a) Reorganize two community 4-H Clubs.
- (b) Secure 4-H leaders for four clubs in county.
- (c) Increase membership by 10 percent.
- (d) Increase participation at 4-H camps and other activities by fifty percent.
- (e) Give Training to forty 4-H members for participation in district contests.
- (f) Have six members actually participate in 4-H district contest.

Calendar of Work

January, February, March

Schedule Livestock Marketing and Agronomy meetings for farmers to discuss the latest research data and recommendations. Specialist, Experiment Station personnel and Department of Agriculture personnel will assist with the programs.

Attend meetings of producer marketing associations to keep informed of regulations and recommendations concerning producers.

Meet with Commodity and Program Committees to plan program of work.

Meet with 4-H Clubs and County Council to train and elect county officers.

Schedule field trip in forestry for 4-H members.

Work with committee and marketing specialists forming sweet potato and watermelon marketing cooperative.

Meet with Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

Schedule meeting on small grains storage facilities.

April, May, June

Schedule meetings of County Board of Agriculture on livestock production practices with specialists and commercial company personnel.

Train 4-H members entering district 4-H contests.

Schedule meeting for farmers on seed testing and treatment procedures.

Conduct a tour of livestock and pasture farms to determine the best practices.

Work on preparation of 4-H Camp for 4-H camping season.

Set up demonstrations on weed control, varieties and fertilization in field crops.

Meet with Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

July, August, September

Schedule monthly County Board of Agriculture programs concerning problems faced by producers.

Attend Institute of Rural Affairs with farmers, 4-H Camp and Agent's Conference.

Emphasize control of insects on field and vegetable crops.

Encourage the use of temporary pastures to protect permanent pastures from over grazing.

Schedule 4-H Club meetings and election of 1962 officers of all clubs.

Meet with Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

October, November, December

Schedule County Board of Agriculture meetings to answer problems currently faced by farmers.

Summarize soybean crop contest information.

Meet with Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

Schedule livestock meetings with emphasis on facilities to protect small animals during severe winters. Also, concentrate on the need for adequate feed supplies during winter.