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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

EXTENSION SERVICE
County Agent Work

PLAN OF WORK

COUNTY Powhatan

YEAR 1955

Name E. L. Lewis
(Local Farm Agent)

Date Mailed 12/23/54

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

J. W. Bell President[Ⓢ]
Route 1, Belona, Virginia

Mrs. J. D. Granderson Secretary
Powhatan, Virginia

E. D. Turner Treasurer
Route 1, Clayville, Virginia

4-H CLUB JUNIOR COUNCIL

James Tinsley President
Ballsville, Virginia

Delores Goodman Secretary
Belona, Virginia

Walter Johnson Treasurer

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THE COUNTY SITUATION

Powhatan County has a land area of approximately 273 square miles, or a total of 170,000 acres. The county is entirely rural, and an estimated 75 per cent is forested. The climatical condition of this county is very conducive to agriculture. It has an annual rainfall of 36 - 40 inches. There is an average of about 198 days of growing season annually.

There are approximately 447 Negro families living on farms in this county that range in size from 3 to 500 acres. This variation in size of farms makes diversification on any given area more easily established.

Most of the land in Powhatan County is on a gentle to steep rolling slope, and requires major conservation practices to obtain maximum benefits. The principle types of soils are: cecil fine sandy loam, senaca, alluvial helena, appling, cecil sandy loam, wilkes and sandy loam. These soils are best suited to such crops as hay, small grain, pasture, corn and dark tobacco. The fact that the soils provide these kinds of crops has brought more livestock into the county.

In as much as 75 per cent of the county is in forest. A large amount of the cash made in the county comes from the sale of pulpwood, which is fast disappearing from many sections of the state.

COUNTY POPULATION

Farm Owners 265
Tenants 15
Sharecroppers 1

Community Clubs 5
Number of Families 165
Community Leaders 62
Men ; 32
Women 26

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MAJOR PROJECT ACTIVITY

Pasture

Situation:

With the growing demand for better livestock and better livestock feed, we feel too much attention could not be placed on pasture improvement. The acreage of pasture is too small for the number of livestock in the county. The acreage of permanent pasture is too small per farm.

Goal:

1. To get three farmers in each magistrial district to seed two acres each or a total of not less than 18 acres of permanent pasture
2. Assist farmers with management of established pasture
3. To get 20 farmers to send a minimum of 80 acres of temporary pasture

Method:

1. Publicize in community
2. Circular letter and bulletin on top dressing established stand
3. Send circular letter with recommendation for seeding permanent pasture
4. Field meeting to a recently established pasture
5. Visit experiment station with farmers
6. Radio program on pasture

Small Grain

Situation:

There is a definite need to increase the yield of small grain crops in this county. A number of farmers are still growing wheat for feed when it would be more economical to grow barley and oats.

Goal:

1. To use recommended practices and seed for all grain
2. To get ten farmers to seed a minimum of 50 acres of barley for feed
3. To get eight farmers to seed a minimum of 50 acres of oats for feed

Method:

1. Small group meetings and discussions
2. News articles and publicize in community
3. Field meeting to a small grain demonstration
4. Send circular letter with recommendation for seeding small grain

Corn

Situation:

A large number of the farmers are not using recommended varieties of corn and fertilizer to meet their needs for home use and market.

Goal:

1. To conduct three demonstrations in each magistral district on recommended varieties, fertilization, cultivation and the proper spacing

Method:

1. Send circular letter and bulletins on varieties, fertilizer recommendation and spacing.
2. Field meeting, news articles and the use of specialist will be used to get the points over to the farmers
3. Supervise demonstrations closely enough to see that the entire area receives some treatment

Forestry

Situation:

With the growing demand for forestry products, we feel that too much attention can not be placed on forestry management. The amount of forestry products marketed compared to the number of seedlings planted is too broad in this county.

Goal:

1. To get eight farmers to plant a minimum of three acres of pine seedlings or a total of 24 acres in Loblolly pine or white pine seedlings

Method:

1. Encourage farmers to plant seedlings through the Agricultural Conservation Program
2. Small group meetings
3. Field meetings, circular letters and news articles
4. Field trip to a recently established pine seedling area

Soil Conservation

Situation:

The conservation of soil is one of the major problems in the county. Intensive row crop farming (tobacco and corn) has subjected the soil to erosion, leaching and other soil depleting forces. There is little or no appreciation for a soil conservation plan.

Goals:

1. To set up four farms or a minimum of one farm in each magistrial district - carrying out all phases of soil conservation practices that are practical for each farm
2. To get each farmer with a soil conservation plan to carry out two or more practices as recommended

Method:

1. Farm visits with soil conservation agent and encourage farmers to use technical assistance
2. Small group meetings and news articles
3. Encourage the use of the Agricultural Conservation Program
4. Field meetings and bulletins

MINOR PROJECT ACTIVITY

Garden

Situation:

There is a need for better gardens and year around gardens in this county. A large per cent of the farm people are not planting a year around garden.

Goal:

1. To get four farm families in each community to plant a year around garden

Method:

1. Send garden plan with circular letter
2. Farm visits
3. Tours and discussions

Tobacco

Situation:

With the demand for a better quality of product, far too many families are not using recommended practices to control disease and insects.

Goal:

1. To get four families to use recommended practices in controlling disease and insects.

Method:

1. Mail pamphlets with circular letters
2. Farm visits
3. Publicize in community

Poultry

Situation: There is a need of more poultry and poultry products in this county to meet the family needs.

Goal: 1. To get three farm families to raise a poultry flock according to recommended practices to meet family needs and market demand.

Method: 1. Farm visits
2. Send bulletins, pamphlets and circular letters on poultry
3. Small group meetings and discussions

Livestock

Situation: There is a great need for better livestock. With diversification on the farms in this county, livestock will hold an important place.

Goal: 1. To create interest in proven registered sires.

Method: 1. Mail pamphlets and bulletins with circular letters
2. Tours and films to encourage more farmers to use proven sires
3. News articles and discussions

COOPERATION GIVEN OTHER AGENCIES

Agricultural Conservation Program

1. Assist with the best conservation practices for their farms
2. Notify farmers of dates to carry out conservation practices
3. Assist agent in getting the maximum participation in the program

Soil Conservation Service

1. Farmers will be assisted in making application for service under this organization
2. Farmers who are already in the soil conservation program will be assisted in carrying out their plans

Other Agencies

The other agencies in this county will be given full cooperation by the local farm agent, whenever their programs need his assistance, and will benefit the majority of the farm people.

MEETINGS - COUNTY WIDE

1. County Advisory Board Meeting Quarterly
2. Adult and 4-H Training Meetings Jan. - - Nov.
3. Young Men and Womens Meetings Jan. - - Nov.
4. Community Club Meetings Jan. - - Nov.
5. 4-H Club Meetings Dec. - - Nov.

PARTICIPATION IN STATE EVENTS

- | | Month |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Farmers Conference | April |
| 2. 4-H Club Short Course | June |
| 3. 4-H Club Wildlife Conference | August |
| 4. State Advisory Board Meeting | September |

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

December

1. Planning program of work
2. Reorganizing 4-H Clubs

January

1. Reorganizing 4-H Club Council
2. Meeting County Advisory Board
3. Visit and select demonstrations for the year
4. Meeting of Fair Association

February

1. Conduct county-wide farmers meeting in Farm Credit
2. Conduct 4-H Club leaders training meeting
3. Organize one community club
4. Check 4-H Club records
5. Check with pasture demonstrators on top dressing pasture
6. See that demonstrators plant pine seedlings

March

1. Arrange for State Farmers Conference
2. Meeting of 4-H Club Council
3. Check with garden demonstrators
4. 4-H Club Council meeting
5. Arrange for State Farmers Conference

April

1. Plan with tobacco demonstrators
2. Plan with 4-H Council for Rural Life Sunday
3. Check with small grain and pasture demonstrators
4. Plan for field meeting in May
5. 4-H Club leaders meeting
6. Field meeting on pasture and small grain
7. Attend State Farmers Conference

May

1. Rural Life Sunday observance
2. Field meeting on pasture and small grain
3. Junior Council Meeting
4. Check 4-H Club project demonstrations
5. Arrange for State 4-H Club Short Course

June

1. Plan county tour of pasture, livestock and gardens
2. Check forestry demonstrations
3. Check with small grain demonstrators

June - continued

4. Attend State 4-H Club Short Course
5. Visit experiment station with farmers

July

1. County farm tour
2. Check with county fair officials
3. Arrange for county face-lifting project
4. See that 4-H Club delegates are selected for 4-H Club Conference in August

August

1. County 4-H Club picnic
2. Arrange for County Fair
3. Arrange for delegates to attend State 4-H Club Wild Life Conference
4. Check tobacco demonstrators
5. Take ten day leave

September

1. Field meeting, when practical, on forestry
2. Check with timber and corn demonstrators
3. Plan 4-H Club "Achievement Day" with 4-H Club Council
4. Arrange for County Fair with 4-H Clubs

October

1. County Agricultural Fair
2. Check 4-H Club projects
3. Check 4-H Club record books

November

1. Collect 4-H Club record books from members
2. Check result of years work
3. Evaluate years work with Advisory Board and plan for another year
4. Observe National 4-H Club Achievement Day

DEMONSTRATIONS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Hybrid corn	5
Small grain	3
Pasture	3
Forestry	2
Garden	2
Tobacco	1

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COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SPECIALIST</u>
1. Farmers Conference	February ..	Mr. Furb
2. Pasture and Small Grain Field Meeting	May . . .	M. T. Carter
3. County tour	July . . .	Mr. Newsome Miss Harrison
4. Agricultural Fair	October	

4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

1. National 4-H Club Week observance ... March
2. Rural Life Sunday observance May
3. 4-H CouncilFeb., April and June
4. 4-H Club leaders meeting Feb., April and June .. Mrs. Hewlett
5. 4-H Club picnicJuly
6. 4-H Club Achievement observance November