

The economy of Allegheny County is at a very low ebb for in late 1960, the Industrial Rayon Corporation, which employed about 1,000 people, was sold to the Hercules Powder Company. The Hercules Powder Company plans to employ only about 200 people within the next two years, and only a part of this 200 will come from the 1,000 employees that were working for Industrial Rayon. There has also been a reduction in forces at the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. A number of the part-time farmers in Allegheny County work at one of the industries located within the area. If one of these part-time farmers is one of the people who have lost their job at industry, it leaves him without his industrial pay and with a farm that is too small to give him sufficient income on which to make a living.

The phases of agriculture that have been selected by the County Agent to stress in 1961 are:

Agronomy

Goals:

1. Higher production of corn.
2. Increase alfalfa acreage and yield.
3. Improve pastures.

Corn yields are going to be stressed through local newspaper articles, circular letters, and radio broadcasts. At least one corn production demonstration is going to be held near the center of the County. This demonstration will show the wheel plant methods and the controlling of weeds with spray plus the use of proper fertilization. This demonstration will be publicized through all of the above mentioned media.

Alfalfa seeding and fertilizer recommendations will be given publicity through the local newspapers, radio, circular letters, and work with the local ASC Committee during the spring and fall seeding dates. The control of alfalfa weevil will be stressed during the spring when weevil damage is expected.

The improving of pastures will be stressed during the spring and fall when reseeding is recommended. The use of lime and fertilizer will be stressed at the time when farmers are signing up for assistance from the ASC Office.

A farm contest with the local Kiwanis Club will be conducted during 1961. This contest which is being sponsored by the County Agent and Kiwanis Club

will select the Kiwanis Club "Farmer of the Year" on the basis of the farmer who has utilized his farm resources to the best advantage. The Committee of Kiwanians and Farmers feel that this will give farmers who try to do a good job some recognition and encouragement.

Dairying

Goals:

1. Give dairymen information on some alternates in the feeding and handling of their dairy herds.

This information will be put to dairymen at a joint meeting where such alternates as feeding more silage in order to cut cost of production and maybe increase size of herds on some farms. This will be conducted by a Farm Management Specialist from V.F.I. After this, the County Agent will follow up with individual farm visits and work out individual farm changes that look feasible.

Artificial breeding will be discussed with some of the dairymen on an individual basis to try to build up herd production.

Mastitis control will be stressed on a year around basis to try to reduce the amount of Mastitis in the dairy herds.

Gardening

Due to the expected increase in unemployment in the area, gardening will be undertaken this year on a large scale. Plans are under way to form a county-wide committee to help encourage gardening as a means of supplementing the food needs of people who are unemployed. The use of available land that is owned by some of the industries will be made available to persons nearby for the use of growing gardens. County-wide and sectional meetings on gardening will be held to discuss vegetable gardening. Newspaper articles, radio broadcasts, circulars, and leaflets will be used to give people information on gardening.

A contest with prizes given by local business concerns is being planned. These prizes will be awarded to persons having the best all-around garden.

Livestock

Goals:

1. Increase quality of beef herds.
2. Control parasites of sheep

3. Improve marketing.
4. Improve marketing of wool.

The two main phases of the livestock industry to be stressed by the County Agent this year will be trying to improve quality.

Livestock producers will be assisted in culling their cow herds. Assistance will be given livestock producers in selecting better herd sires. Information on where good herd sires can be obtained will be given livestock producers.

The County Agent will work with the Livestock Committee and the local auction market in trying to work out better marketing arrangements. The sheep producers will be assisted in marketing their wool through the local wool pool.

Information on control of external and internal parasites for sheep will be given during the season when treatments for these pests are recommended.

Other Activities

4-H Club work will be conducted in the program with emphasis on trying to hold some of our boys and girls into club work longer.

The field of ornamental horticulture and lawns will be conducted with current information being publicized on radio and press and the answering of individual questions.

The field of forestry will be conducted. The Agent will continue to work with foresters from the paper company, both State and U. S. Foresters.

Calendar of Work

- January Meet with committees to plan activities which should be stressed in 1961. Attend 4-H Club meetings.
- February Make plans with Extension Agronomists on setting up corn and weed control demonstrations. Work with farmers and Kiwanis Club Committees to set up farm contest rules and regulations. Plan with Dairying Committee to have meetings on the business of dairying. Meet with 4-H Clubs.
- March Give radio broadcasts and write news articles encouraging farmers to reseed and improve pastures. Meet with a planning committee to develop a program to advertise the Covington-Alleghany County area. Work on the plans for a County 4-H Camp. Attend 4-H Club Meetings. County-wide 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held.
- April Give information to farmers through press, radio, and circular letters about planting corn. Get community vegetable garden program underway. Give information on the control of alfalfa weevil. Meet with 4-H Clubs.
- May Make final plans for County 4-H Club Camp. Emphasize home gardening. Stress control of alfalfa weevil. Assist Livestock Committee in selling wool. Hold joint 4-H Club Vesper Program with Bath County.
- June Assist farmers in assembling wool. Get boys and girls to 4-H Club Short Course. Publicize the control of Japanese Beetles. Give radio information on garden insect control.
- July Publicize weed control in pastures. Attend 4-H Club Camp. Publicize alfalfa seeding recommendations. Attend Institute of Rural Affairs.
- August Assist with County Fair. Publicize seeding of alfalfa and reseeding pastures with ladino clover and orchard grass. Attend Annual Extension Conference. Assist with County-wide 4-H Club picnic.

September Re-organize school 4-H Clubs. Assist Kiwanis Club Committee with their "Farmer of the Year Contest". Assist livestock producers with making arrangements for marketing cattle.

October Attend 4-H Club meetings. Get 4-H Clubs off to a good start for another year. Complete 4-H Club records. Assist livestock producers with marketing cattle.

November Complete annual reports. Hold 4-H County Council Meeting. Announce 4-H Club winners for the year. Attend 4-H Club meetings.

December Attend 4-H Club meetings. Publicize year's accomplishments. Meet with some committees in planning next year's activities