

1955 PROGRAM AND PLAN OF WORK
RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VIRGINIA...

W. H. Lyne, Co. Agent
Rapley Owings, Assist. Agt.

1955 Program and Plan of Work

Rappahannock County Agent

I. Agronomy:A. What

Because (1) the topography of the county is steep to rolling resulting in comparatively little land suitable for row crops production; (2) livestock production being one of the county's major enterprises; (3) the high percentage of hay acreage now being seeded to lespedeza ; (4) the forage crop shortage for the past two years as a result of the drought and (5) declining markets demanding more efficient production and management of the farm business the Extension Agronomy Committee decided the principal problems to be as follows:

1. Hay Production including :
 - (a) Too small acreage seeded to biennial and perennial legumes in hay mixtures.
 - (b) Insufficient acreage seeded to deep rooted crops.
 - (c) Difficulty in saving first hay crop .
 - (d) Plantings not based on physical capabilities of soils nor fertilized according to plant needs.
2. Poor land use and farm management including:
 - (a) Disregard of physical limitations and capability of soils including topography.
 - (b) The lack of balance between land devoted to pasture and crop production and livestock numbers as well as efficiency of use land, buildings, labor and capital.

B. How, Where, When :

1. Continue present Alfalfa varietal demonstrations at: P. M. Finks, C. E. Johnson, Jr.'s , H. S. Barksdale's, L. W. Buckley's . Having each variety identified and call farmers attention to same via radio and news column.
2. Arrange to have soil survey technician visit all farmers with agent who plan to qualify under the A. S. C. program by seeding alfalfa to see: first if soil is suitable physically , secondly to encourage fertilization suitable soils according to soil test and thirdly to establish varietal demonstrations where fields are well located with a goal of atleast one demonstration per magisterial district. When soil type is unsuited to alfalfa then encourage use of biennial legumes in grass mixtures. Publicize accomplishments and findings.
3. In early February publish articles on hay production including seeding methods, liming fertilization, importance of right soils, soil tests, seed bed preparation, comments from farmers using recommended methods with success.

4. In March make drive on silo construction and in process try to locate and arrange for demonstration on filling trench silo (in May) with long grass and legume ensilage.
5. Take car load of farmers to Middleburg pasture school and field day and to Orange Field Day.
6. Have Fertilizer school in January for fertilizer dealers, agronomy committee and professional agricultural workers to include discussions on:

Fertilization according to Plant Needs.. by G. R. Epperson
Assoc. Ext. Agronomist
Chemical Reaction of Soils after Fertilization
..By C. S. Coleman
Assist. Agronomist
Va. Soil Survey

7. Get economic information on hay making from V. P. I. Agricultural Economics Dept. and Publish same upon receipt.
8. In April arrange for Agronomy Committee to spend one half day with soil technician making soil survey.
9. In January prepare mimeo on " What Is a Soil Survey " for distribution to office visitors.
10. Study further from dollar and cents evaluation standpoint Middleburgs Twelve Months Forage Program.
11. Complete the ten Farm Development Plans already requested in January, February, March and April.
12. Continue agronomy section of " Timely Tips to Farmers" sent out monthly on request.

II. Livestock

A. What

Since the main livestock enterprise of the county is commercial cow-calf beef herds, supplemented by spring lamb production and production of feeder pigs and slaughter hogs for home consumption the Livestock Committee felt the following to be the major problems confronting the industry of the county :

1. Beef Cattle:

- (a) Too few farmers vaccinating replacement heifer calves against Brucellosis.
- (b) Poor use being made of feeds available and the lack of supplementing long feed with protein and grain concentrates.
- (c) Lack of wide understanding of the State Brucellosis Control Program.
- (d) Lack of Internal and External Parasite Control.

- (e) Too many late calving cows.
- (f) Insufficient awareness of bovine reproductive diseases.

2. Sheep

- (a) Too lax in parasite control and timeliness of parasite control.
- (b) Continue studies and efforts towards improved lamb marketing in May, June and July.

3. Swine

- (a) The need of meat type swine.

B. How, Where and When :

1. Contact all farmers of county in March, July and November advising them of county wide heifer Bangs vaccination program requesting they notify office of number they have. Circulars radio and news article publicity emphasizing importance. After closing date for vaccination requests get together with vet, make out half day schedules and mail to those concerned.
2. Hold Livestock School in February to include:
 - Dr. Estes, ..State Bangs Program
 - Dr. Kalsion ...Reproductive Diseases.
 - Geo. Litton....Feeding of Brood Cows and Replacements
 - Dr. Marlowe ...Record of Performance
3. Publicize emergency rations via radio, news articles and personal contact early in January.
4. Demonstration in early December on control of lice, grubs, and internal parasite of feeder calves and replacement heifers ... one near Sperryville, one near Washington, one near Flint Hill, and one near Amisville. Publicize via letter, radio, weekly news column.
5. In January make study of individual feeder calf consignments, then farm study of feeding, breeding, and management of high and low consignment herds (by numbers and not names) and publicize widely also visit individuals doing poorest jobs. County Wide.

In March... reminders ... get that bull with the herd early.
6. Continue Sears Sow Chain among 4-H'ers, publicize availability of breeding pigs, publicize purebred swine sales and purchases of desirable types.
7. Continue to improve marketing and production of Feeder Calves' by:
 - Better Sires Campaign
 - Checking cow herds throughout the year with owners.
 - Improving Buyer's Good Will
 - Keeping alert for strong and weak points of sale



8. Continue Wool Pool in June and organization of same.

III. Poultry

A. What

The poultry industry of the county is primarily family sized laying flocks with but two commercial egg producers, one commercial broiler producer and a few scattered small-sized turkey flocks.

The Extension Poultry Committee felt that because of the high production costs low income situation the principal problems to be:

1. Making a profit.
2. Getting enough eggs to make continued cooperative marketing of eggs feasible.

B. How, When and Where

1. To get complete district representation on the poultry committee the committee suggesting Mrs. Wade Pullen to replace Miss Elsie Dodson who resigned because of taking on teaching responsibilities in one of our schools.
2. The county agent to continue quarterly studies of egg marketings and report on "high and low" value shipments plus management practices employed.
3. Continue following demonstration flocks:

Miss Nellie Johnson ... Stonewall District
Mr. Floyd Compton Hampton District

and try to get the following producers to cooperate in the plan in order to have one demonstration flock per magisterial district.

Mrs. D. L. Regan Hawthorne District
Mrs. Ivory Jacobs Jackson District
Mrs. Wade Pullen..... Wakefield District
Miss Fannie Hylton Piedmont District

The county agent to contact these producers in February to solicit their cooperation. *

4. The county agent and committee chairman to visit the Brentwood Egg Company as soon as possible to investigate complaints on egg grading.
5. Further educate the producers on means of lowering production costs and increasing quality by putting out timely reminders on: culling, suggested management practices, source of production bred chicks, better feeds and feeding methods and egg care, through the assistance of Lee Herrick, Associate Extension Poultryman, the press and radio.

HORTICULTURE

What : Tree fruit production is a major source of income in five of the six magisterial districts of the county. Topography, soils, slope and exposure (or direction of slope) as well as climate lends readily to this enterprise particularly apples. The county is also well supplied with cooperative packing and cold storage facilities and in addition there is an apple juice plant for processing apples unsuited for packing. In addition there are several processing and canning plants within a radius of 50 miles of the county seat.

The Rappahannock Horticulture Committee selected the following to be the major problems confronting the industry:

1. What, When, and How much to use in the way of new fungicides.
2. Orchard mice .
3. Not enough knowledge new red sports and to get some started in the county.
4. Growing the Trees... Growing the Crop.
5. Producing Quality Fruit without increasing demand.

How, When, Where and By Whom:

1. Attempt to ~~revive~~ group discussions of timely problems and solutions to be held atleast every other month, or monthly if occasion demands. Meetings to be centrally located, usually at night, to which all growers would be invited. Speakers to be Mr. Teske, Mr. Dreiling, Dr. Grove, Dr. Rollins, etc.
2. Continue Orchard Inspections in April, May, June, July and August by Extension Horticulturist and county agent, the following orchards to be included: A. H. Buckner, Jr., Mt. Vernon, W. C. Campbell, Wade H. Massie III, E. B. Combs, B. J. Wood. Invitations to attend inspection tours to be sent out over the host orchardists' signature. Night discussion meeting on control measures to follow when findings are significant.
3. Be host to Area Fruit School requesting these problems be covered in program.
4. Blight control demonstrations by Extension Horticulturist at W. C. Campbell orchard using Aureomycin 1st when 25% bloom is open, 2nd when in full bloom and again if there is a long bloom.
5. The committee work with soil survey team on possible sites and suitability of soils for apple growth .
6. Request Dr. Rollins and Extension Horticulturist to check on developments in Rappahannock orchards to see if " spray card recommendations" are actually timely.

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM AND PLAN FOR 1955

What

- A. (1) Have a 4-H County Council composed of five members from each club.
(2) There are seven junior clubs and one senior club in Rappahannock county.
(3) There is at least one club in each school.
Meets once monthly during school hours, last from 60-90 minutes.
(4) One out of every five boys and girls between the ages of 10-19 , are enrolled in 4-H work.

Problems

- (1) Need to create more enthusiasm, spirit and interest in club work.
- (2) Lack adult leaders for boys groups
- (3) Need an Honor Club:
 - a. Serve as a backbone for the organization
 - b. Create leadership and inspiration for the rest of the 4-H Club members.
 - c. A goal for which the other members could strive.

Goal : The overall goal is to develop leadership, character, and better farming practices among the rural youth of the county.

How :

- (1) Work close with County Council
- (2) Establish an Honor Club
 - a. With the aid of the county council and leading club members.
 - b. Set up goals.
 - c. Time and place of meeting.
 - d. Nature of meeting
 - e. Method of selecting new members.
- (3) Strive to make 4-H club meetings as interesting as possible.
 - a. Select topics that would be of interest to the boys.
 - b. Use of charts and demonstrations.
 - c. Have the boys do it themselves whenever possible.
- (4) Make as many home visits as possible to help members with their projects, records and interest parents in 4-H work.

County Council Goals :

1. Recommend boy and girl for All Stars
2. Have 85% completion of projects and records and award a banner.
3. Have a boy or girl as junior leader for each club... give publicity so all 4-H'ers will know who the 4-H junior leaders are.
4. Have a county achievement day.
5. Sponsor Share The Fun Contest.
6. Sponsor Rural Electric project.
7. Have 45 attend 4-H county camp.
8. Adequate publicity
9. Send delegates to short course.
10. Sponsor 4-H supper during National 4-H club week.

How

1. For the future selection of All Stars:
 - a. Organize an Honor Club
 - b. Familiarize the members with the requirements and advantage of becoming an All Star.
2. Go over records with members twice a year during club meetings.
 - a. Make sure each member understands how to fill out his record book and the importance of doing so.
3. Appoint the outstanding boy or girl in each club as junior leader.
4. Have Rural Electric project meetings the first three Wednesdays in February and have several junior leaders give demonstration at each meeting.
5. With the help of members who attended camp and short course last year advertise and encourage other leaders and members to attend this year.
6. Publicity
 - a. Send an article in each month to state 4-H newspaper.
 - b. See that " 4-H Member Lives Here " signs and 4-H decals are offered for sale.
 - c. Have 4-H'ers of the month in Rappahannock News.
 - d. Complete two road signs and keep in repair.

Project WorkA. LivestockWhat

The 4-H projects in this county are primarily livestock projects. being brood sows and market hogs. With dairy heifers, sheep, and beef projects being about equal in numbers.

Goals:

1. Have a livestock judging team compete in area contest.
2. Create more interest, and improve management practices in farm sheep flocks.
3. Have more participation in area livestock shows.
4. Increase members know how in the selection, care, feeding and management of his selected livestock project.
5. Increase appreciation of quality and stimulate a desire for higher quality livestock.

How

1. Teach club boys the different breeds of livestock.
 - a. Show advantage of higher quality such as higher prices received for better quality livestock (high grading feeder calves, trimmer, meatier hogs, higher grading mutton type lambs.)
2. Keep an eye on the Sears Pig Chain and give assistance with sale and culling of litter. Continue to have all boys in the chain tour the project twice a year.
3. With the aid of articles, from magazines and papers, of accomplishments of 4-H'ers in the show ring, try to interest members in showing

their livestock.

- a. Inform as to date and place of area shows.
 - b. Give advice in selecting animal, time of selection and on entering it in the fair.
4. Devote one club meeting a year to the advantages, disadvantages, care and management of a farm sheep flock.
 5. Select interested, qualified members for livestock judging team.
 1. Select time and place of meeting.
 2. Locate livestock classes for practice judging ahead of time.
 3. Attend area livestock judging school.

B. Poultry

What : One club boy enrolled in poultry as a project.

Goal : 1. Increase number of members enrolled in farm flock projects.
2. Improve quality and management practices.

How : 1. Point out the advantages of having a good laying flock.
2. Show members how to cull out poor layers, pass out information on feeding and care of laying flock.
3. Stress importance of buying pullorum free chicks of a good laying strain.

C. Crops :

What : Two members are taking corn production as a project and 11 are taking home gardens.

Goal : Interest more members in crop and pasture improvement projects.

How : 1. Devote one meeting in early spring to pasture improvement.
2. Urge use of best adapted varieties, proper land preparation and fertilization.

D. Health Project

What : Health, as the main project, is being offered to clubs composed mainly of younger members.

Goals : To teach the younger members the value of:
a. good health practices
b. interest in 4-H work
c. have high percent of project completions.

How : 1. Give instructions and demonstrations on good health practices, and the keeping of records at each meeting.
2. Explain purpose and function of 4-H clubs.

E. Rural Electrification Project

Goal : 1. Familiarize rural youth with the uses of electricity on the farm and in the home.
2. How to make minor electrical repairs.

How :

1. Hold three meetings on the first three Wednesdays in February for Unit I and Unit II.
2. Cooperate with power representatives and have several Unit II members give demonstrations at each meeting.
3. Conduct a tour of at least one well electrified farm.

Other

Try to have at least one member take up entomology, and one member forestry as a project.