

PLAN OF WORK

FOR

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

1959

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County Agent

I. Activities

A. Agronomy

1. Situation

Corn yields can be improved, livestock does not have sufficient quantity and quality of pasture, hay can be improved, there is need for insect control on forage crops, and weed control in crops and pasture is needed.

2. Teaching Methods that will be Attempted

Pasture improvement will be stressed through newspaper and radio media during March, early April, and again during August. At these times, recommended pasture seeding practices will be given and, also, maintenance practices will be stressed.

Alfalfa seeding recommendations will be given during the early spring, July, and early August through the radio and newspaper, as well as individual farm and office contacts.

For improving corn production, recommended corn hybrid varieties will be discussed with all seed dealers during February and early March. These recommendations will be given to farmers through the local radio and newspaper media and on office calls and farm visits. A "100 Bushels Per Acre Corn Contest" will be held again this year to try to encourage higher production per acre. This will be sponsored jointly by the local Kiwanis Club and by local merchants who will donate prizes. Publicity will be given on entering the Contest both at planting time and again at harvesting time. Bulletins on producing corn will be given to all the farmers who are interested in entering the Contest.

Chickweed control recommendations will be publicized in the newspaper and on the radio during November, December, February, and early March.

Weed control for corn will be stressed at planting time and again during cultivation.

Weed control for pastures will be stressed through the local media of radio and newspaper during June and July.

The control of the alfalfa weevil will be publicized in January, February, early March, and again in April and May.

In all phases of the above where a farmer is doing a good job, his farm will be publicized so that other farmers will go to see it and view for themselves what results were obtained.

3. Goals

We hope to have at least 30 farmers participate in the "100 Bushels Per Acre Corn Contest," 120 acres of alfalfa seeded this year, and about 400 to 600 acres of pasture to be top-dressed.

B. Gardening

1. Situation

With shorter work-weeks and less overtime, there is more of a need for good gardens to help supplement the family budget.

2. Teaching Methods that will be Attempted

Garden suggestions will be presented to farmers through farm visits and office calls. The value of home gardens will be emphasized in radio broadcasts and newspaper articles. Proper planting, proper seed selection, and timely planning will be stressed to 4-H Club members. Gardening bulletins and timely garden suggestions will be given to 4-H Club members monthly during the year.

3. Goal

Our goal will be to have 75% of the families to grow gardens that have available space.

C. Dairying

1. Situation

Due to the scarcity of our cropland, most of our dairymen have to buy a large part of their grain and, in some instances, hay. There is not enough milk produced in Allegheny County to supply the demand; therefore, farmers some distance away have been granted a milk base on this market. These farmers have more cropland, so that gives them some advantage over our local dairymen.

2. Teaching Methods that will be Attempted

Most of the dairymen in the County will be visited by the County Agent and their forage and silage programs will be discussed to see if their farms will produce more pasture and silage. Trench and bunk silos will be encouraged so that dairymen in Allegheny County will have more forage and silage, and will be able to supplement some of their hay needs. On some farms the increase of alfalfa production will be encouraged. For the D. H. L. A. members, it is planned that a Specialist from V. P. I. will visit each dairymen and help him analyze his records. This is planned for late spring and early summer.

3. Goal

Our goal is to have enough silage and hay for the dairy herds in the County.

D. 4-H Club Work

1. Situation

Since most of our 4-H Club members come from small farms or from homes where no farm land is available, the livestock and farm crops projects are of very little interest to them. The type of project that has to be stressed is one where more group participation can be had. A number of our school Clubs are too large and they are being broken into smaller groups.

2. Teaching Methods that will be Attempted

This year electricity will be carried by a large number of our 4-H Club members. Other projects will be used that will be of interest to boys and girls who do not have farms where they can carry projects such as livestock, forestry, and other projects of that nature. This year it is planned to have more community Clubs and fewer school Clubs. We feel that this will tie the Clubs closer to the communities where the boys and girls live. An attempt will be made to get local leaders to assist the 4-H Clubs on a community basis.

3. Goals

Our goals will be to have two more community Clubs and to have more boys and girls participate in contests.

II. Minor Activities

- A. Community Improvement Clubs
- B. Ornamental Horticulture
- C. Farm and Home Development
- D. Livestock
- E. Forestry

The above activities will continue to be worked on for improvement, but will not be stressed in the overall Extension program this year.

With this being an industrial area, where people work at one of the industries and live on small farms and in rural areas, there are a number of requests that the County Agent is faced with that are hard to put into a plan of work. These requests will have to be met when the problem arises.

III. Calendar of Work

- January Meet with committees to help plan work. Meet with 4-H Clubs and Community Improvement Clubs.
- February Meet with sub-committees on planning the Extension program for Alleghany County. Hold annual D. H. I. A. meeting. Urge farmers to sign up for pine seedlings. Meet with 4-H Clubs.
- March Work on plans for County 4-H Camp and Senior 4-H Camp. Publish news articles and have radio broadcasts on seeding alfalfa and pasture, and on value of home gardens. Stress the importance of harvesting pulpwood properly. Meet with Community Improvement Clubs and 4-H Clubs.
- April Publicize "100 Bushels Per Acre Corn Contest" and get farmers entered. Give last-minute recommendations on seeding alfalfa and pasture. Give additional warning of alfalfa weevil damage. Attend 4-H Club meetings.
- May Work with livestock committee on selling wool. Give information on how to spray for the alfalfa weevil. Emphasize home gardening and make final plans for County 4-H Club Camp. Meet with 4-H Clubs and Community Improvement Clubs.
- June Stress Japanese beetle control. Assist farmers in assembling wool. Get boys and girls off to 4-H Short Course. Send delegation to Senior 4-H Camp. Help to plan Farm-City Day. Attend 4-H Club meetings.
- July Complete plans for Farm-City Day. Give alfalfa seeding recommendations. Stress weed control in pastures. Attend County 4-H Camp. Meet with Community Improvement Clubs and 4-H Clubs.
- August Assist with County Fair. Attend annual Extension Conference. Hold Farm-City Day. Give recommendations for seeding alfalfa, ladino clover, and orchard grass. Publish news articles and have radio broadcasts in connection with recommendations for fall garden crops. Attend 4-H Club meetings.
- September Start completion of 4-H Club records. Reorganize all school 4-H Clubs. Meet with Community Improvement Clubs and assist them in completing their year's work and making plans for County Judging.

- October Complete 4-H Club records. Hold Community Improvement Club Judging. Complete work on "100 Bushels Per Acre Corn Contest." Attend 4-H Club meetings.
- November Complete annual reports. Hold annual 100-Bushel Corn Contest banquet. Announce 4-H Club winners for the year. Attend 4-H Club meetings and Community Improvement Club meetings.
- December Give newspaper and radio publicity on year's accomplishments. Meet with 4-H Clubs.