

1959 PLAN OF WORK

Miss. Julia A. Green

LOCAL HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

Lancaster County

PLAN OF WORK
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
LEE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
1959

SUBMITTED BY

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COUNTY AGENT

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ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT

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DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Lee County was formed in 1792. The county is wedge-shaped and lies between Kentucky and Tennessee in Virginia's extreme southwest corner. The county's land area is 434 sq. miles or 277,760 acres and the water area 4 sq. miles. From the 1954 census report, there are 3,116 farms in the county with an average size of 54.9 acres. Geologically it is considered to be in the Valley and Ridge province or in the Appalachian Plateau. Elevations vary from 1200 feet on the Powell River at the Tennessee line to 3,732 feet in the northern tip above Keokee. Temperatures average 39° in January and 73° in July. Precipitation is about 48 inches annually.

Lee's economy is based upon its agriculture and its natural resources of timber and coal. The Powell Valley limestone soils and bluegrass pastures produce good crops and livestock. Principal sources of farm income are burley tobacco, beef cattle, and dairy products. Poultry and hogs are produced on practically all farms for home use. There is a hatching egg route in the county.

There are three tobacco markets and two livestock markets in the county.

Many of the small farms are operated by part time farmers who produce farm products for home use. Then several of the larger, but still small, farms which are located near towns and mining communities produce fruits and vegetables for sale.

CHANGES IN THE SITUATION

1. Price-cost squeeze.
2. Labor costs are up and good farm labor is scarce.
3. Soil Bank Program.
4. Wise farm management is necessary for a profitable farm enterprise.
5. Beef cattle prices are up a little and there is more demand for them.

6. Hog prices are down some and the outlook is for lower prices in the summer and fall of 1959.
7. Poultry and egg prices are down. The outlook for eggs and poultry isn't encouraging.
8. Hay and grain prices are down.

HOW THE COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED

The county Extension program is planned by the county Agricultural Extension Service Board. The membership of the board is listed below.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE BOARD

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Flatwoods Community Club C. E. McClure Russell Gregory | Fleasant View Community Club Lester Parsons Clyde Garrett | Foultry Mrs. J. E. Sexton Banker Browning Wynn |
| Midway Community Club John Scott | Livestock Farmers John Snodgrass Robert S. Orr | Forestry Herbert Carter |
| Dairying T. E. Fugate Charles Thomas Castle Daugherty | Tobacco Farmers M. J. Coomer | Fress George A. Lee |

The board met at Jonesville on March 19, 1959 and assisted the Extension personnel in working out a county Plan of Work for 1959. At this meeting T. E. Fugate was elected chairman of the group for 1959.

GENERAL COUNTY PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Many of the small and medium sized farms have a small net farm income. Farmers are depending too much on tobacco for their cash income.
2. More soil and water conservation practices needed.
3. More efficient dairy management and higher production.
4. There is a demand for more manufactured milk and a few more Grade A producers.
5. Higher percentage of beef calves that will grade fancy and choice.
6. A number of small farmers need off-farm employment. A number of farmers used to work in the coal mines but have no off farm employment now.

LIVESTOCK

EEEF CATTLE, SHEEP AND SWINE

A. Situation

1. Livestock is one of the most important enterprises in the county.
2. The January 1, 1958 livestock estimates for Lee County shows cattle and calves totaled 20,500, sheep and lambs 2300, and hogs and pigs 5200. This was an increase of about 2300 head of cattle and calves, 867 head of sheep and lambs and 1345 hogs and pigs over the 1954 census report.
3. The number of feeder calves sold through the cooperative feeder sale in the county dropped from 605 in 1957 to 559 in 1958. More calves are needed to draw out of state buyers.
4. The percentage of fancy and choice calves in the county sale was 17% compared with 32% for the state.

5. There were 8622 pounds of wool sold through the county wool pool in 1958. This was about 278 pounds less than was sold through the pool in 1957. The clear tied wool sold for \$46.55 per hundred or \$24.47 less than in 1957.
6. There are approximately 25 purebred beef cattle breeders in the county, most of which are small breeders.
7. The price and demand for beef cattle has been very good throughout 1958.
8. The Federal Bang's eradication program was completed early in 1958. The county now has a Modified Certified Brucellosis Free Certificate that is good until March 27, 1961.

B. Extension Methods

1. A special effort will be made to get the feeder calf producers that sold calves through the sale in 1958, as well as producers who did not sell through the sale, out to an educational meeting. At this meeting plans and requirements for the sale will be discussed and voted on and a calf sale committee elected for 1959. Personal visits will be made to discuss the calf sale with some of the producers who have not been selling through the sale.
2. Livestock producers will be kept informed on available sires locally, and dates of nearby purebred sales.
3. Stress the importance of a good year round feed program including as many grazing days as possible. Also point out advantages of good management practices such as culling, parasite and disease control, early castration, docking, dehorning and vaccinating.
4. Assist the local cooperative with the county wool pool.
5. A letter will be sent to all sheep producers encouraging them to dock and castrate their lambs in order to receive a better price for them. Treatment for parasites and diseases will also be stressed. The wool incentive payments through A.S.C. will be brought to their attention.

6. Assist purebred breeders with registering, transferring, and locating suitable replacements.
 7. Hold a sheep shearing school to demonstrate proper method of shearing sheep.
- C. Goals for 1959
1. Place 50 high quality registered bulls.
Place 6 high quality registered rams.
Place 6 high quality registered boars.
 2. Assist farmers with culling their herds and finding female replacements.
 3. Sell 750 feeder calves through local sale and increase percentage of fancy and choice calves 10% above 1958.
 4. Sell 95% of the wool through the cooperative pool.
 5. Get some special news articles concerning beef cattle to the papers, possibly written by livestock specialist at Blacksburg.
 6. Improve methods of shearing sheep.

DAIRYING

A. Situation

1. A survey of the grade A dairies made in April 1958 showed there were 56 dairies with 1496 milk cows, an average of 26.7 per farm. These cows produced an average of 22.2 pounds of milk on the day the questionnaires were filled out.
2. The survey showed .5 acre of alfalfa per cow, .52 silage per cow, and 2.56 acres of pasture per cow.
3. A new manufactured milk route was established during 1958 which gives routes covering about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the county.

4. The Lee-Wise Artificial Breeding Association services are available to all livestock owners. There were 501 cows bred by the Association during 1958. The Lee-Wise DHIA did testing work for six dairymen. More cows are needed in both associations.
 5. Good labor for dairying is scarce and high.
 6. Good replacements are hard to find.
- B. Extension Methods
1. The annual A.B.A. and D.H.I.A. meetings will be held early in the year with a good educational program set up for each meeting.
 2. Meetings will be held for the manufactured milk producers for the purpose of discussing the need for more milk, outlook information, elevated stalls and general information.
 3. Work will be done with dairymen on feeding, breeding, selecting replacements and other management problems.
 4. Plans for dairy buildings and laws regulating the production of milk will be kept on hands for new dairymen.
 5. Dairymen will be encouraged to enter dairy animals in the county fair.
 6. Special emphasis will be given the mastitis prevention and control program.
 7. Work with other counties on dairy heifer placement program.
- C. Goals for 1959
1. Artificially breed 650 cows.
 2. Increase number of cows on testing program, either DHIA, owner-sampler or weigh-~~d~~-day-a-month.

3. Hold annual A. B. A. and DHIA meetings.
4. Increase number of elevated stalls for manufactured milk from one to four.
5. Increase silage from .5 ton per cow to .75 ton.
6. Place a number of dairy heifers with dairymen and other farmers for replacements.

AGRONOMY

A. Situation

1. Tobacco is the main cash crop. The county crop in 1958 sold for over two million dollars. There were 2,122 acres planted on 3,133 farms. The average tobacco allotment is .677 acres.
2. More silage could be used on most farms for both dairy and beef cattle.
3. A better forage program is needed on many farms. More farmers need to grow alfalfa and keep fertilizing pastures.
4. Farmers need the latest information on the best field crop varieties.
5. One farmer grew Turkish tobacco.

E. Extension Methods

1. Farmers will be encouraged to produce good quality tobacco through meetings, personal contacts, news articles and field meetings.
2. Three tobacco stripping and sorting demonstrations will be held with the assistance of a Government tobacco grader.
3. Arrangements will be made with M. J. Coomer to plant a hybrid corn and tobacco variety test on his farm. Mr. Ed Shulcum and Dr. R. G. Henderson from the Experiment Station at V.P.I. will help with these tests.

4. Field meetings will be held for farmers to see the results of these tests at harvest time.
5. Seed will be secured for farmers interested in growing Turkish tobacco. Farm visits with the Turkish tobacco specialist will be made to farmers growing this type tobacco.
6. Farmers will be taken to the Greenville, Tenn. and Emory, Va. experiment station field days to observe tobacco, forage crops, irrigation, livestock and other experiments.
7. Two or more nematode control demonstrations will be conducted on tobacco and gardens.
8. New varieties and production methods on all crops will be made available to farmers.
9. Encourage farmers to take advantage of ASC program.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Publish county crop recommendation sheet and get this information to 60% or more of the farmers and all of the seed dealers.
2. Get 25 or more farmers to attend the field days at the experiment stations.
3. Increase alfalfa acreage at least 10%.
4. Ten or more farmers build bunker, trench or upright silos to improve their forage feeding program.

POULTRY

A. Situation

1. Most every farm family keep poultry for home meat and egg supply.

2. The 1954 census shows 90,732 chickens on farms, which was 30,754 chickens less than in 1950. There were 1,040 turkeys in 1954.
3. Many farm flocks are not profitable.
4. There were approximately 80 farmers with rather small flocks producing hatching eggs.
5. Prices dropped sharply on eggs early in 1959.

B. Extension Methods

1. Information on housing, feeding and management of poultry will be made available to farmers through the office, meetings, and by personal visits to the farm, and will be given to L-H poultry project members.
2. Encourage poultrymen to purchase chicks that come from disease free and high producing strains.
3. Promote more pastures for poultry.
4. Farmers with disease problems will be assisted, and if necessary, birds sent to the diagnostic laboratory for post-mortem examination.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Through improved management increase income from farm flocks.
2. Furnish building plans for poultry houses when requested.
3. Work with poultry people on disease problems.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

A. Situation

1. The farm garden is important in the family food supply. Most every farm family has a garden but many of them do a poor job on summer and fall gardens.

2. Twenty farmers were assisted last year with marketing their strawberries through an incorporated marketing organization. There were 1018 24-quart crates and 179 24-pint crates sold through the association. The farmers received \$5.10 per crate for the 24 quart crates after all marketing expenses were taken out.
3. Necessary reports in connection with the Strawberry Cooperative were filed and Franchise taxes have been paid for the 1959 year.

B. Extension Methods

1. A meeting of the strawberry growers will be held in April to discuss production and marketing problems for 1959. Election of officers for the co-operative marketing organization will be held. The growers will be assisted with making plans for the operation of their strawberry pool.
2. Assistance with marketing the crop will be requested from the Virginia Division of Markets and the marketing specialist at V. F. I.
3. The latest recommendations on vegetable and fruit varieties, fertilization and disease and insect control measures will be furnished farmers.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Sell 85 percent of the strawberries produced in the county through the cooperative marketing organization.
2. Improve quality of berries and vegetables.

4-H CLUBS

A. Situation

1. There were twelve 4-H clubs in Lee County with a total of 387 members carrying 647 projects. 493 projects were completed during the year.

2. Three local leaders assisted with club work. All club meetings are held in schools with one club meeting at private homes during summer vacation.
3. County 4-H activities include: annual Junior Livestock Show in April; a eight sow 4-H Duroc pig chain, sponsored by local bank; annual county picnic held in August; county 4-H float in Lee County Tobacco Festival and the county Achievement Day program in November.
4. Out of county 4-H activities include: Bristol Junior Livestock Show in April; Senior 4-H Camp at Clyde Austin 4-H Camp, Greeneville, Tenn., with six other Virginia counties; Junior 4-H Camp at Presbyterian Camp, Bristol, Tenn., with five other Virginia counties; 4-H State Short Course and All Star Conference at V.F.I.; State Conservation Camp, Virginia Beach, Natural Resource Conservation Camp, Fontana, North Carolina and Electric Congress, Richmond.
5. 4-H Club work is sponsored by local business people. They contributed a total of over \$400 during the year.
6. 4-H medals, money, and trips to the State Short Course are used in recognizing outstanding project and leadership work.
7. Older members drop out of some of the clubs. More local leaders and the support of more parents would strengthen the club program.
8. Transportation and expenses to and from out-of-county events are very expensive because of our location.

Extension Methods

1. Organize new clubs where there is interest and encourage more members to compete for district and state awards.
2. Contact prospective local leaders for clubs that do not have leaders. Mention the need for leaders at county 4-H events, Achievement Day, and by other means of communication.

3. Encourage the members to participate in the junior and senior camps with the intention of building up greater 4-H club interest within both age groups.

4. Work out arrangements for members to attend camps, short course, electric congress, picnic and other activities.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Increase number of clubs from 12 to 13.

2. Secure three additional local leaders.

3. Continue all county and out-of-county activities during the year and encourage members to participate.

4. Send 50 club members to the junior and senior camps.

5. Continue the 4-H pig chain and move it to a new club during the year.

6. Have 85% project completion.

7. Have two or more county council meetings in 1959.

8. Encourage members to enter records in district and state competition.

9. Give 4-H medals, \$6.00 per project, and two expense paid trips to State Short Course for outstanding project and leadership achievements.

10. Help in setting up a county committee for the Southwest 4-H Center Drive. Send out letters and help in other ways to inform people concerning the Center. Assist the fund drive leaders in the county when possible to get donations for the Center.

FARM AND HOME UNIT DEMONSTRATIONS

A. Situation

1. Demonstration program was started in 1935 and has continued to date.
2. There were 20 active demonstrations well distributed over the county with all sizes and types of farms being represented at the beginning of 1958. Two were dropped as their five year period ended and one more was dropped at his request, due to his bad health. This left a total of 17 demonstrations at the end of the year.
3. Lack of a home agent limits the home phase of demonstrations.
4. The county wide organization of demonstration farmers is known as the Lee County Soil Conservation Association.
5. The program has done much to promote the increased use of fertilizer as well as other improved practices. Due to a shortage of funds, TVA was unable to supply all the fertilizer requested.
6. Demonstrators need to keep more accurate records of yearly operations and better outlined check plots.
7. Some demonstrators should take greater advantage of high analysis fertilizer to meet their particular needs.

B. Extension Methods

1. Take applications for prospective demonstration farmers.
2. Work closely with the demonstration farmers and assist them with farm management and planning.
3. Have at least one meeting of all demonstrators annually and provide transportation for all of those interested to attend the annual meeting of the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association at Abingdon.

4. Make plans for and conduct tours of outstanding demonstrations.
5. Local association to pay annual dues to the treasurer of Association of Tennessee Valley Farm Families and the annual dues to the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association.
6. Encourage and assist farmers in taking advantage of all available demonstration material.
7. Assist with getting soil samples on demonstration farms and in making recommendations based on tests.
8. Encourage the use of and assist farmers in laying out check plots.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Add three new demonstrators and keep total up to the number allowed by T. V. A.
2. Close out 1958 records with 100% completion and set up 1959 records. Turn in more accurate and complete books than in previous years.
3. Have at least one check plot on each demonstration farm.
4. Bring annual plans up to date on all demonstration farms.
5. One or more demonstrators attend the annual meeting of the Association of Tennessee Valley Farm Families, Asheville, N. C.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

A. Situation

1. Working with community organizations has proven a very effective method of working with farm people. Through community work the farm people are rapidly improving their farming and living conditions.
2. There were three organized communities in the county at the end of 1958.

3. One club entered the Bristol Area Community Improvement Contest in 1958. The Pleasant View Community placed in the blue group, winning \$220. The Flatwoods and Campground communities received certificates from the Bristol Chamber of Commerce for having had active clubs during the year.

4. These clubs completed many community, farm, and home projects during the year.

B. Extension Methods

1. Extension workers will assist committees with planning their programs, securing information, speakers, and films for their meetings.

2. The clubs will be assisted with special activities such as picnics, banquets, fund raising activities and recreational programs.

3. Information will be furnished them on the Bristol Area Improvement Contest. A county contest will be held if it is needed.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Organize other communities if interest develops in club work.

2. Have at least two communities competing in the Bristol Area Improvement Contest.

3. Have ten or more people in attendance at the Area Awards Luncheon in Bristol in November.

4. Four or more delegates from the clubs attend the Institute of Rural Affairs at V.F.I. in July.

5. Have a county contest and sponsor if two or more communities enter the contest.

6. Increase the effectiveness of the community clubs over the county.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A. Situation

1. There were 20 cooperators during 1958.
2. This work has been on the farm side due to the fact there is no home agent in the county.
3. More time is needed to develop this program as it should be.

B. Extension Methods

1. Work closely with present cooperators and furnish them all assistance possible on new practices that will be helpful to them.
2. Discuss the program with other families that might be interested in it and encourage them to participate in the program.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Add three or four new cooperators.
2. Continue with present cooperators.

FORESTRY

A. Situation

1. About 1/5 of the land in the county is in forest. A part of this is in mountains and rough land.
2. Many acres of forest land burns over each year.
3. Tree seedlings should be set on many of the acres of land that are idle.
4. Through the forest warden and other agricultural workers a total of 4,737,838 tree seedlings have been set to date.

5. State Forester has marked timber for a few farmers in the county.
6. Two woodlot management demonstrations were set up in 1958.

B. Extension Methods

1. Assist county forest warden with tree orders.
2. Publicity will be given the timber marking service available through the State Forest Service.
3. Continue the two woodlot management demonstrations and hold field meetings to discuss management practices with interested farmers.

C. Goals for 1959

1. Have one or two field trips to the woodlot management demonstrations.
2. Set 100,000 tree seedlings in the county.
3. Increase the use of timber marking by the Forest Service.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The other agricultural agencies in the county will be assisted with the over-all agricultural program all during the year. New bulletins, leaflets, and results of experiments will be forwarded on to them as soon as they are received from the experiment station.

The county agent will serve as supervisor of the Daniel Boone Soil Conservation District and assist the A.S.C. Committee in every way possible.

Special efforts will be made to encourage farmers who do not have running water on the farm and in the home to put in a satisfactory water system.

Farmers will be assisted with farm building plans, farm plans and rotations and other problems during the year.

CALENDAR OF WORK FOR EXTENSION PERSONNEL LEE COUNTY 1959

January

Professional agricultural workers meeting.
Marketing tobacco variety test.
Closing farm account books for T.V.A. demonstrators.

February

Annual D.H.I.A. meeting.
Annual A. B. A. meeting.
County Agricultural Extension Service Board meeting.
Feeder calf producers meeting on plans for feeder calf sale.

March

Dairy meeting for the manufactured milk producers.
Nematode control demonstrations.
Annual meeting of Ext.-TVA demonstrators.

April

Junior Livestock Show at Farmington.
District Junior Livestock Show and Sale at Bristol.
Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association meeting in Abingdon.
Strawberry Growers Association meeting.
Distribute material on Bristol Area Improvement Contest.

May

Plant hybrid corn variety test (Ed Shulcum, Agronomist, VPI, assisting).
Place sow pigs in 4-H chain and secure boar pig for the chain.
Assist with tobacco variety test.
Assist with cooperative marketing of strawberries.
Sheep shearing school.

June

4-H Resource Development Camp, Fontana, N. C.
Senior 4-H Camp at Clyde Austin 4-H Camp, Greeneville, Tenn.
Assist with county wool pool.
State All Star Conference at V.P.I.
State Short Course at V.P.I.

July

State 4-H Conservation Camp, Virginia Beach, Va.
Tennessee Valley Association of Farm Families annual meeting.
Institute of Rural Affairs, V.P.I.
Purebred Ram Sale, Abingdon, Va.
Annual Field Day at Greeneville, Tenn.
Tobacco Experiment Station.

August

Field meeting at tobacco variety test.
Junior 4-H Camp at Bristol.
County 4-H picnic at Cumberland Bowl Park.
State 4-H Electric Congress.
Annual Extension Conference V.P.I.
Field Day at Emory Experiment Station.

September

County Fair
Field Day to observe tobacco variety test.
Assist community clubs with reports.

October

Feeder Calf Sale
Collect 4-H record books
Help harvest corn variety test.
Field meeting at hybrid corn test.
Three tobacco stripping and sorting demonstrations.
Tri-State Purebred Cattle Sale at Bristol.

November

County 4-H Achievement Day.
4-H float for tobacco festival.
Fertilizer requisitions for T.V.A. demonstrators.
Annual Extension report.

December

Reorganize 4-H Clubs.
Assist county forest warden with orders for tree seedlings.

Each Month

Community Club meetings.
A. S. C. and S. C. S. meetings.
4-H Club meetings (nine school months).