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
1961

COUNTY Prince Edward

NAME Leonard L. Blevins
Local Farm Agent

DATE MAILED 3/2/61

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

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34
72

COUNTY SITUATION

Prince Edward County was formed in 1754 from Amelia County and named for Edward Augustus, a son of Frederick, Prince of Wales.

The population for Prince Edward County is 14,121 according to the 1960 census. There are 319 Negro farm operators and 534 White farm operators in the county.

Prince Edward County has an area of 357 square miles. This county lies in Central Virginia in the Piedmont Plateau. Temperatures average 38.9 degrees in January and 79.5 degrees in July. Mineral resources include Kyanite which is mined commercially, feldspar, coal, granite and brick clay. Two-thirds of the county's area is in forest. Prince Edward is an important producer of pulpwood and lumber; and, in recent years, forest products have contributed a significant amount to the county's farm income.

Agriculture is the principal industry. The soils are varied but generally productive and adapted to general crops. Tobacco is the most important cash crop. The dark-fired tobacco can be sold on the local market here in Farmville. Dairying is also important and the production of beef cattle is growing. Grain and pasture crops are increasing rapidly.

Manufacturing is closely related to Prince Edward's farm and forest resources. There are five saw-mills and plants making millwork, box shooks and cooperage stock. There are tobacco stemming and re-drying plants in Farmville also. Another important

RM

34
72

concern in this area is the dairy processing plants which process over a half million pounds of butter annually.

TOBACCO

I. Situation:

Tobacco is the main source of cash income on more farms than any other single crop in Prince Edward County.

Since 1954, the total number of acres of tobacco grown in the county have remained almost constant except for the normal reductions and increases by the A. S. C. each year. However, there has been considerable reduction in flue-cured tobacco. Observations indicate that small growers are being forced out because of very small allotments. These allotments are than distributed to larger growers. Low yeilds, failure to plant full allotments, disease control, production practices, grading and marketing and many other problems face tobacco growers in this area.

II. Objectives:

1. To teach farmers to grow recommended varieties
2. To teach improved methods of production
3. To teach farmers to plant full allotments
4. To encourage farmers to grade tobacco according to the market demands

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Conduct two production demonstration (one dark-fired and one flue-cured)
2. Have field meetings at the demonstration area
3. Conduct four grading demonstrations (two dark-fired and

RM
34

two flue-cured)

4. Mail circular letters and bulletins

   a. Preparation of seed bed

   b. Growing fire-cured tobacco

5. Mail to each tobacco grower a bulletin on tobacco production.

IV. General Educational Activities:

The educational activities will consist of the following:

1. Circular letters to farmers

2. Farm Visits

3. News articles

4. At least two group meetings on the farm where the demonstrations are being conducted.

CORN

I. Situation:

Most farmers in Prince Edward County produce corn as it is necessary for feeding livestock and poultry; also, in some instances, as a cash crop. However, the average yield is about 35 bushels per acre which is below average. The reason for this is that many farmers are using inferior seed, not enough fertilizer and poor cultural practices.

II. Objectives:

1. To encourage farmers to increase corn yield

2. To establish three community corn demonstrations

3. To encourage farmers to use recommended seed varities

4. To encourage more farmers to use recommended fertilizer applications

III. Methods To Be Used

1. Farm Visits
2. Circular letters
3. News articles
4. Field Meetings

IV. General Education Activities To Be Used

1. Farm visits to discuss individual problems with farmer
2. Field meetings to observe demonstrations

SOIL CONSERVATION

I. Situation:

There are many acres of idle land, native pasture and scrub trees that could be more profitably used. Only a few farmers are taking advantage of the A. S. C. benefits. Many farmers fail to notify the office of extension prior to starting A.S.C. practices. In general, farmers need to know more about soil conservation.

II. Objectives:

1. To organize an educational program with emphases on soil conservation
2. To encourage at least three farmers to start a conservation program
3. To increase the number of A. S. C. applicants

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Farm visits to discuss the conservation program
2. Stress conservation at every occasion possible
3. Get five additional farmers to apply for soil and water loans

4. Hold conservation field meetings

5. Make survey to obtain more detailed information about conservation practices

IV. General Educational Activities:

1. Secure a movie to be shown at the group meeting on soil conservation.

2. Write news articles

3. Make farm visits to individual farmers

LIVESTOCK (Including Poultry)

I. Situation:

The use of livestock in the farm program is becoming an important factor. Many farmers spend much of their time doing public work and many other farmers have time to idle. In either instance, spare time could be profitably used with increased production of livestock and poultry. Many farmers do not realize the value of having a good grade livestock. Therefore, inferior breeds are used in many instances.

II. Objectives:

1. To improve quality and quantity of market hogs

2. To encourage farmers to keep records of livestock production

3. To encourage farmers to maintain a year round feeding program

4. To aid dairy producers with problems of production and marketing

5. To aid farmers in selecting desirable breeds of swine and cattle.

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Have farmers to visit Show and Sale with agent
2. Farm visits
3. Field meetings at selected demonstrations and supervised projects
4. Seasonal meetings with livestock producers on specific problems
5. Mail reference bulletins to farmers on livestock production

IV. General Educational Activities:

1. Educational charts will be displayed showing ideal animals
2. Slides of successful farmers will be shown at group meeting
3. Farm visits will be made and group discussions will be given at various county meetings

FORESTRY

I. Situation:

Prince Edward County has about 152,800 acres of commercial forest exclusive of public reserve and other non-commercial forest land. Approximately 49% of the timber is softwood and 51% hardwood. Trees are being cut faster than they are being replaced by nature or planting.

II. Objectives:

1. To encourage farmers to plant pine seedlings
2. To encourage farmers to carry out good forestry management practices
3. To establish seedling demonstrations and follow through with recommended practices

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Establish three seedling demonstrations

2. Have Forester to speak to forestry committee

3. Stress A. S. C. benefits through proper program channels

4. Mail circular letters and bulletins on forestry production to farmers

IV. General Educational Activities:

Educational charts will be displayed showing ideal trees; there will be a group meeting held at our forestry demonstration, discussions will be given on recommended forestry practices. The forestry program will be carried out with the assistance on the forestry committee.

PASTURE AND HAY

I. Situation:

The production of pasture and hay has greatly more quality increased in recent years. However, the need for better hay and pasture is needed. Many of the acres of idle land can be profitable used for pasture.

Several farmers in the county have sound proof that a good pasture pays; these farmers have Ladino Clover and Orchard grass pastures established.

II. Objectives:

1. To encourage more farmers to seed permenent pastures

2. To conduct one alfalfa demonstration

3. To encourage more farmers to top dress their pastures and hay crops

4. To encourage more farmers to seed winter pastures

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Mail circular letters and bulletins to individual farmers

2. Farm visits

3. News articles

4. Conduct two pasture demonstrations and five alfalfa demonstration

IV. General Educational Activitites:

1. Discuss with farmers the advantages of good pastures and hay in group meetings

2. Show pictures and slides on good pasture

3. Have field meeting at demonstration farm and hay production

FARM MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

I. Situation:

In many instances, farmers in Prince Edward County are placing emphasis on home development while some place more emphasis on the farm development. It is felt that they do not realize the need for developing both together in order to have a well balanced farming program.

II. Objectives:

1. To aid farmers to meet their economical problems

2. To aid farmers in establishing a balanced program

3. To encourage farmers to protect their implements and equipment

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Conduct county-wide meetings with emphases on farm Engineering and Management

2. Establish two farm and home development demonstrations

3. Encourage better record keeping

4. Farm Visits

IV. General Educational Activities:

Secure specialist to meet with interest groups, make farm visits, use pilot families. Provide each interested farmer with Bulletin No. 262 and bulletin No. 229

4-H CLUB WORK

I. Situation:

There are ten or possibly more communities that should have 4-H Club Work organized. Problems include leadership, distribution of agent's time and parent cooperation.

II. Objectives:

1. To organize and promote 4-H work wherever possible.
2. Encourage boys and girls to participate in 4-H Club work
3. Encourage parents to assist their children with project selection and follow through

III. Methods for accomplishing Objectives:

1. Motivate boys and girls through group lectures
2. Organize 4-H Clubs in communities where possible
3. Encourage clubs to participate in as many 4-H activities as possible
4. Recruit 4-H Club Leaders
5. Give special attention to 4-H projects
6. Send letters to 4-H Club members' parents
7. Visit 4-H members parents as often as possible
8. Visit 4-H club projects

IV. General Educational Activities:

1. Hold regular 4-H club meeting
2. Provide each club member with information pretaining to his or her project

3. Make contact with members through home visits and give community programs when ever possible.

LANDSCAPE

I. Situation:

There is an increasing demand for landscape work assistance in the county. It can be clearly seen that the appearance of many homes could be improved if home owners would devote a little time to landscape work.

II. Objective:

1. Encourage home owners to improve the appearance and value of their property by landscaping.

III. Methods for Accomplishing Objectives:

1. Select three community families who will agree to conduct landscape demonstration
2. Provide ten home owners with landscape plans
3. Farm visit to discuss the importance of landscaping

FARM MANAGEMENT

I. Situation

The farmer, in general, is facing a series of problems in relation to management. For example, interagrated farming, partime farming, and labor saving devices give the farmer great concern today.

II. Objectives:

1. Encourage farmers to study market trends.
2. Encourage farmers to keep farm records
3. Encourage farmers to supplement their income with livestock, home gardens, and part-time work when advisable

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

January:

1. Enroll Pig Show and Sale project members
2. Prepare and distribute kits to 4-H leaders
3. Revise mailing list
4. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
5. Send out information of topdressing (small grain and pasture)
6. Mail the 1961 Seed Recommendations to all farmers
7. 4-H Forestry project meeting

February:

1. Work with tobacco growers on plant beds
2. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
3. Establish tobacco demonstrations
4. Letter to parents on project selection
5. Send letters on timely garden suggestions
6. Encourage farmers to have soil tests made
   a. Community demonstration
   b. Circular letters
7. Begin Home Development with one family in a definite community

March:

1. Prepare and submit 4-H enrollment
2. Arrange for 4-H participation in National 4-H Club Week
3. Organize Livestock Committee
4. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
5. Send letters on timely garden suggestions
6. Check Junior 4-H Pig Show and Sale Projects

April:

1. Send letters of corn planting time and methods
2. Send circular letter on tobacco transplanting
3. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
4. Plan for Rural Life Sunday
5. Organize Junior Council (4-H Club)

May:

1. Plan summer work with 4-H Club members
2. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
3. Visit tobacco demonstration
4. Observe Rural Life Sunday
5. Elect delegates for 4-H Short Course
6. Participate in District Tractor Clinic

June:

1. Visit all demonstrations
2. Take soil samples for alfalfa demonstration
3. Send circular letters on additional nitrogen for corn
4. Plans for delegates to attend annual 4-H Short Course
5. Arrange annual Picnic with 4-H members
6. Meet with Junior Council

July:

1. Check tobacco demonstrations
2. Follow-up Pig Show and Sale projects
3. Start winter garden work

4. Visit 4-H projects
5. Attend regular 4-H Club meetings
6. Visit alfalfa demonstration
7. Complete plans for delegates to attend State Wildlife Conference

August:

1. Field meeting at tobacco demonstration
2. Assist alfalfa demonstrator with seeding recommendations
3. Hold Advisory Board meeting
4. Select small grain demonstrations
5. Select delegates to State Advisory Board meeting
6. Have 4-H members to participate in Wildlife Conference
7. Annual and Military Leave
8. Corn demonstration meeting

September:

1. Mail circular letters on cover crops
2. Hold regular 4-H Club meetings
3. Attend Annual State Advisory Board meeting
4. Attend Five County Fair
5. Check tobacco demonstrations
6. Assist in getting winter pasture seeded
7. Plans for closing 4-H projects record books

October:

1. Attend annual meeting of Farm and Home Agents
2. Attend 4-H Club regular meetings
3. Attend 4-H Junior Council meeting
4. Encourage small grain seeding early

November:

1. Visit small grain demonstrations
2. Follow-up winter pasture demonstrations
3. Prepare annual reports
4. Mail circular letters to parents of 4-H members
5. Meeting of Agronomy Committee

December:

1. Attend 4-H Club regular meetings
2. Visit winter pasture demonstrations
3. Mail circular letters to tobacco growers urging protection of checks
4. Check results of tobacco demonstrations
6. Meeting of the Advisory Board

Other meetings will be scheduled as advisable