

Plan of Work- continued.

November

1. Present awards to 4-H project winners.
2. Hold 10 4-H club meetings.
3. Work on annual report.
4. Forestry committee meeting to plan 1958-59 forestry contest.
5. Work on Farm and Home Development.
6. Three radio broadcasts.

Calendar of work - continued.

August

1. Conduct Cholera vaccination demonstration.
2. Attend Extension Conference.
3. Conduct Fowl Pox demonstration.
4. Work with Feeder calf consignors.
5. Attend 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond.
6. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
7. Three radio programs.

September

1. Conduct corn tour at Eastern Research Station, Warsaw.
2. Assist with Northern Neck Agricultural Fair.
3. Judge Forestry contest.
4. Work with marketing of corn.
5. Hold poultry culling demonstration.
6. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
7. Three radio programs.

October

1. Re-organize 4-H clubs.
2. Collect 4-H record books and judge projects.
3. Hold Forestry awards program and present prizes.
4. Assist with Feeder Calf sale.
5. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
6. Work with marketing of eggs.
7. Work with marketing of soybeans and corn.
8. Three radio broadcasts.

Calendar of work - continued.

May

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings.
2. Conduct weed control demonstration on soybeans.
3. Hold four New Castle vaccination demonstrations.
4. Hold Peach thinning demonstration.
5. Judge 4-H pig chain and place gifts with five members.
6. Hold liquid fertilizer demonstration.
7. Work with Farm and Home development families.
8. Three radio broadcasts.

June

1. Conduct weed control demonstration.
2. Conduct four demonstrations on control of Johnson Grass and hold meeting.
3. Conduct Cholera vaccination demonstration.
4. Work with Farm and Home Development.
5. Work with egg marketing.
6. Work with tomato insects
7. Three radio broadcasts.

July.

1. Conduct Cholera vaccination demonstration.
2. Have 50 4-H members attend camp at Jamestown.
3. Have 15 people attend Institute of Rural Affairs.
4. Assist in marketing cattle and hogs.
5. Judge 4-H Electric projects.
6. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
7. Three radio Broadcasts.

Calendar of Work continued.

February- continued

6. Hold Fruit school.
7. Hold Forestry Awards meeting.
8. Assist with selection of demonstration for river bank erosion control.
9. Hold Town and Country Institute
10. Work on and complete plan of work.
11. Distribute varietal recommendations.
12. Hold county tomato meeting.
13. Tree radio broadcasts.

March

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings.
2. Attend Farm Credit Meeting at Natural Bridge.
3. Hold poultry tour.
4. Put up displays in all schools and 15 communities and put on special radio program for observance of National 4-H club week.
5. Hold two alfalfa weevil demonstration using Granulated Heptachlor.
6. Work with Farm and Home Development families
7. Conduct weed control Demonstration in controlling dock in alfalfa.
8. Three radio broadcasts.

April

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings.
2. Poultry culling demonstration.
3. Have six farmers attend Field Day at Front Royal Research Station.
4. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
5. Demonstration on taking soil samples.
6. Three radio broadcasts.

Calendar of Work

December

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings .
2. Assisting forestry contestants.
3. Have Forestry committee meeting.
4. Hold Beef cattle tour.
5. Assist in helping work up poultry marketing agreement for this year.
6. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
7. Three radio broadcast
8. Hold Fruit Tree pruning demonstration.

January

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings.
2. Hold Forestry Committee meeting.
3. Hold Poultry Committee meeting.
4. Get all Fertilizer dealers to attend fertilizer meeting.
5. Work with Farm and Home Development committees.
6. Preparing for other commodity committee meetings.
7. Three radio broadcast
8. Hold committee meeting to plan Town and Country Institute.
9. Hold Income Tax- Social Security meeting.

February

1. Hold 10 4-H club meetings
2. Work with Farm and Home Development families.
3. Hold Agronomy committee meeting.
4. Hold Livestock committee meeting.
5. Assist farmers in selecting hogs at Purebred sale.

4-H Projects continued

- (f) Dairy Project- Encourage members to purchase heifers.
- (g) Beef Project- Encourage breeding heifer project.
- (h) Poultry project- Encourage breeding and laying flocks where practical.
- (i) Garden project- Urge members with limited facilities to carry this project.
- (j) Home Grounds Beautification project- Urge members in small towns and villages to carry this project, where facilities do not permit other projects.
- (k) Crops- Encourage older members to carry this project.

National 4-H Club Week.

1. Put up 4-H displays in all of the schools in the county.
2. Put 4-H displays in merchants windows in fifteen communities.
3. Have special 4-H club radio program with members participating during National 4-H club week.

Rural Church Sunday.

Encourage each member along with their parents to attend the Church of their choice on Rural Church Sunday.

4-H Camp.

Have fifty boys and girls attend 4-H camp at Jamestown this year.

XI 4-H Club Work

4-H clubs are organized in all elementary schools in the county. The clubs are organized and meetings held on a class room basis. The teachers serve as leaders and give excellent cooperation. Projects are offered on a club basis as we do not have a Home Demonstration Agent. These projects are offered to both boys and girls with individual agricultural projects being offered. 4-H club work is progressing nicely under the present set up, however, much more could be accomplished if the girls were able to receive instructions on a home making project.

The goal is to help each boy and girl in the county to become a better and more useful citizen.

Methods to be used in conducting 4-H club work are as follows:

1. Have each girl and boy in the county from the fifth grade and including the seventh grade take and complete at least one project.
2. Encourage leadership by members holding offices and participating in demonstrations and club activities.
3. Projects to be conducted.
 - (a) Electricity- offered to boys and girls in the sixth and seventh grades. Personnel from Virginia Electric and Power Company and the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative will instruct and give demonstrations on service cords, lighting, construction and conversion of lamps, care of electrical equipment and fuses.
 - (b) Safety- offered to boys and girls in the fifth grade. Demonstration will be conducted in this project by members and local State Trooper will instruct on safety on the highway and transportation.
 - (c) Forestry- offered to boys and girls in sixth grade, Stress importance of forestry and learn to identify trees.
 - (d) Entomology- offered to boys and girls in the sixth and seventh grades. Learn the identification of insects and their control.
 - (e) Swine- Continue Sears Pig Chain Project. Encourage breeding letter and market hogs.

Forestry- continued.

after the area has been cut over.

11. Encourage planting more seedlings on land not suited to other agriculture.

VIII. Farm and Home Development Program.

This is a new program started for the first time in Virginia in 1955. Select three new farmers for this program for the coming year.

1. Analyze the major farm problems with the families.
2. Work out different plans which will help provide greater economic returns for the families.
3. Assist the families in carrying out the plans they have chosen by giving technical information.
4. Work with these families very closely on a follow up basis.

The program cannot be as effective as in other counties as we do not have a Home Agent to work with the home.

IX. Northern Neck Agricultural Fair.

This fair is held for the benefit of the five Northern Neck counties and Essex county. Much interest has been shown in the past, but greater participation is needed with both adults and 4-H members.

1. Get a least 100 farmers to exhibit in fair.
2. Get at least 50 4-H members to exhibit in fair. Encourage project exhibits.
3. Put emphasis on livestock entries.
4. Give demonstrations on how to select fair exhibits.
5. Cooperate with fair officials in planning and carrying out fair activities.

X. Income Tax and Social Security.

1. Hold an Income Tax-Social Security meeting in January.
2. Inform farmers of Federal gas tax refunds.

Tomatoes- continued

3. Point out the importance of buying good plants from good source.
4. Try to get plants inspected before they are sold to farmers. Many plants have been diseased in past years.
5. Urge more farmers to grow their own plants.
6. Assist with insect and disease control.
7. Hold county wide meeting on production of tomatoes in February.
8. Emphasize picking at proper maturity.
9. Encourage more canners to buy tomatoes on grade.
10. Encourage more growers to sell on grade basis.
11. Try to get more tomato buyers.

VII Forestry.

Approximately half of the land in the county is in forest. Marketable pine timber has been and is being cut at a rapid rate. Forestry assistance will be as follows:

1. Continue Forestry Improvement contest with a goal of 40 adults and 15 junior members.
2. Hold awards program in March awarding prizes to the winners of the forestry contest.
3. Conduct 15 bulldozing-tree planting demonstrations.
4. Urge people to get timber marked and estimated before selling.
5. Encourage the leaving of seed trees.
6. Hold three planting demonstrations.
7. Erect appropriate signs on the two permanent forestry demonstration areas.
8. Hold one tree thinning demonstration.
9. Warn people of danger and destruction of forest fires.
10. Encourage scarifying of planting of seedling immediately

Small Fruits.

Most all small fruits are home plantings with the small commercial strawberry producers. These people will be assisted by the following methods.

1. We are well situated for good strawberry production and the demand is good, therefore, more plantings will be stressed.
2. Growers will be advised of good cultural practices, fertilization rates and proper varieties.
3. Assist growers with insect and disease control.
4. Give information through Extension publications, newspaper and radio.

Home Vegetable Gardens.

Most every family has a home garden, much too little time and thought is given to this important enterprise by the farmer. They will be helped in the following ways:

1. Distribute vegetable charts.
2. Emphasize plantings be made in order to furnish vegetables from spring until late fall.
3. Assist with insect and disease control.

Tomatoes.

The growing of tomatoes is big business in this county, while this county still ranks fourth among all counties in the state in acreage of tomatoes, this crop has declined drastically from 2000 acres in 1944 to 750 acres in 1954 and approximately 700 acres in 1957. They were sold as green wraps, straws, pinks and to the canneries. There are ten commercial tomato canners located in the county, only two were in operation in 1957. This seriously crippled the tomato industry. Growers are not getting as good yields as they should.

They will be assisted by the following method:

1. Stress planting at least three varieties at different times.
2. Recommend varieties, cultural practices and fertilization with at least 1000 pounds per acre of 5-10-10.

Poultry- continued

4. Assist poultry producers with disease control by furnishing latest information on same.
5. Have poultry tour in March showing different types of housing and management, also different breeds.
6. Encourage more people to enter poultry exhibits at the Northern Neck Agricultural Fair, but stress not taking fowles back to the farm as a disease preventative.
7. Emphasize strain wanted when buying chicks.
8. Cooperate with Northern Neck Egg Grading Station.
9. Work with egg producers stressing quality eggs.
10. Urge egg producers to go to larger scale production.

VI. Horticulture.

Tree Fruits.

Northumberland has twelve small commercial peach orchards and four commercial apple orchards and numerous small home plantings that are not properly cared for. The commercial man is doing a good job and is eager for new information. The orchard growers will be helped in the following ways:

1. Conduct one apple and one peach pruning demonstration in December.
2. Have Area Fruit School in February.
3. Have fruit specialist visit growers
4. Assist growers with spray program.
5. Hold peach thinning demonstration in May.
6. Emphasize importance of cover crops.
7. Make fertilizer recommendations.
8. Emphasize harvesting at proper maturity.
9. Help home orchardist with insect and disease problems.
10. Assist with marketing problems.

Hogs- continued

6. Urge the control of external and internal parasites. Get more farmers using Sodium floride to control worms.
7. Distribute Extension materials
8. Urge farmers to use Diagnostic Laboratory and local Veterinarians to diagnois and treat hog diseases.
9. Investigate possibility of having a feeder pig sale. Conduct survey to see if farmers are interested.
10. Give publicity through newspaper and radio.

Sheep.

The sheep numbers are very small therefore, they receive very little attention. Dogs present a great problem. Most farms are not fenced properly for sheep production.

1. Encourage more farmers to raise sheep where practical.
2. Give drenching and other worm control demonstration in March and October.
3. Hold sheep shearing demonstration in April.
4. Stress early breeding of ewes so lambs will be marketed in early spring when prices are high.
5. Give publicity through Extension material, newspaper and radio.

Poultry.

Poultry numbers have decreased considerable in recent years, due primarily to small margin of profit, poor marketing facilities, and other farm commodities being more profitable. Most producers are small and produce eggs, a few growers produce turkeys. Very few broilers are being produced. Ways of assisting the poultry producer for the year are as follows:

1. Hold four New Castle vaccination demonstrations in May.
2. Encourage poultrymen to vaccinate pullets with fowl pox vaccine at nine and ten weeks of age.
3. Conduct culling demonstrations and recommend weekly culling.

Dairy Cattle.

Most of the dairy cow numbers are family cows. We only have three commercial dairy farmers, one produces, processes and distributes all of his dairy products, one sells milk to Bunker Hill Cooperative, while the other sells on the Richmond market. Most of the dairy problems are with family cows.

1. Encourage more and better pasture for the family cow, and stress good winter rations.
2. Urge better management of family cows.
3. Help commercial dairymen to provide better rations.
4. Encourage the commercial man to get more roughage from grazing.
5. Two men participate in D.H.I.A and the other will be encouraged to do so.
6. Stress calfhood vaccination of replacements.
7. Urge farmers to take advantage of the artificial breeding association.
8. Distribute Extension material and give publicity through newspaper and radio.

Hogs.

Hog numbers are rather large in the county. Many hogs are raised for home consumption. Many of these hogs are raised under very unsanitary conditions. Cholera has been a problem.

1. Encourage better selection of breeding stock.
2. Help select and stress importance of selecting purebred breeding stock, stressing meat type.
3. Stress importance of good pastures.
4. Urge getting family hogs out of the pen in a good clean lot with water and pasture.
5. Conduct numerous vaccination demonstrations. The Agent is expected to do too much vaccinating.

Agronomy Miscellaneous- continued.

help farmers select fields for specific crops.

4. An educational meeting will be held in March to show farmers how soil survey information can be used and how it can benefit the farmer.
5. Only ground limestone will be recommended this year since we are getting into some magnesium deficiencies using oyster shell lime.
6. Write a preliminary report on Soil Survey work, to be used by farmers in helping them to understand its use.

V. Livestock.

The Livestock committee is composed of farmers representing beef cattle, swine, and sheep.

Beef Cattle.

Beef cattle numbers increased rapidly in the late 1940's and early 1950's during the period of higher prices, however, since the decline in cattle prices beginning in 1953 beef cattle numbers have steadily been going down. Beef cattle should not be raised on good crop land as it is not economical to do so.

1. Advocate more culling the cow herds and keeping best female calves for replacements.
2. Assist in selecting better bulls for replacements.
3. Urge external and internal parasite control.
4. Have six farmers attend Beef Cattle Field Day at Front Royal Research Station in April.
5. Encourage more farmers to feed steers.
6. Encourage only those farmers that will benefit selling calves at the Feeder Calf sale.
7. Cooperate with the State Department of Agriculture in having market cattle live graded on the farm.
8. Assist with special Fat cattle sales.

Pasture and Hay continued.

4. Have soils tested to determine lime requirements and fertilizer needs for established pastures as well as for new pastures to be planted.
5. Stress clipping of pastures.
6. Encourage more farmers to use red clover in their rotation to provide feed and increase organic matter.
7. Encourage the planting of Williamsburg Alfalfa where practical. Some soils are too wet for such.
8. Conduct two Alfalfa weevil demonstrations using Granulated Heptachlor in March.
9. Check soils to see if types are adapted for alfalfa.
10. Encourage more farmers to make silage during surplus grass periods. Particularly the larger beef and dairy owners.
11. Give publicity in newspaper and radio.
12. Conduct a demonstration on control of Dock in Alfalfa.

Agronomy Miscellaneous.

The following list is miscellaneous problems the committee felt special emphasis should be put on this year.

1. 350 farmers had their soil tested and recommendations made last year. This important practice will be continually stressed.
2. Johnson Grass is getting to be quite a serious problem. Four demonstrations will be held along the highway showing how to control Johnson grass and a special meeting will be held showing how to apply chemicals and signs will be erected so farmers can observe results.
3. The using of liquid nitrogen will be stressed, a fact sheet will be worked out and distributed to farmers showing advantages and disadvantages of liquid nitrogen.
4. A soil survey has been completed in the county. Plans have been made to use this important information in giving lime and fertilizer recommendations. The Agent has a copy of all the maps and each field of every farm can be located. This information will also be used to

Corn- continued

6. Conduct a tour showing corn results at the Eastern Research Experiment Station at Warsaw.
7. Assist farmers with corn drying and marketing problems.
8. Assist with weed control problems.

Small Grains.

Small grains grown are wheat, barley, oats and rye in order of acreage grown. Small grain yields are average, but should be increased. The method to be used is as follows:

1. Send a list of recommended varieties to all farmers, professional workers, seed and fertilizer dealers and publish such a list in the local newspaper and give publicity on radio.
2. Encourage seed dealers to stock and sell recommended varieties.
3. Urge farmers to use plenty of fertilizer on small grains, particularly when soybeans follow.
4. Stress the importance of top dressing with nitrogen in spring. Encourage use of liquid nitrogen because it is a cheaper source.
5. Stress importance of buying good seed that have been treated.
6. Assist with small grain marketing problems.

Pastures and Hay.

We use mostly improved pastures to provide grazing for livestock, Ladino-clover, orchard grass and Ladino clover- fescue, provide most of the pastures. Alfalfa, red clover and lespedeza make up the largest bulk of hay used for livestock feed. Ample hay has been produced to take care of livestock needs in the county, but some individual farmers need more.

1. Top dress and use small grains for added winter pasture.
2. Plant cover crops such as crimson clover, rye grass and small grains for winter pasture.
3. Urge planting summer pasture such as sudan grass with millet.

Soybeans - continued

2. Redommand fertilizing soybeans with heavy appliction on the crop shead, and use of fertilizer on low producing soils to be applies thirty days before planting seed.
3. Urge innoculation of seed before planting.
4. Conduct two weed control demonstrations in May and June.
5. Give publicity on soybeans by newspaper and radio
6. Assist with soybean insect control by arranging for airplane spraying and recommending materials.
7. Investige possibility of starting a soybean contest to stimulate better efficiency and production.
8. Send a list of recommended varieties to all farmers, professional workers, seed and fertilizer dealers, and publish shch list in the county newspaper in February.

Corn.

Corn is the second largest crop grown in the county with approximately 10,000 acres, however approximately 1,000 acres has been taken out of production due to the Corn Acreage Reserve program.

The yields were below average last year due to a drought. The following methods will be used in assisting farmers to raise their yields.

1. Send a list of recommended varieties to all farmers, professional workers, seed and fertilizer dealers, publish such list in the county newspaper in February.
2. Stress the importance of thick planting, since this is one place most farmers fall short.
3. Stress the importance of proper fertilization giving thought to the cheapest source of plant food.
4. Continue urging farmers to have their soil tested in order to determine their lime and fertilizer needs.
5. Urge farmers to treat seed corn and soils with an insecticide where soil born insects are a problem.

Commodity Committees- continued

This committee is composed of seven farmers part of which are general farmers and part specialized, coming from all sections of the county; two seed dealers, one fertilizer dealer and one grain buyer; also the Soil Conservation Technician, one Vo-Ag teacher and the ASC Office Manager are on the committee.

The Poultry committee is made up of five poultry producers, two of which are ladies, since a large number of our poultry flocks are of the family type, it is felt that the ladies mostly care for this type production. The committee is also composed of a chick and feed dealer, a Vo-Ag instructor, and the owner of the Federal-State Egg Grading Station.

The Livestock committee is made up of five farmers, representing beef cattle, swine, and sheep.

The Forestry committee is composed of five land owners, a Ruritan member, two county bankers, a Vo-Ag instructor, and a representative of Chesapeake Corp.. This committee has been very active.

The 4-H committee is composed of eleven 4-H club leaders, four project leaders and three special leaders.

IV. Activities

Agronomy.

Approximately 49 percent of the county is in crops and 61 percent of the sales are from crops. Our soils are very tillable, rather level, and have the ability to produce high yields. This is the most important phase of agriculture in the county, therefore, more emphasis is being placed on Agronomy this year. Since our farms are small the committee though the major emphasis should be placed upon efficiency.

Soybeans.

This is the largest crop grown in the county; the reason being that a large acreage is planted after small grains have been harvested. We have approximately 14,000 acre of this crop in the county.

1. Encourage soil testing to determine lime needs.

I. Description of County.

Northumberland County lies in the Coastal Plain area at the eastern end of the Northern Neck, the Potomac River forms its Northern boundary and the Chesapeake Bay the Eastern boundary. The county contains 128,000 acres, nearly 49 percent of this area or 62,377 acres is in farm land. We have 751 farms averaging 83 acres in size. The population of the county is approximately 11,000, of which approximately 60 percent are white and the remainder negro.

The topography is generally level and cut by numerous tidal bays and inlets. Temperatures average 37 degrees in January and 76 in July. The frost free growing season is about 195 days, extending from around April 15 to October 15. Annual precipitation averages about 42 inches.

II. Situation.

Agriculture is of great importance to the county's economy, however, many people are employed in fishing and manufacturing. The value of farm products sold averages about one and one half million dollars annually. More than two thirds of the cash farm income is supplies by crops.

More than one half of the farms are classified as residential, or part-time, many of these farms however produce much of their food requirements.

Farms average \$9,442 in value of land and buildings. Both the number of farms and land in farms has been declining steadily since 1945.

III. Commodity Committees

Commodity committees have been utilized in working out the plan of work. It is felt that the organization of such plays a very important part in having a successful Extension program.

Each Commodity committee meets at least once a year and more often when conditions warrant.

Plans are being made to organize a County Extension Board of Agriculture in the future.

The Agronomy committee is possibly the most important committee since approximately 61 percent of the income comes from this source.

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PLAN OF WORK

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

1958

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