

November

4-H work. Summarize the past year's work. Submit an annual Extension report.

CALENDAR OF WORK

- December Meet with community groups on plan for year's work. Work with DHIA to strengthen it. Ten days, to 4-H Club work.
- January Pasture improvement; encourage participation in ASC Program. Obtain specialist's help for community clubs and other groups. Ten days to 4-H Club work. Meet with County Agricultural Board on plan for year's work. Have alfalfa weevil meeting.
- February Pasture improvement; encourage participation in ASC program. Obtain specialist's help for community club and other groups. Ten days to 4-H work and in addition work will start on increasing sheep numbers in the county. As many new Extension TVA farms will be worked up as time will permit.
- March Eight days to 4-H work. Continue to work on sheep numbers, pasture improvement, increase of alfalfa acreage, encourage increase in number of silos in county. Work with individuals and groups on landscaping problems. Work on Farm and Home Development and TVA Unit farms and planning.
- April Plan for cattle sale in April and in October, Feeder Calf and Yearlings. Continue with 4-H work, planning for 4-H Camp.
- May Ten days to 4-H Club work, relocate pig chain. Investigate insect damage on various crops.
- June Continue work on insects, 4-H Camp one week; stress importance of alfalfa and how and when it should be seeded. Assist in marketing the county wool pool.
- July 4-H work, ten days visiting projects, enroll campers for Junior Camp. Attend Institute of Rural Affairs and encourage at least two car loads to attend. Work with community clubs when requested.
- August Continue to work on seeding of alfalfa, have community clubs prepare for contests and judging. Assist in marketing of cattle and sheep. Continue the effort to place more ewes on more farms in county. Work on consignment for feeder calf sales.
- September Reorganize 4-H clubs throughout the county and secure leaders for as many clubs as possible.
- October 4-H work, assist with marketing of cattle, calves, yearlings and purebreds. Encourage the use of artificial breeding in grade A dairy herds.

will be devoted to this phase of production along with proper fertilization.

5. Aromatic Tobacco

Aromatic tobacco is a profitable crop when grown under proper conditions. This crop is very exacting in it's soil and plant food needs. Farmers that have the correct soil types and labor for growing their crop will be encouraged to produce it. Others will have to be discouraged because of improper soil on which to produce a quality product.

6. Insects

As in the past, the insect problem in 1958 will be as sure to occur as death. The striped alfalfa aphid was discovered for the first time in the county in the late fall of 1957. A close watch will be kept for all types of insects and farmers will be informed when they occur. Control methods will be gotten to farmers as soon as infestations are discovered.

There are five Community Improvement Clubs now organized in the county. No change in members is anticipated, but these clubs will be worked with closely in their work for improving their communities.

2. Extension TVA Program

There are now nine Extension TVA Unit Demonstration Farms in the county, five of which expired July 1, 1957. These five will be replaced, in addition to eleven more farms which we have been authorized to add; by the end of 1958 we will have a total of twenty demonstration farms, both old and new.

3. Farm and Home Development

This phase of the Extension Program has not received as much attention as it should. The families now being worked with have been selected by the agent or are being worked with because the family has requested that they be included. The present plan is to have twenty-five (25) farm and home families by the end of 1958.

4. Tobacco

a. Burley

In the past few years burley tobacco quality has seemed to be less important. The problem to be confronted with in the county seems to be producing early disease free plants. Therefore, most of the tobacco work this year

E. 4-H CLUBS

1. Activity-4-H Clubs

a. Situation

The 4-H club program in the county has not received the attention it has deserved during the past few years because of the shortage of personnel, lack of time devoted, and capable and willing leaders to help carry out a well rounded club program.

b. Extension Methods

An effort will be made to have more clubs in 1958 and to spend more time in interesting and training good local leaders to help share in the club program in their respective communities. These leaders will be approached on the basis of their having the privilege to work for and with the young folk of their communities, who will be the leading citizens in a few years.

c. Goals For The Year

To increase the enrollment of 4-H club members in the county through devoting more time to this phase of the Extension program, and at the end of the year to be able to say that Grayson County has had a stronger 4-H program in 1958.

F. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Community Clubs

and that much of the ACP payments will be made for pasture improvement in 1958.

4. Activity-Control The Alfalfa Weevil

a. Situation

The alfalfa weevil made it's first appearance in the county in 1957. Alfalfa is our most important hay crop and if this weevil is not controlled, they will kill the alfalfa stands.

b. Extension Methods

A county wide meeting will be held in January on the life cycle, control measure and types of equipment to be used in controlling this very serious pest of alfalfa.

Farmers will be kept informed of the spread and population of the weevil in the county. This will be done through radio, newspaper, field meetings and personal contact.

c. Goals For The Year

It is hoped that it will be possible to control the weevil on all farms at the proper time and that all farmers will realize the seriousness of this pest and will apply control measures.

3. Activity-Pasture Improvement

a. Situation

Graysen County has about ninety thousand acres of pasture land. Seventy (70) per cent of this pasture is not as productive as it should be. Most farmers, particularly beef cattle men, do not feel that they have the money to spend for pasture improvement at this time. Much of this pasture improvement work either reseeding or top dressing could be done through the ASC program and would only cost the farmer about one half of the total bill.

b. Extension Methods

With the help of the Agronomy Committee; the improve your pasture for one half price idea, will be presented to the people through radio, newspapers, meetings and personal contact. This idea will be presented to the farmers in January and February before the ACP allocations are allotted.

c. Goals For The Year

To get across to the farmer that even though some farm prices do not seem to encourage pasture improvement, this is still the cheapest form of feed we grow and by growing more of it, we cheapen the over-all feed cost on our farms. It is hoped that farmers of county will again become pasture improvement minded

this year for the first time. By the end of the year, to have many more farmers who do not have alfalfa now, planning for this crop to be seeded in 1958.

2. Activity-Increase Use of Silage

a. Situation

Pasture land in the county is not good enough but we can still pasture more cattle than can be wintered adequately. It is felt that one way to get a larger quantity of winter feed is by using more silage.

b. Extension Methods

Through newspapers, radio and community meetings, the value of silage will be called to the attention of the farmers in the county. This publicity will include statements and success stories from farmers who have been using silage for a relatively short period. There will also be two field meetings held in March, one on a farm using both corn and grass silage from trenches; the other will be on a farm feeding corn silage from a relatively cheap upright silo filled with corn. This second farm using both permanent and temporary types of silos.

c. Goals For The Year

To have thirty (30) new farmers feeding silage for the first time during the winter of 1958-59.

stock. In some cases when the tonnage is sufficient, the quality is low.

b. Extension Methods

With the aid of the Agronomy Committee, field meetings will be held to study alfalfa production, varieties, yields and insect control. Through newspapers, the importance of alfalfa will be called to the attention of Grayson County farmers. The latest experimental data on seeding and varieties will be published. These stories will be localized whenever possible, to what has been done on Grayson County farms. Attention will be called, also, to the farmers that own farms in the county which seem to be the most successful ones in which a large acreage of alfalfa is growing.

Farmers will be reminded that through the ASC program, alfalfa seeding can be much less expensive. But, whether or not it is seeded through this program, or if no assistance is obtained, alfalfa in the long run is the cheapest source of hay that can be grown in the county considering quality and tonnage that is produced from an acre.

c. Goals For The Year

To further increase alfalfa acreage in the county by having it produced on at least forty (40) new farms

Success stories will be used in newspapers and on radio of farmers who have installed such barns; pointing out that they can do the milking in less time and much easier. Also, that with the same labor used previously they have been able to increase the number of cows milked.

c. Goals

To have built on Grayson County farms at least forty (40) V Type milk barns with milking machines on Grade C farms in 1958. To make the chore of milking easier for these farmers and to increase the number of cows milked on all farms putting in V Type barns and milkers and thereby raising the farm income on each farm.

D. AGRICULTURE

1. Activity-Increasing Alfalfa Acreage

a. Situation

There are only about one third of the farmers in the county growing alfalfa, and from these about seven thousand (7000) acres of alfalfa are being grown. This is about three times the acreage grown seven years ago. This increase has been satisfactory, however, more alfalfa is still needed on more farms in the county. We still have too many farms that start through the winter feeding period, with an insufficient amount of hay to adequately winter their live-

c. Goals For The Year

To work more closely with the Artificial Breeding Association, Board of Directors, technician, other agricultural workers and field men representing the milk companies in an effort to get the dairyman to understand that artificial breeding has a definite place on the farm. There should be response enough from the program outlined above, to increase the number of cows bred artificially in the county to one thousand two hundred (1,200) in 1958.

3. Activity-Increase the Number V Shape Milking Barns

a. Situation

There are more than one thousand (1000) farms in the county producing Grade C milk. These producers milk from two to fifteen cows per farm. On some of these farms the number of cows milked is limited because of hand milking and inconvenience of milking. On these farms a V Type milking barn with milking machines would allow more cows to be milked and with less labor and more convenience. Some farms have existing buildings that can be converted to this type of barn. Those that do not have existing buildings can construct a building with farm labor and rough timber thereby keeping the total cost low.

b. Extension Methods

production and working especially with the herds that are on the border-line as to profit and loss. These border-line herds will be encouraged to switch to Owner Sampler when feasible.

2. Activity-Increase Number of Cows Bred Artificially

a. Situation

There are about eleven thousand five hundred (11,500) cows in the county producing both Grade A and Grade C milk. Of these, only one thousand (1000) were bred artificially. High production per cow is one of the keys to more efficient milk production. It has been proven that by the use of artificial breeding, a dairyman can build his milk production more economically by breeding to the top bulls of the nation at a reasonable fee.

b. Extension Methods

Actual records taken from the herds using DHIA in the county on artificially bred daughters, compared to their dams will be published in news stories, discussed at Community Clubs and other meetings. These records will be made available to the inseminators as well as to field men of milk companies buying milk in the county. With these figures all concerned will have a better story to tell the dairyman as they are approached in using artificial breeding.

1. Activity-Maintain a Strong DHIA

a. Situation

This is the first time the DHIA has been filled up (23 herds) since it was started. It is on a sound basis now, with a good supervisor who has a full month's work. There are a few weak herds that will have to get stronger or drop from the dairy business. These herds will be worked with to help them on a paying basis or encouraged to change farm enterprises. Should those herds that are not showing a profit insist on having records, some may be switched to Owner Sampler. This will leave room for other herds that would like to go on DHIA and at the same time would provide records of milk production on the low producing herds at less cost.

b. Extension Methods

A DHIA analysis meeting will be held in January. This meeting will deal with not only how to use the information obtained from the records, but other information will be discussed along the management phases of dairying.

c. Goals for the Year

To keep the DHIA Program on a sound basis. This will be done by keeping a close check on each herd's

located for interested farmers and arrangements will be made to get these ewes trucked in from other states, through the use of media available: radio, newspapers, circular letters as well as through personal contact and it is hoped that farmers of the county will become aware of the possibility of increasing their farm income by adding a flock of sheep to their present operation or by increasing their present flocks to a more economical size.

After the first ewes are placed in the county, other interested farmers will be invited to look these ewes over to give them an idea of what they will be getting if they place their order for replacement ewes.

c. Goals For Year

To have a field meeting on the farm that secured ten (10) ewes last year, so that farmers can see these ewes and by the end of the year to have at least three hundred (300) of these ewes in the county. The final goal, of course, is to help farmers of the county find a successful way to maintain or increase their standard of living and to ease the price squeeze they find themselves, at present.

3. Activity-Increasing Sheep Number in Grayson County

a. Situation

Sheep population in the county was around eight thousand (8000) in 1945. In 1950, this number had dropped to about five thousand eight hundred (5800). In 1954 the number had grown up to six thousand two hundred fifty one, (6,251). At present, it is estimated that the sheep number is approximately six thousand five hundred (6,500). There are two thousand six hundred twenty six (2,626) farms in the county and sheep are found on only about four hundred (400) of these farms. Many of our flocks have from eight to fourteen sheep. On most of these farms, an increase could be made since the feed supply is adequate. While many of our farms have a place for sheep along with their cattle enterprise.

The money invested in sheep by farmers in the county has made them more profitable during the past three years, than any other class of livestock.

b. Extension Methods

In the past it has been difficult to get the right type of replacement ewes locally, and no one has wanted sheep badly enough to go to much bother to secure ewes elsewhere. A source of supply will be

Plans are now in the making to hold three sales in 1958; one in April, September and October. Farmers will be advised of the plan early by not only the agents from the two counties, but also by the management of the livestock market. These sales will be advertised by the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association throughout the cattle feeding areas.

b. Extension Methods

Plans for the sales this year will be given to the farmers through radio, newspapers, correspondence and through personal contacts by the agent.

The management of the livestock market will also contact all patrons of the market in an effort to solicit cattle for the sales. This will be done during the early spring, before out of state buyers come in. An earlier sale date will be selected so the demand will still be high for such cattle.

c. Goal for Year

To help promote more successful feeder cattle sales for cattle producers of Grayson and Carroll counties; rather than having four hundred seventy (470) head sold through the sale, a goal of at least one thousand (1000) cattle is planned.

and that they are anxious to conduct a joint sale for Grayson and Carroll producers. Producers from both counties will receive the above information from the Extension Agents, as well as other agricultural through meetings, radio, personal contacts and correspondence.

c. Goals for Year

To see that every producer in the two counties gets the story on the feeder calf situation and the proposed sale. Rather than having a few Grayson County producers consign 40 calves to an already crowded sale; at least 20 producers should consign 300 calves to the proposed sale from Grayson County alone.

2. Activity-Marketing Yearly and Feeder Cattle

a. Situation

Most of our yearlings are feeder cattle, are contracted to out of county and state buyers early in the summer before the demand for such cattle has reached it's peak and before a price trend for such cattle has been established.

The local livestock market cooperated with the Extension Agent for Grayson and Carroll last year in promoting two feeder cattle sales.

Teachers and the three farm organizations, Farm Bureau, Grange and Farmers Union.

B. LIVESTOCK

1. Activity-Marketing Feeder Calves

a. Situation

Grayson County Feeder Calf producers are losing from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per hundred weight on the calves sold in the fields and through regular weekly auction sales. This has been proven for the past two years by the few that have consigned calves to the regular feeder calf sales. Most of our farmers, that winter calves, prefer to buy from a feeder sale. Therefore, many of our good calves are sold to out of county buyers at a sacrifice price. The calves from the county, that were sold in feeder calf sales last year, were sold in the Wytheville and West Jefferson sales. The number that these sales can take is limited.

b. Extension Methods

This annual loss will be called to the attention of our producers. They will be furnished with records of last years sales and be asked to compare these figures with the price they received for theirs last calf crop. They will also be told that the local livestock market has recognized the need for a sale

The number of farms in the County dropped from 2,819 to 2,626 during the past five years, but at the same time the average size of farms went from 80.3 to 86.2 acres. Three hundred thirty three (333) of these farms have less than ten (10) acres while there are four hundred eighteen (418) that have from thirty to forty-nine acres of land. Therefore, there are 1,267 farms in the County with less than fifty (50) acres of land. Many of the occupants on these 1, 267 farms work at nearby mills or off the farm most of the year. However, there are perhaps forty (40) per cent of them that seem to be able to make an existance on these small farms.

This Plan of Work has been developed through the cooperation of the County Board of Agriculture. This Board consists of twenty members of which fifteen took part in this plan. Members of the board are composed of representatives of commodity groups and others which include: Wool Pool Committee, Artificial Breeding Association, DHIA, Hereford Breeders Association, Feeder Calf Sale Committee, Agronomy Committee, Tobacco Growers, both Burley and Armatic, Purebred Sheep Breeders Association, one member from each of the Community Improvement Clubs in the County, ASC Committee member, Soil Conservation Technician, Clerk of the ASC office, representative from both the Vocational Agricultural Instructors and Veteran

A. INTRODUCTION

Grayson County has been described as the plateau deeply cut by streams and broken by mountains and by high hills which have round tops and steep slopes. The County is often called the "Roof of Virginia" because of the two highest mountains of the state being located here. The elevation ranges from 2,000 feet where New River leaves the County on the East to 5,715 feet at the top of Mt. Rogers in the West. Eighty-five per cent of the land is cleared and about the same percentage is either steep or rolling. The steep rough pasture on most of the 2,626 farms that average 86.0 acres per farm, can be utilized only by beef cattle or sheep which rank second and third as the main source of income for the County. Dairying ranks first from the standpoint of income. The large dairy herds are concentrated in the central and eastern part of the County, but dairy cattle are found in all sections. With livestock as the major enterprise, the cropping system of the County is devoted to production of feed crops, mainly pasture and forage crops. About one-fifth of the farms produce some type of cash crop, such as tobacco, poultry and fruits. These are found on most farms but mainly for home use. There is only one commercial orchard in the County. This orchard has about forty (40) acres of trees.

PLAN OF WORK

1958

GRAYSON COUNTY

C. F. Simpson
County Agent