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PLAN OF WORK

1959

GREENE COUNTY

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GREENE COUNTY - PLAN OF WORK

1999

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

I. Greene County is located in the Northern Piedmont Section of Virginia. It is bordered by Albemarle, Orange, Madison, Page, and Rockingham Counties.

About 32% of the ninety-seven thousand acres is contained in the Shenandoah National Park, public roads, home sites, and other non-farm uses. Approximately fourteen thousand acres of this non-farm land is in the park.

Sixty-seven thousand three hundred eleven acres make-up the six hundred sixty two farms in the county. About 35000 acres of the farm land is in woods, 21000 in pasture and 19000 in cropland. Cropland harvested is 12421 acres.

The average size farm is 101 acres. Forty-one percent of the farms have less than fifty acres and 36% have more than 100 acres.

Agriculture is the principle industry and makes up the major portion of the county income. Gross Agricultural income in 1994 was one and one third million dollars. Apparently income is at about the same level but there has been a shift in the sources of income. In 1994 income from poultry represented about 50% of the total agricultural income. Due to the low price of poultry and poultry products and the increase in other livestock prices, it is believed that poultry plays a lesser part in total income. All livestock and livestock products make up from 87% to 90% of the total agricultural income.

About 60% of the farms have a gross income of less than \$1200, and 50% of the farms have income exceeding farm income. Many of the low income farmers find off-farm employment in Charlottesville, Elkton, and Orange.

II. IMPORTANT CHANGES

Low margin of profit on agricultural products and higher cost-of-living are forcing many small and inefficient farmers to find part time or full time employment off the farm. More farm women are finding employment off the farm each year. Cropland acres are decreasing and pasture land acres is increasing. Fewer farmers are producing more and fewer acres. At present there are only 14 farmers producing broilers commercially, but these 14 growers are producing more broilers than the entire county did ten years ago. There has been a sharp decrease in turkey production in the past three years.

III. HOW THE 1959 PLAN OF WORK WAS DEVELOPED

Each commodity committee met to review the situation and set goals. In some cases the committee suggested a course of action. The committees that assisted with planning were: Agronomy, Livestock, and Poultry.

IV. COUNTY NEEDS

The greatest need is some means of increasing income on the smaller farms. Many farmers can use a flock of sheep, a laying flock or a broiler enterprise to supplement their income from livestock. Practically all farmers, particularly the smaller ones could increase their income with a better quality high producing livestock and higher crop yields. All farmers would realize more profit from their labor, machinery, and land through the use of higher fertilizer application.

As the committee predicts that livestock, especially cattle, numbers will increase generally in line with the past trend, there will be a need to increase the carrying capacity of pastures and increase yields of forage crops. At present there is 3.49 acres of pasture and .08 acres silage per animal unit.

ACTIVITIES

I. AGRONOMY

A. Situation

Corn yield per acre is about 46 bushels or a little above. Small grain yields are fairly satisfactory. Carrying capacity of pasture needs to be increased. There is 3.49 acres pasture per animal unit and in some cases this is over grazed. There is a need for more corn silage and twice as much alfalfa.

B. Forage Crops

1. Goals: Acquaint farmers with the value of alfalfa and corn silage as an economical feed for livestock. To increase alfalfa acreage by 50 acres and to increase corn silage acreage by 100 acres.

2. Methods:

a. Give publicity on alfalfa by writing success stories and news articles on the value of alfalfa as a hay, silage, and pasture crop.

b. Furnish farmers with information on weevil control through farm visits and circular letters.

c. Hold chickweed control demonstration and furnish information on chickweed control through news articles and farm visits.

d. Hold twilight forage crop meetings in July or August. One on a farm in each of the three magisterial districts, stressing the value of a balanced forage crop system and emphasize quality forage.

Have Representative from Division of Markets work with the county agent on informing farmers of the nutritive value of different grades of hay.

e. Give publicity on the value of corn silage as to its cost, feeding value, as compared with other roughages.

G. Corn

1. Goals:

Increase corn yields to sixty-five bushels per acre and get corn on land best adapted to it.

2. Methods

a. Give recommended variety list in news paper in August or early September.

b. Furnish agronomy committee with results of varietal tests from the area experiment station.

c. Give fertilization recommendations in news paper in September.

II. LIVESTOCK

A. Situation

Livestock is the principle agricultural enterprise in Greene. Gross income from livestock is second to poultry. Livestock in some form is found on practically every farm in the county. Beef cattle numbers increased 20% from 1949 to 1954 and is predicted to be still on the increase. Sheep numbers increased 30% over the same period and are still on the increase. Hog numbers have remained about the same for the past few years. Hogs are produced on practically every farm and about half the farmers sell some hogs.

B. Beef Cattle

1. Situation

Beef cattle population is confined mostly to cows and calves. Only about three farmers are feeding steers this year, one of these will discontinue feeding steers after this year. The bulk

of beef cattle are sold as calves or yearling feeders.

2. Problems

To late calving date to have large calves for fall sale. Poor quality bulls that do not sire fast gaining high quality calves. Cows of poor breeding. Breeding troubles, diseases and parasites are also a problem.

3. Goals

The committee set a long time goal of producing 500 pound calves that grade good at weaning. To attain this sixty more purebred fast gaining bulls will be needed. The calving date must be earlier, necessitating a higher level of winter feeding. Cows must be culled and replaced by heifers from the best cows and fast gaining bulls. Goals for this year is to place ten purebred bulls and vaccinate all replacement heifers against bangs.

4. Methods

- a. Write news articles in March pointing out advantage of early calving.
- b. Advise farmers of bull sales.
- c. Offer assistance in locating and selecting bulls to farmers.
- d. Get two farmers to enroll in Beef Cattle improvement work.
- e. Hold grub control demonstration in October.
- f. Furnish farmers with information of feeder calf sale through news paper, circular letters and personal visits.

G. Sheep

1. Situation

There are fifteen hundred sheep on eighty-eight different farms, an average of seventeen ewes per flock. Poor management with flocks has caused other farmers to take a dim view of the sheep business. There is a need for better rams, better feeding and better parasite control, especially internal parasites.

2. Goals

The livestock committee of increasing sheep numbers to twenty-five hundred. To accomplish this there must be better management of present flock owners to create interest among potential sheep growers. Current goals are to get all sheep owners to drench four times per year for the control of internal parasites, to place ten pure bred rams in the county.

3. Methods

- a. Write success stories and discuss with farmers personally how sheep will complement and supplement their livestock operations.
- b. Conduct three dramatizing demonstrations and write circular letters of the importance of dramatizing and give instructions on how to dramatize.
- c. Conduct three docking and castrating demonstrations and publish a news article giving the importance of docking and castrating.
- d. Train four 4-H boys to shear sheep.
- e. Form sheep committees to decide on holding wool pool.
- f. Hold sheep dipping clinics.

D. Swine

1. Situation

Hogs are grown on practically every farm in the country. Although hogs bring in a considerable share of the agricultural income, they are not considered of major importance because they are never a major source of income on any farm.

Diseases have not been a particular problem. Generally internal parasites cause more trouble. The quality of hogs is fairly good.

2. Goals

For all farmers to use pasture for brood sows, use meat type boars, worm pigs and feed a balanced ration to growing stock.

3. Methods

- a. Get fifteen 4-H members to exhibit hogs at the Area Junior Hog Show and Sale. Get as many farmers and parents as possible to see the show, see the hogs graded and judged.
- b. Give information on worming pigs through news paper and distribution of bulletins.
- c. Require 4-H members with pig chain project to worm pigs.
- d. Require 4-H members with pig chain project to feed mineral.
- e. Get 4-H members with Market Hog Projects to feed balanced rations.
- f. Stress importance of pasture to breeding stock through all media.

III. DAIRYING

A. Situation

There are about 2500 dairy cows in the county. Five hundred thirty-one farmers reported having milk cows in 1954. About two thirds of this number are family cows or cows from which cream is sold. There are four A Grade dairies in the county, and they milk approximately three hundred cows.

There is no D.H.I.A. in the county. The Albemarle Artificial Breeding Association serves about one fourth of the county. The annual production per cow is estimated to be about six thousand pounds.

B. Objectives:

1. To increase production per cow efficiently.
2. To control diseases - specifically; mastitis and Bangs.
3. Reduce feed cost by higher roughage, lower gain level, and feed according to production.

C. Methods:

1. Hold Bangs Vaccination Clinic every three months.
2. Send monthly or quarterly news letters to dairymen on subjects pertaining to efficient production. Get assistance from Extension Dairy Specialist in preparing letters.
3. Ask Extension to visit the four A Grade producers twice during the year.
4. Get two farmers to keep some type production records - preferably Weigh-A-Day and feed according to production. Use this as demonstration.

IV. POULTRY

A. Situation

Poultry brings in more ^{income} than any other agricultural enterprise. Net profit on poultry is not as notable. Some type of poultry is grown on every farm but 90% of the broilers are grown on contract by fourteen growers. Ninety-five percent of the turkeys are produced by two growers who at one time contract with farmers to grow turkeys for a fee or percent of profit.

Table egg flocks are small ranging in size from 1000 birds down. Practically all flocks are less than 500 birds. This enterprize has failed to grow because of lack of an adequate marketing system.

Hatch egg flocks are larger than table egg flocks. Some hatching egg flocks are three to four thousand bird flocks. The larger flocks are owned jointly with a hatchery. The producer receives a flat fee per dozen eggs produced.

As all broilers are produced under contract and the growers are governed by the dictates of the contractor, the committee feels Extension should place most emphasis on egg production. Also, there is need for work with broiler producers to get the greatest advantage from the contract.

B. Goals

1. Foster a sound and practical management program for broilers.
2. Arouse interest in table egg production and survey possible market outlets.

C. Methods

1. Continue to send monthly news letters to poultry producers.
2. Have specialist in the county to visit key producers once during year.
3. Hold tour to a near-by county where table eggs are produced commercially and has a good market outlet.
4. Strengthen poultry committee by getting more egg interest representation.

V. HORTICULTURE

A. Situation

There is no fruit grown commercially in the county. The only fruit grown is a few trees for home consumption. Some farmers have small plots of small fruit grown for sale. Practically every home in the county has a home vegetable garden.

B. Goals

1. Get more people to plan for a fall garden.
2. Have more people plant cover crops.

C. Methods:

1. Present timely topics on varieties, fertilization, disease and insect control by letters and in the news paper.
2. Send monthly garden letters to all leaders.
3. Have all 4-H members conducting the garden project to plan a fall garden and use cover crop.

VI. FORESTRY

A. Situation

About one third of the land in farms is woodland. There is about one and one quarter million board feet of timber and about one thousand cords of wood cut each year. The timber is being depleted and only a small acreage reforested each year. Most of the cut over land does not have enough desirable species left for seed. About one third of the woodland is pastured.

B. Goals

1. Get farmers who plan to sell timber have it marked.
2. Get farmers to reforest cut-over land.
3. Encourage farmers to protect woodland from grazing.

C. Methods

1. Promote 4-H Forestry Projects.
2. Give publicity to ASC forestry practices through news paper and personal contacts.

VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Situation

There are twelve 4-H clubs in the county with a membership of one hundred twelve boys and one hundred seventy girls. This represents about one third of the children of 4-H club age. The boys projects include practically all livestock projects in addition to forestry, electricity, insects and garden.

B. Goals:

To improve the quality of 4-H work and increase project completion.

C. Methods

1. Have 4-H members participate in the Orange Area Market Hog Show, Richmond Junior Premium Livestock Show, Albemarle Baby Beef Show and Greene County Fair.
2. Visit each club member at least once during the year.
3. Have full quota attend camp and Short Course.
4. Train Livestock Judging Team.
5. Train Soil Appreciation Team.
6. Hold Forestry Demonstration Team.
7. Train four boys in sheep shearing.

VIII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

There are three families now enrolled in Farm and Home Development. The goal for 1959 is three additional ones. There will be an honest attempt to complete plans on at least two farms.

IX. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The county agent will assist, where possible, with the planning and educational phase of other agencies and organizations serving farmers in the county.

CALENDAR

January	Hold chick weed control demonstration. Send circular letters on alfalfa weevil control.
February	Commodity Committee Meetings - Plan of Work
March	Hold Beef Cow Conference Write news articles on Docking and Castrating Lambs. Hold Docking and Castrating Demonstration.
April	Write news articles on varieties of corn and fertilization. Hold Bangs Vaccination Clinics. Hold Drenching Demonstration.

May	Hold 4-H picnics Train 4-H boys in sheep shearing. Hold Forestry Demonstration Contest. Participate in Judging Contests.
June	Give publicity to Feeder Calf Sale. Tour for egg producers
July	Write news article on alfalfa seeding. Hold sheep dipping clinic.
August	Write article on small grain varieties and fertilization. Get boy lined up with Baby Beef Projects. Hold Bangs Vaccination Clinic.
September	4-H Market Hog Show Organize 4-H Clubs
October	Visit 4-H boys to assist with completing record book.
November	Hold Bangs Vaccination Clinic.