

WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Our relationship with other Agricultural Agencies in Southampton County, since their inception, has been very congenial. We took the lead in organizing these new programs and have followed their operation closely.

Being a member of the board of, and secretary to the J. R. Horsley Soil Conservation District Supervisors, we will, of course, attend meetings of this board and assist in the program planning. We will visit the projects being carried on by the technicians and confer with them and their supervisors when we feel inclined. The work in the county to date, has been highly satisfactory and we anticipate the work and our relationship in the organization to remain friendly, cooperative and profitable to everyone, including the farmers for whom we work.

We participate in the committee meetings of the A.S.C.-A.C.P. program to the extent time permits. We try to meet with them at least monthly to discuss their operation. We do nearly all the educational work for this group.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Contact the boys at the first club meeting in September and follow through by locating good meat-type hogs to purchase for the 4-H Fat Pig Show. Promote an educational program for those 4-H members who are enrolled in the swine projects and instruct the members on how to care for their animals.
2. To use the Extension Specialists at Blacksburg, and feeder calf sales to locate these show steers and to buy earlier than in previous years. Organize a committee to help locate the steers.
3. Contact the boys in the first club meeting in September and the dealers in their community so training on the tractor project can be provided.

In solving these problems, it is assumed that the use of the press, radio, television, visits, meetings, letters, and Extension Specialists will be used extensively.

Methods of Extension Education

1. At the enrollment period of each new year, one or two regular club meetings will be used to inform members of the projects available and the requirements of such projects.
2. All members completing records will be taken on a hike or tour related to their projects as recognition for early completion.
3. All clubs will take projects on a club basis, as conservation, safety or electric. Members who wish added instruction on projects not covered at regular meetings can attend special training programs. These subjects will be taught by state police on safety, REA, and VEPCO Engineer on electric and soil technicians on conservation.
4. A number of projects have exhibit opportunities available under existing conditions. These projects are: beef, swine, dairy, and tractor driving on a county, district, and state basis. At the County 4-H Achievement Day, there is additional space for individual and club exhibits. We will avail our boys with all such opportunities.

Project Work - (Specific)

Situation

Southampton County is the largest swine producing county in the state, but we have not had as many swine producing projects proportionally. The 4-H members who carry a swine project often do not give proper care to this project.

The baby-beef project member needs more help in locating proper quality show steers. Often a member gets off to a slow start in this project because he is unable to locate a steer of show quality.

Many of the club members who want to carry a tractor project are unable to do so, because of the lack of transportation to the meeting place. There are tractor dealers located in the county within reasonable traveling distance of each member.

Objective:

Improve the swine projects. Locate proper quality show steers for members. Increase the enrollment in the 4-H Tractor Project.

Goals

1. Secure two boys to compete in the Smithfield Junior Hog Show.
2. Locate at least 17 show steers of fancy quality for 4-H club members.
3. Get three tractor dealers in different areas of the county to provide training for the 4-H club members in the area.

2. Share-the-fun program with 20 variety acts.
3. Observe 4-H Rural Life Sunday on the Courthouse lawn.
4. Hold an Achievement Day Program with all the 4-H Clubs entering an exhibit.
5. Take 15 boys to Camp Farrar.
6. Have 5 boys enter the Public Speaking Contest.
7. Conduct Leader Training for 8 junior and 12 adult leaders.
8. Have at least 6 boys attend State 4-H Short Course.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Conduct training of junior leaders at county council meetings and adult leaders at special meetings. Specialists from VPI will be called upon to conduct these meetings whenever possible.
2. Appoint a committee to promote 4-H interest.
3. Use of letters, bulletins, and news articles to promote 4-H club interest and publicize attainments.

Project Work

Situation

The 4-H members need to select projects according to their interest, needs and ability. When a 4-H member fails to consider these facts, the project is often not completed. The club member does not always receive sufficient project instructions. Four-H members need a place to exhibit their projects.

Objective

Increase project completion. Increase the number of exhibits.

Goals

1. Select suitable projects for each member.
2. Have 90 per cent individuals complete and 85 per cent of all projects complete.
3. Teach each member methods and ways to improve their projects.
4. Arrange for each member to exhibit his project work.

4-H CLUB WORK

County Situation

There are between 800 and 850 white boys between the ages of 10 and 18 years in Southampton County. About 500 of these boys live outside the corporate limits of the town of Franklin. The 150 boys now enrolled in 4-H, represent about 30 per cent of the rural club age population. Over 50 per cent of all white boys between the ages of 10 and 14 are enrolled in 4-H clubs, but nearly 90 per cent of the 4-H enrollment falls in the group. The older boys go to Virginia Agriculture or other interest groups and leave the 4-H program when they enter high school.

Four-H clubs are organized in one community and seven grade schools. There is a 4-H club organized in Southampton High School that meets at the County Agent's office after school. There are no clubs in the Franklin Elementary or Franklin High schools.

For a number of years, Southampton 4-H members have observed Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Club Week and Achievement Day. They hold a talent show, county picnic and attend district 4-H camp, electric congress and State Short Course. Members have entered soil, dairy and livestock judging; tractor driving, livestock demonstration and public speaking contests at the district, state and national levels. Achievement records have also been submitted for state competition. Available for farm exhibits is the State Fair at Richmond; Smithfield Fat Hog Show; and Franklin Jaycee Spring Festival, all of which have been patronized by Southampton 4-H members in preceding years.

In addition to the above, the County Council, Honor Club, and All-Star Chapter, serve the administrative needs for specific age groups; the County Council is now made up of all officers from one community club, one high school club and the seven elementary school clubs, the Honor Club serves those 14 through 21 years of age and the All-Star Chapter helps hold together some of the 4-H alumni.

Non-Project WorkSituation

There is need for more leadership, greater interest among parents of 4-H members, development of greater citizenship and civic responsibility among 4-H members, and continued participation as older youth in their community affairs.

Objective

Improve leadership and interest among 4-H parents. Increase continued participation among older 4-H members.

Goals

1. Observance of National 4-H Club Week by all the 4-H clubs in the county.

2. In our contest, get participants to spot plant in cut over areas; follow with poison on the non-merchantable hardwood to release the desirable species, also encourage soil exposure by discing. Furnish contest rules and provide application forms for each contestant.
3. Plan a tour to observe some of the latest recommended forestry practices. On this tour, we will visit 100 farms and have as discussion leaders, VPI specialists and Industrial Foresters. We will explain the A.S.C. forestry practices at group meetings and encourage their adaption by 10 land owners.
4. Have representatives from each Ruritan Club, Lt. Governor, District Governor, and extension forestry committee, meet and organize a club, meeting annually.
5. Have 75 junior participants in a forestry contest and assign them to the clubs in their communities. The practices to be carried out, determined by the need of their respective areas.
6. Show 25 land owners how to properly develop a forestry project.
7. Mimeograph forestry material to pass on to adults and boys. Show some of the latest forestry practices.
8. Get each Ruritan Club to plan a tour, community-wide, to show the work recently done and to show the advantages of proper forestry management.
9. Work closely with industry; study their interest in the private land-owner. Ask them to furnish seedlings and poison for our contest.
10. Contact key farmers in each community who know the location of farm boys in their community so we may contact and interest them in our efforts.
11. Use all mass media to call attention to the harmful effect of fire.

FORESTRY

Situation

In Southampton County our woodland acreage is 263,300 acres or 61% of the total. Present stands consist of pine, pine in mixture with hardwoods, and hardwoods. Many of the wetter areas are well adapted for growing valuable hardwoods.

Most of the hardwoods are of low quality, scrubby and non-merchantable. Unless the hardwoods are controlled, they will take over where pine has been harvested.

Wood using industries have been buying to invest their capital. The individual often does not have money to invest and cannot compete with industry in buying this property.

The cost of applying good management is expensive and tenant farmers take little interest in applying good management to the owner's wood land.

Objective

Improve forest conditions. Promote the growth of loblolly pines. Eradicate hard hardwood and other undesirable species.

Goals

1. Plant 75,000 seedlings
- 2.
2. Get rid of non-merchantable hardwood on 50 acres.
3. Create forestry interest among private landowners.
4. Organize a forestry club.
5. Sponsor a forestry contest.
6. Teach 30 farmers basic forestry practices.
7. Conduct 12 demonstrations.
8. Have a forestry tour in April.
9. Work more closely with civic clubs in promoting forestry.
10. Prevent forest fires.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Work with the forestry committees and the twelve Ruritan Clubs to get 75,000 seedlings planted; improve natural reseeding, and kill undesirable species and have each club sponsor a forestry contest to create greater interest. Discuss forestry at Ruritan club meetings and on every other suitable occasion. Use mass media where practical.

true, but during the past two years ten laying flocks have been developed and most of these are doing an excellent job.

We do not anticipate soliciting new producers but will assist those who are in or may go in this work, in any possible way. We often visit and discuss better feeding and management with these people. In June, we expect to hold a poultry meeting with one of the Virginia Extension Poultrymen, assisting. All poultry producers and known prospective producers will be invited to this meeting.

or control parasites to the extent desirable.

Objective

Increase the number of sheep in the county and stress proper management.

Goals

1. Get three more flocks established.
2. Get flock owners to creep feed lambs.
3. Get all lambs docked and ram lambs castrated.
4. Treat all sheep three times for parasites.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Locate a supply of good sheep for those wishing to buy.
2. Conduct docking, castrating and drenching demonstrations with George Allen, Extension Sheep Specialist, in charge.
3. Use mass media to encourage creep feeding of lambs.
4. Assist in custom shearing.
5. Assist in conducting lamb and wool pools.

Dairying

Situation

For many years prior to 1958, dairying has been very constant in Southampton County. However, in 1958, one large operator sold out. Another one died and a third discontinued operation for reasons of his own. We now have ten dairies with approximately 750 animals. Seven of these are gurnsey herds and in all instances, either the owner or manager is well informed in their field. We do not anticipate taking any active part in promoting their business except in Dairy Herd Improvement work. In this program we have a good tester, but we think some advancement can be made when the H.I.R. program will accept the D.H.I.A. records as official. When this move is accomplished, our tester can test more animals. We will locate these additional herds. We will also be on call to help dairymen and dairying when called on.

Poultry

Situation

We have not advocated poultry production in Southampton County. We feel that with few exceptions our farmers are not interested in a crop that needs constant, several times a day, care. We still think this is

6. Work with feed dealers and farmers to get properly formulated feed.
7. Work closely with the Tidewater Livestock Sales Company, Inc., to sell our surplus pigs.
8. Conduct a swine tour in September to show better practices by successful producers.
9. Use mass media to encourage better management and related subjects including treating against Cholera and other diseases. Also advertize sales of breeding stock and feeder pigs.

Beef Cattle

Situation

Very few of our farms are large enough to justify keeping a breeding herd. We can and should keep feeding herds on most of our farms. The number of feeder herds are increasing annually but we should have 100 more herds.

Objective

Increase the number of feeding cattle herds and the number of animals in the county.

Goals

1. Get five more feeder herds established.
2. Increase the number of feeding animals by fifty.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Assist in locating good feeders for interested farmers.
2. Conduct a tour, taking ten prospective feeders to three farms where successful operations are being carried on.
3. Assist calf associations to advertize their sales.
4. Prove to prospective feeders that they can grass feed cattle at little expense.
5. Use radio, news items and letters to keep economic facts before people and create interest.

Sheep

Situation

The sheep population is increasing but we do not have as many flocks as we should. Many of our flock owners do not castrate, dock, creep feed,

LIVESTOCKSwineSituation

Swine is our second largest money crop in Southampton County, Virginia, and we produce more hogs than any other county in the state, though we should produce greater numbers than we do. We should also exercise better management practices. In the spring of 1958, many animals were lost by an epidemic consisting of Cholera, Erysipelas and possibly other diseases. In 1958, the Tidewater Livestock Sales Company, Inc., was formed with head office and facilities in Southampton. This business should make pig production more profitable for our producers. We need more farrowing and feeding houses.

Objective

Get a greater number of high quality animals produced cheaper.

Goals

1. Get 50 additional high quality sows.
2. Get 100 additional purebred boars.
3. Build 10 farrowing houses.
4. Build 6 feeding floors.
5. Sell 3,500 feeder pigs.
6. Get all hogs treated against Cholera.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Assist farmers in selecting good sows and boars at the seven purebred sales that will be conducted in the county.
2. Assist in locating boars and sows for those who are unable to buy at sales.
3. Furnish building plans to 40 farmers for farrowing and feeding houses.
4. Make personal visits to see that farrowing and feeding houses are properly built.
5. Conduct one swine school for 60 farmers and feed men. We will stress management by R. M. Godsey, Extension Swine Specialist; nutrition, by C. C. Brooks, Extension Swine Nutrition man; Dan Kite, Extension Agricultural Engineer on Buildings, and C. T. Barnes, State Department of Agriculture on grading.

3. Recommend desirable varieties.
4. Get curing and storage facilities built.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Hold meeting in cooperation with Mr. L. B. Wilkins, Associate Horticulturist, VPI, to create interest among likely producers.
2. Publicize the possibilities of this crop through mass media.
3. By personal contact, get fifteen farmers to grow two acres each.
4. By personal visits sell the idea of curing and get curing and storage facilities built by individuals or by a stock company formed for this purpose.

planted locally only four years. In 1957, some of the seed produced a plant similar to Johnson grass, but only one field was observed with such plants in 1958. The crop is subject to the ravages of birds and insects. The early crop, that not planted after small grain, is more likely to have insect damage than the later planted fields.

Objectives

Plant late. Control insects. Fertilize properly.

Goals

1. Compare open polinated versus hybrids on two farms.
2. Plant after June 25 on all farms.
3. Use 500 pounds of 3-9-18 or 5-10-10 fertilizer and 40 pounds of nitrogen as side-dresser per acre.
4. Control insects.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Conduct two demonstrations showing the advantages of hybrid milo versus open polinated varieties.
2. Discuss with farmers and fertilizer men, proper fertilization.
3. Discuss proper seeding dates with farmers and seedmen.
4. Discuss this crop at farmer's meetings and answer questions from individuals.
5. Use all mass media to advise all interested people about this crop. Time of planting, varieties, fertilization, insect control, and any other subject matter of importance.

Truck Crops

Southampton is not a truck crop county. We believe however, that sweet potatoes can be profitable produced. We think that curing and storage facilities must be available when the crop is produced.

Objective

Create interest in sweet potatoes.

Goals

1. Get five sweet potato producers.
2. Have crop properly fertilized.

6. Use mass media to inform farmers and others concerning the technical and economic conditions regarding this crop.

Soybeans

Situation

The acreage of soybeans is increasing rapidly as is the yield per acre. The crop generally is planted between June 15 and July 1, following small grain. The crop is often invaded by insects but not usually completely destroyed. These insects are army worms and others that do similar damage.

Objective

Increase yield. Plant more adapted varieties. Increase acreage.

Goals

1. Get 200 additional acres planted.
2. Plant only Lee, Hood or Ogden, varieties. Conduct two comparative demonstrations.
3. Control insects on all farms.
4. Proper fertilization and 10 farms.

Methods of Extension Education

1. By letters and personal contact with seedmen and farmers, advise regarding and help secure adapted varieties.
2. Inspect fields for insect infestation and when found, publicize such finding and recommend control measures by letter, radio and news items.
3. Advise soybean production following small grain rather than leaving land idle.
4. Discuss fertilization at meetings, with fertilizer men, individual farmers and in response to soil test. Also in one letter to all growers.
5. Use all mass media in promoting more acreage, more economical production and better marketing of this crop.

Milo

Situation

Like soybeans, milo acreage and yields per acre are increasing. It is generally planted after small grain. Milo is a new crop, having been

3. Conduct one county-wide meeting to discuss peanut production.
4. Hold three community meetings to show slides and discuss control of stem rot and soil insects.
5. Use all mass media to advise farmers regarding current situations and remind them of proper dates of various practices.

Cotton

Situation

The acreage of cotton in Southampton County decreases year after year. Yields have increased where insects and disease are controlled. We are a one-variety county and maintain arrangements that producers may have free grading and classing services. Nearly all the cotton is sold "in the seed." The number of gins has decreased from 17 in 1930 to three today.

Objectives

Reduce disease. Control insects. Get more cotton ginned. Increase yields and improve cultural practices.

Goals

1. Advise all cotton producers regarding Choice A and Choice B acreages.
2. Get 50 growers to control Rust by proper fertilization.
3. Get 50 additional farmers to control boll weevil, boll worms and red spider.
4. Get five additional farmers to gin their crop so as to get the Choice A acreage prices.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Conduct one county-wide meeting to discuss Choice A and Choice B acreages, the advantages and disadvantages of each. Radio talks, news items and letters will be used also.
2. Discuss at county-wide meeting disease and insect control.
3. Write one letter to cotton mailing list regarding disease and insect control.
4. Visit 100 farmers to advise when insect control practices are necessary.
5. Keep a thorough check on the occurrence of any disease and make control recommendations.

6. Use all mass media to inform farmers and the public with timely information on corn production also in controlling insects after crop is harvested.

Peanuts

Situation

Peanuts are our principal money crop. With this crop it is hard to forecast the result one will get by applying a certain practice, but we know the yield and quality of the crop can be improved if diseases and insects are controlled. The crop is often dug too early for the best quality nut. It is often damaged by improper shocking and picking. There are a few farmers harvesting with combines and drying artificially and avoiding many hazards that are encountered by those using the old method. These new methods are economical for a 50 acre peanut operator and it can be very well done on a custom basis.

Objective:

Increase yields by proper fertilization and controlling insects and disease. Increase quality by proper harvesting.

Goals

1. Send 1000 soil samples to Blacksburg for analysis.
2. Get 5 additional producers to artificially dry a part or all of their crop.
3. Control grass and weeds on 10 farms with chemicals.
4. Get 20 additional producers to control corn root worm.
5. Get 5 producers to control stem rot.
6. Get 20 new producers to treat against leaf spot in their crop.
7. Get 100 farmers to have their seed tested for germination and four certified seed producers.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Make suggestions regarding liming and fertilization for all soils submitted for testing.
2. Write three letters.
 - a. Advise all producers which peanut variety is best suited to light soil, medium soil and heavy soil.
 - b. Diseases and insects and make recommendations to control each.
 - c. Proper time to harvest and harvesting methods.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

AGRONOMYCornSituation

Corn acreage in Southampton County is now almost constant, but lower than 20 years ago. Yields have increased more than acres have decreased due to better fertilization, cultural practices and improved hybrids, but should be further increased.

Most of the corn is fed to livestock, primarily swine, and many farmers plant an early hybrid. Everyone produces either a medium or late variety. These varieties are often damaged by storms and much of the crop is lost. Much corn is also lost by shelling in the picking operation and handling at the barn. Insects damage much of the corn in production and in storage.

Objective

Increase yields. Improve cultural practices. Save more corn at harvesting. Control insects.

Goals

1. Increase corn yields two bushels per acre in 1959.
2. Get 100 more farmers to seed part of their acreage to an early recommended hybrid.
3. Get 15 farmers to use chemical weed control in 1959.
4. Get 100 farmers to use more fertilizer of a recommended analysis.
5. Control barn insects.

Methods of Extension Education

1. Get 100 farmers to visit the Holland Experiment Station Field Day.
2. With an Extension Agricultural Engineer in cooperation with implement dealers, conduct demonstration to show farmers how to adjust corn picker to reduce shelling when harvesting.
3. Provide list of recommended hybrids and better cultural practices to fertilizer and seedmen in the county.
4. Provide a list of recommended hybrids to all farmers in February.
5. Discuss hybrids and fertilizers with professional workers, commercial field men and farmers at meetings and individually.

for in full and generally during the initial sign-up period. Between 85 and 90 per cent of the \$85,000 goes into underground drainage, live-stock watering ponds, and forestry, or we might term it, "into conserving our natural resources."

Southampton County was designated as the number one county in the southeastern area in 1958.

In 1958, many farmers took advantage of the soil bank program. Corn, cotton, wheat and tobacco was thus disposed of. A total of \$324,463.10 was paid farmers for their participation. We feel that this enthusiastic participation was because of several bad crop years prior to 1958, the high cost of farm labor, fertilizer and farm machinery.

On the livestock side, the most severe disease outbreak occurred in swine that we have observed. Many small producers lost their entire herds. The larger producers lost as high as 140 animals. Having treated herds seemed to make little difference, though the trouble was generally diagnosed as cholera. Some, however, found evidence of many diseases. The outbreak was county-wide, though in the Boykins, Capron, Newsoms areas, it was more devastating than in others. This situation decreased our swine numbers by 60 per cent. Death did not cause all this reduction, but because of the violent nature of the trouble, many farmers sold their unfinished animals, their breeding stock and young stock for whatever they could get. It will take all of 1959 for many producers to build their herds up to top production again.

The agricultural agencies in Southampton County work together as well as members of one family. ACF, Soil Conservation Service personnel and the Extension personnel confer regularly and each understands and knows what the other is doing and why they are doing it. We have meetings of the personnel in the various agencies where we discuss out problems, and each promotes the other's program to an extent where we all feel we have one large program in the county. We think this is the right way to get greater results and extend a greater service to the farmers in the county.

3. How This Program Was Developed

For years prior to 1959, we have called together our agronomy committee and asked them to tell us what they would like to have the agricultural extension workers do for them. As an introduction, we would outline the situation, then what we had attempted to do and the success attained during the year just passed. For the past two years they have said in effect, "We like what you have been doing; keep it up." This year we have, with the exception of forestry and 4-H Club work, visited the committeemen in their various communities, gotten one, two, or three farmers or businessmen together with the committeemen and had them do the talking. We think some new ideas have been produced. We do not like the idea as a general rule but it is amusing what one will say with his neighbor on a hunting trip or at a neighborhood cross-road store, compared to what one will say in a meeting conducted primarily to get one to express himself.

PLAN OF WORK

For Southampton County

1959

1. Brief Description of County

Southampton County, Virginia, joins North Carolina on the south and southeast, Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties on the east and northeast, Surry on the north, Sussex on the northwest and Greensville on the west. It is in the upper Tidewater area and the elevation ranges from sea level to 300 feet and is 604 square miles in area.

Ninety-nine per cent of the soils in Southampton County are a deep phase. The soils are of a warm nature and immediately after fertilizer is applied to a crop, results can be observed. Our better types of soil are in a rotation that includes peanuts, corn and soybeans. The heavier type soils such as Bladen and some others are generally planted to pasture or to corn and soybeans.

Sixty-one per cent of Southampton's land area is woodland. Good forestry is not practiced on all the woodland, but forest propagation is improving rapidly. Twenty-eight per cent of the land area is in cultivation. Approximately 30 per cent of the land area which is in cultivation is devoted to peanuts, which is the county's leading money crop. Thirty-eight per cent is devoted to the production of corn, nearly all of which is fed to livestock; 5 per cent to the production of cotton, 10 per cent to pasture and the other 15 per cent to the production of soybeans, grain sorghum, and watermelons.

The size of our farms varies from a very small acreage up to 700 acres. The smaller farms are often worked by people engaged in other lines of employment.

2. County Situation

The weather in 1958 was nearly perfect. After a severe 1957-58 winter, the spring afforded conditions conducive to good land preparation and proper planting. One severe rain came in May, but land was soon put in shape and planting continued.

Crops grew luxuriantly and farm work was always up to date. When harvesting time came, the weather continued good. A good yield in all crops was harvested in due time.

Prices were not what they should have been. Nearly everyone paid expenses, but little net profit was realized.

Southampton farmers take full advantage of the Agricultural Conservation Program. The County's allocation is \$85,000 and it is always applied

PLAN OF WORK
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
1959

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