

1961

WISE COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM AND PLAN OF WORK

PREPARED

BY

WISE COUNTY COMMODITY COMMITTEES

AND

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TYPES OF AGRICULTURE IN WISE COUNTY

Wise County is considered an industrial county, mainly coal mining. However, there is a considerable amount of agriculture carried on within the county. The county has a normal population of 48,500 people, and we are trying to raise as many and much of the agricultural products that are adapted to the county to meet the food needs. The main types of agriculture we find adapted to our soils and climate are numerous vegetables, apples, strawberries, raspberries, dairy products, beef cattle, hogs, poultry and most of the agronomy crops. We have an average rainfall of approximately 58 inches which is normally well distributed during the year which makes our county very suitable to any crop production suited to our climatic conditions.

The 1959 census report shows that there were 598 farms in the county with an average size of 54.5 acres. This report is incorrect as the enumerators did not complete the county census. There are about 1,250 farms with an average size of 49.5 acres.

A large number of our farmers are part time farmers who work in the mines and other industries part time and farm the remaining. The farmers in the county not only have an excellent market for their products in the county but also in the adjacent coalfields of Eastern Kentucky. We find that the farmers in the county having such an excellent market are obtaining higher prices for their products than most farmers in other counties of Virginia.

WISE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

1961 PROGRAM AND PLAN OF WORK

I. Agronomy

A. Cover Crops

1. Goal: 75% of farmers sow winter cover crops in 1961 on cultivated land.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Benefits of cover crops.
 - b. The cover crops that are best suited to Wise County.
 - c. Best varieties of adapted cover crops.
 - d. Seed treatment of cover crops of the grain varieties.
 - e. Inoculation of legume cover crops.
 - f. Proper time and method of seeding.
 - g. Proper preparation of land.
 - h. Kind and amount of fertilizer to use.
 - i. Best use of cover crops.
 - j. Demonstrations of desirable cover crops.
3. General Educational Activities: Personal visits to farmers by county agent, through office visits, press, meetings, letters, radio, specialists and bulletins.

B. Alfalfa

1. Goal: To increase alfalfa acreage 460 acres in 1961 over last year.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Advantages of growing alfalfa where adapted.
 - b. Use established alfalfa plantings as demonstrations and location of same.
 - c. Proper drainage before planting.
 - d. Soil samples (recommendations of Agronomy Department from soil samples as to liming and fertilizing.)
 - e. Proper preparation of seed bed.
 - f. Adapted varieties to plant.

- g. Inoculation.
- h. Time, rate, and method of seeding.
- i. Harvesting and curing.
- j. Care of stand.

3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with the farmers by county agent in the office and field. Field meetings on farms where alfalfa plantings are established, through regular farm meetings, letters, press, radio, bulletins and specialists.

C. Hybrid Corn

1. Goal: Our long time goal is to have all farmers raising corn to raise adapted hybrid varieties. Our goal in 1961 is 98% of farmers to raise adapted varieties.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Advantages of adapted hybrid varieties over open pollinated varieties.
- b. Adapted varieties best suited to county.
- c. Plant only certified seed.
- d. Proper fertilization and liming as indicated by soil analysis.
- e. Proper spacing of corn between rows and in row.
- f. Proper cultural methods.

3. General Educational Activities: To promote adapted hybrid corn planting through personal contact of farmers in field and office by county agent, by meetings, circular letters, bulletins, press and radio.

D. Small Grain

1. Goal: Our 1961 wheat goal is to increase our acreage 25 over last year. Our 1961 oat goal is to increase our acreage 300 over last year. Our 1961 barley goal is to increase our acreage 120 over last year. Our 1961 rye goal is to increase our acreage 130 over last year. Our 1961 mixed grain goal is to increase our acreage 130 over last year.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Advantages of growing small grain crop for feed

- on farm as grain for family and livestock.
- b. Advantages as cover crop and winter pasture.
- c. Advantages as hay and ensilage.
- d. Plant certified adapted varieties for county.
- e. Proper fertilization and liming according to soil analysis.
- f. Proper seed bed preparation.
- g. Time and rate of seeding.
- h. Proper time to harvest for hay, ensilage or grain.

- 3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, by press, letters, field meetings and Extension-TVA demonstrators, specialist, radio and bulletins.

E. Ladino Clover

- 1. Goal: 200 new farmers grow one acre of ladino clover and orchard grass mixture for every three head of livestock on farm in 1961.
- 2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Best use of ladino clover.
 - b. Soil adaptation.
 - c. Seeding with orchard grass or Kentucky Fescue 31.
 - d. Preparation of land.
 - e. Lime requirement (soil analysis).
 - f. Kind and amount of fertilizer to use (soil sample).
 - g. Rate of seeding.
 - h. Care of stand.
 - i. Grazing management to prevent bloat.
- 3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by press, letters, field meetings, other meetings and Extension-TVA demonstrators, specialists, radio and bulletins.

F. Other Legumes and Grasses for Hay and Ensilage

- 1. Goal: To increase our acreage of hay and ensilage 25% in 1961 and grow and cure better hay and better ensilage.
- 2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Better use of lime and fertilizer.
 - b. Kind of legumes and grasses best adapted to

- locality and use.
 - c. Higher rate of seeding in new meadows.
 - d. Cutting at proper stage to give higher protein and chlorophyll content.
 - e. Proper curing to produce more palatable hay with higher protein and chlorophyll content.
 - f. Installing of more hay driers.
 - g. Installation of more silos.
3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in field and office, by press, letters, field meetings, other meetings and Extension-TVA demonstrators, specialists, radio and bulletins.

G. Pasture Improvement

1. Goal: To increase both permanent and cropland pasture 20% over 1960.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Steep land used for row crops would be more profitable seeded to good pasture mixtures.
 - b. Brush off pastures where needed.
 - c. Reseeding pastures where needed.
 - d. Best adapted grasses and legumes for pastures in county.
 - e. Ladino and orchard grass pasture.
 - f. Application of lime where growth and soil analysis show the need.
 - g. Application of phosphate.
 - h. Application of complete fertilizer where needed.
 - i. Advise against over or under grazing.
3. General Educational Activities: Through the Extension-TVA demonstrations, personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, by field meetings, other meetings and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program, specialists, radio and bulletins.

H. Strip Cropping

1. Goal: 20% more farmers to strip crop in 1961 than in 1960.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Value of strip cropping.
 - b. Proper rotations in strip cropping.
 - c. Width of strips on different degree slopes.

3. General Educational Activities: Through personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by letters, press, radio, meetings and bulletins.

I. Proper Land Use of Coal Stripped Areas

1. Goal: 40% of coal stripped land to be put in adapted crops and forest trees in 1961.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Soil and water conservation.
 - b. Soil analysis.
 - c. Best use of land.
 - d. Preparation of land after being stripped.
3. General educational activities: Through personal contact with farmers and landowners by county agent in the office and field, by letters, press, radio, and demonstrations.

J. Burley Tobacco

1. Goal: Plant entire county burley tobacco allotment if possible.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Varieties best adapted to county.
 - b. Kinds and amounts of fertilizer and lime to apply determined by soil analysis for plant bed and field.
 - c. Preparation of plant bed and field.
 - d. Cultural practices best adapted.
 - e. Harvesting and curing methods.
 - f. Proper grading and care.
 - g. Marketing.
3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in office and field, by demonstrations, letters, press, meetings, specialists and bulletins.

II. Poultry Production

A. Increase Egg Production

1. Goal: To produce 30% more eggs in 1961 than in 1960.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Larger farm flocks for more cash income.
- b. Obtain pullets from pollorum free hatcheries and pullets from high producing parentage.
- c. Better housing.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. More rigid culling.
- f. Better sanitation to control diseases and parasites.
- g. Get baby chicks for laying flock early so they will start laying in latter part of August and middle of September.

3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by letters, press, specialists, bulletins and radio.

B. Increase Broiler Production

1. Goal: To increase broiler production by 5% in 1961 over 1960 mainly for farm consumption.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Better strain of chicks for broiler production.
- b. Obtain baby chicks from pollorum free hatcheries.
- c. Better brooders.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. Better sanitation to control diseases and parasites.

3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by letters, press, meetings, bulletins and radio.

III. Dairying

1. Goal: To increase our commercial cow population 20% and our milk production 45% in 1961 over 1960.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. 15 and 20 cow herds good income for family size farms.
- b. Better cows from high producing parentage to replace culled cows.
- c. Increase cow population from cows of high producing parentage.
- d. More ladino and orchard grass pastures.
- e. Better pastures by reseeding on thin pastures.
- f. Better pastures by use of lime and phosphate.
- g. Use of complete fertilizer where needed.

- h. Better hay--alfalfa, clover and lespedeza.
 - i. Better curing methods of hay.
 - j. Small grain for late fall and early winter grazing.
 - k. Better sires from high producing parentage.
 - l. Better barns.
 - m. Dairy Herd Improvement Association.
 - n. Artificial Breeding Association.
 - o. Breed sows to freshen in fall and winter months when milk is needed most.
 - p. Make people conscious of county produced milk through advertising.
 - q. Better feeding management.
3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, by letters, meetings, bulletins, Extension-TVA demonstration farmers, specialists, press and radio.

IV. Livestock

A. Beef Cattle

1. Goal: Increase production of beef cattle 25% in 1961 over 1960 and to increase quality and better finish on all cattle.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Better bulls and cows.
 - b. Better pastures by use of lime and phosphate.
 - c. Use of complete fertilizer where needed.
 - d. Better hay.
 - e. Better control of diseases and parasites.
 - f. Better feeding management.
3. General Educational Activities: By field meetings on Extension-TVA demonstration farms, other meetings, letters, personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by bulletins, press and radio.

B. Pork Production

1. Goal: To increase pork production 20% in 1961 over 1960.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. More sows to farrow.
- b. Better care of sows at farrowing.
- c. Breed sows to farrow in spring and fall.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. Feed more minerals to breeding stock and fattening hogs.
- f. Treat pigs for worms.
- g. Vaccinate to prevent cholera.

3. General Educational Activities: Personal contact with farmers by county agent in office and field, by letters, meetings, bulletins, press and radio.

C. Sheep Production

1. Goal: Take better care of sheep now on farm. (no increase in sheep production due to large population of dogs.)

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Better care of ewes at lambing.
- b. Better rams.
- c. Better feeding methods.
- d. Worm flock three times during year.

3. General Educational Activities: By letters and personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, and bulletins.

V. Horticulture

A. Apple Production

1. Goal: Long time goal to triple our present apple tree population. Take out old trees and undesirable varieties in our present orchards and replace them with sports of desirable varieties. To build a cooperative packing plant and cannery.

Goal for 1961 is to build a cannery. To increase present plantings 150 acres. Take out as many old unproductive trees and undesirable varieties in present orchards as possible and replace them with sports of desirable varieties. To increase better quality of apples grown and a better quality pack. Also maintain quality to consumer.

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2. Methods to be Used:

- a. What constitutes a good apple orchard site.
 - b. Desirable apple varieties and their desirable sports to plant according to consumer demands and their growing habits.
 - c. Advantages of canning plant.
 - d. Use right kind of spray materials for diseases and insects.
 - e. Apply spray materials at proper time.
 - f. Apply spray materials thoroughly.
 - g. Prune trees properly.
 - h. Proper application of nitrate and commercial fertilizer to trees.
 - i. Proper cultivation of orchards.
 - j. Orchard mice control.
 - k. Thin apples if too heavy a set.
 - l. Proper picking, grading and packing.
 - m. Importance of maintaining quality from picking until reaches consumer.
 - n. Recommend the Extension Horticulturists keep apple growers informed if Food and Drug Administration change the amount of tolerance of any of present insecticides.
 - o. Recommend the Horticultural Experiment Station and Extension Horticultural Department do more research on physiological effect of apple tree fertilization on leaf and fruit development with respect to quality of fruit at harvest.
3. General Educational Activities: Pruning demonstration, orchard mice control demonstration, meetings, help from specialists, timely spray information through spray cards, letters, press, radio and personal contact with fruit growers by county agent in the field and office, and contact canning company.

B. Peach Production

1. Goal: Long time goal to plant 1,000 acres of desirable varieties of peaches only on good sites. The 1961 goal is to start planting as many orchards as possible as there are no peach orchards in the county.

C. Small Fruits

1. Goal: To increase the acreage of strawberries, raspberries and table grapes all we possibly can

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as the present production is way
below the demand.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Show farmers the demand far exceeds the supply of berries.
- b. Show farmer it is a good cash crop, especially for the small farmer.
- c. Proper location and soil type for good berry production.
- d. Best varieties suited to our county.
- e. Get plants from reliable nursery.
- f. Preparation of soil before planting.
- g. Kind of fertilizer to use and amounts and time to apply.
- h. Control of diseases and insects.
- i. How and when to mulch strawberries.
- j. How and when to prune raspberries.
- k. How and when to prune grapes.

3. General Educational Activities: Educational activities will be carried on to promote more and better strawberry, raspberry and grape production by personal contact with the farmers by the county agent, both in the field and office, bulletins, meetings, letters, specialists, press and radio.

D. Vegetable Production:

1. Goal: Not to increase our vegetable production until growers organize a cooperative market and cannery.

2. Methods to be Used:

- a. Market demand in county and adjoining market exceeds our production, however, hard to sell on account of poor marketing system.
- b. Better varieties and those varieties that are disease resistant if adapted to county.
- c. Seed treatment.
- d. Proper application and kind of fertilizer to use.
- e. Kind of insect sprays to use and when to apply.
- f. Kind of disease sprays to use and when to apply.
- g. Rotation of vegetable crops to control diseases and insects.
- h. Better grading and packing.
- i. Cooperative market and cannery.

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3. **General Educational Activities:** Educational activities will be carried on to promote better quality and higher yields of vegetable crops by meetings, visual aid, press, personal contact with farmers by agent in the field and office, assistance from specialists and by bulletins.

E. Ornamental Horticulture

1. **Goal:** To beautify our home grounds not only in rural areas but also urban.
2. **Methods to be Used:**
 - a. Kinds of annual and biennial flowers.
 - b. Kind of trees and shrubs to plant.
 - c. Kinds of lawn mixtures to seed.
 - d. Cultural practices.
 - e. Kinds and amounts of fertilizers to use.
 - f. Insect control.
 - g. Disease control.
3. **Educational Activities:** Through meetings with garden clubs, other meetings, letters, press, radio, and personal contact with rural and urban people in office and field.

VI. Extension-TVA Demonstration Program for 1961

1. **Goal:** To carry on the Extension-TVA Demonstration Program as outlined for 1961.
2. **Methods to be Used:**
 - a. Consult with county committee concerning best method in carrying on Extension-TVA program.
 - b. Individual farm planning with demonstrators.
 - c. Advise demonstrators of changes in program.
 - d. Farm account books.
 - e. Assist in balancing farm business.
 - f. Field meeting on demonstration farms.

VII. Farm Labor

1. **Goal:** Help farmers obtain labor saving machinery wherever he can economically use it, thereby, hiring labor only when necessary.
2. **Methods to be Used:**
 - a. Comparison of farm labor with machine labor.
 - b. Not enough farm labor available.

3. **General Educational Activities:** Educational activities will be carried on by meetings and personal contact with farmers by agent in the field and office.

VIII. Agricultural Planning

1. **Goal:** Complete organization of county agricultural extension service board and have at least two meetings to discuss and plan county program.

IX. Cooperatives

1. **Goal:** To help the Wise and Lee Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the Wise-Lee Artificial Breeding Association be more beneficial and successful.
2. **Methods to be Used:**
 - a. Benefits dairymen obtain by belonging to cooperative.
 - b. Consultation with directors and manager.
 - c. Importance of dairymen supporting cooperative.
3. **General Educational Activities:** By personal contact with farmers by agent in field and office, by meetings and by letters.

X. Forestry

1. **Goal:** Planting wasteland to desirable forest seedlings and better care of farm woodland. Increase 350 acres of tree seedling plantings over 1960. Two more forestry demonstrations showing proper management.
2. **Methods to be Used:**
 - a. Get seedling trees from TVA and State nurseries for farmers and landowners to plant on wasteland and coal stripped areas.
 - b. Show farmer and landowner the need for proper woodland management.
 - c. Two more forestry demonstrations showing proper management.
3. **General Educational Activities:** Meetings, personal contact with farmers by county agent in office and field, by press, specialists, meetings and demonstrations.

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XI. 4-H Club Activities

1. Goal: To maintain the 24 4-H Clubs we now have. Organize 4-H Club and Older Youth Advisory Committee. Have at least two meetings.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Good leaders if possible.
 - b. Good programs.
 - c. Attend meetings when possible.
 - d. Visit as many of the club projects as possible.
 - e. 4-H Club Council meetings.
 - f. 4-H Club Camp.
 - g. Achievement Day.
3. General Educational Activities: Project instructions by agent in meetings and visit to members. By press, radio and letters.

XII. Cooperation with Agricultural Conservation Association

1. Goal: To serve as ex-officio member of county committee and advise farmers of program.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Attend county committee meetings when possible.
 - b. Keep in touch with county office regularly to see if farmers are participating.
 - c. Keep up with changes in program.
 - d. Explain program to farmers.
3. General Educational Activities: Meeting to explain program to farmers, personal contact with farmers by agent in the field and office, by radio, press and letters.

XIII. Cooperation with Credit and Loaning Agencies:

1. Goal: Help all farmers obtain credit when advisable.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Find out amount he desires to borrow and how he intends to use loan.
 - b. Direct him to the loaning agency best suited for his type of loan and amount.

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3. General Educational Activities: Educational activities will be carried out through meetings and personal contact with farmers by agent in field and office, radio, press and letters.

XIV. Rural Organizations:

1. Goal: Organize farmers' and homemakers' clubs provided the rural communities want organization.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Call meetings in the communities in county to explain organization.
 - b. Organization and election of officers, selecting of place to hold meeting and date of meeting.
 - c. Assist executive committee in making yearly program.
 - d. Assist the organized clubs in anyway possible.
 - e. Attend all meetings if possible.
 - f. Communities enter community improvement contest.
3. General Educational Activities: By personal contact with farmers in the communities and office, meetings, letters, press and radio.

XV. Farm and Home Development Program

1. Goal: To maintain and work with the ten farm and home development demonstrators.

XVI. Public Relations

1. Goal: To work with local, federal, state and civic organizations on programs for general welfare of people in county.
2. Methods to be Used:
 - a. Inform rural people of the various program affecting them.
 - b. Organize rural people to carry out programs in rural sections of county.
 - c. Inform urban people of agricultural program and problems.
3. Educational Activities: Personal contact with rural and urban people by county agent in the office and field, meetings, letters, press and radio.