

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PLAN OF WORK
(Name of project)

for

Calendar Year 1959

| Major phases of project or subdivisions of project covered | Name of Worker* | Percentage of time devoted to entire project by each worker |
|--|------------------------|---|
| In Charge | Jack Kelley | 100 Per Cent |
| Beef Cattle and Sheep | J. S. Buchanan | 100 Per Cent |
| Beef Cattle and Sheep | A. V. Allen | 100 Per Cent |
| 4-H Club Work <i>(Performance N.)</i> | J. W. Patterson | 100 Per Cent |
| Meats | J. A. Christian | 100 Per Cent |
| Swine | J. R. Woodard | 75 Per Cent |
| <i>4-H Club Work</i> | <i>D. C. Henderson</i> | <i>100</i> |

Date submitted: December 8, 1958. Signed: _____
Project Leader

Date approved: _____, 195 . Signed: _____
State Director of Extension

Date approved: _____, 195 . Signed: _____
Administrator, Federal Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture

* If phases of project are divided between two or more workers, indicate assignment to each.

1959 PLAN OF WORK
FOR
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY EXTENSION
IN
NORTH CAROLINA

Jack Kelley
In Charge Animal Husbandry Extension

J. S. Buchanan
Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist

A. V. Allen
Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist

J. W. Patterson
Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist

J. A. Christian
Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist

J. R. Woodard
Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist

~~Donald~~ Henderson

D. A. Henderson

1959 PLAN OF WORK
for
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY EXTENSION
in
NORTH CAROLINA

I. INTRODUCTION

Farmers will start the year with full feed bins as a result of record yields of most every grain and forage crop. For the past two years there has been a rapidly growing interest in finishing cattle and hogs for market and feed now on storage will expand interest in this direction. Specialists will be called on to plan feeding operations that are larger and more efficient. This will require coordination with agricultural engineers and farm management specialists on problems of housing, equipping and financing feed lot operations.

Increased feeding for market has and will continue to create a demand for more feeder pigs and calves, which in turn means expansion of breeding herds. In expanding breeding herds we will need to place special emphasis on programs designed to improve quality and efficiency of production. Such programs as performance testing, meat type hog and marketing by grade will be stressed during the coming year.

Sheep have continued to make slow but steady progress. The tendency here is the exact reverse of the trend in cattle and hogs. Most of the sheep expansion has been in small flocks of breeding ewes added to the farms in the piedmont and mountain sections. Improvement of our

lamb crop and a more effective parasite control program will receive major emphasis this year.

The self-help program voted by the cattlemen last March will stimulate more interest in meats, especially in the field of consumer education. Work with business and industrial plant employees on buying and utilizing meats will be expanded and educational work on the use of high quality meats for the home freezer will be continued.

This promises to be a critical year for the livestock farmer. Beef prices are the highest since 1951 and hog prices are above the past three year average. Both beef and swine feeders will have to operate on reduced margins this year. Efficiency will be the keynote to profit.

II. BEEF CATTLE:

- A. Breeding. The main breeding problem is the production of a beef animal that will grow faster on less feed and yield a carcass with a high ratio of red meat to fat. Directly related is the problem of culling from the herd the undesirable animals.

The best tool we have to help solve this problem is production testing. Every effort will be made to have an expanded state-wide program of testing. We hope to have at least one result demonstration in each major cattle county. Method demonstrations on culling will be given in some counties and the entire program stressed in our educational meetings. This program should result in heavier, higher quality calves for our feeder calf sales over a period of years.

- B. Feeding. The main feeding problem this year is the efficient use of cheaper feed to make a profit.

Educational material will be furnished agents and published through mass media on the use of grain on grass method of finishing cattle. Method and result demonstrations on the use of hormones and other additives designed to increase the efficiency of feed, will be conducted. Creep feeding of all calves to be sold direct from the cow will be stressed.

The use of cheaper feed and effective use of feed additives will result in more finished cattle moving to market at the proper time and in the recommended market condition.

- C. Management. The main problems here are controlled breeding and parasite control.

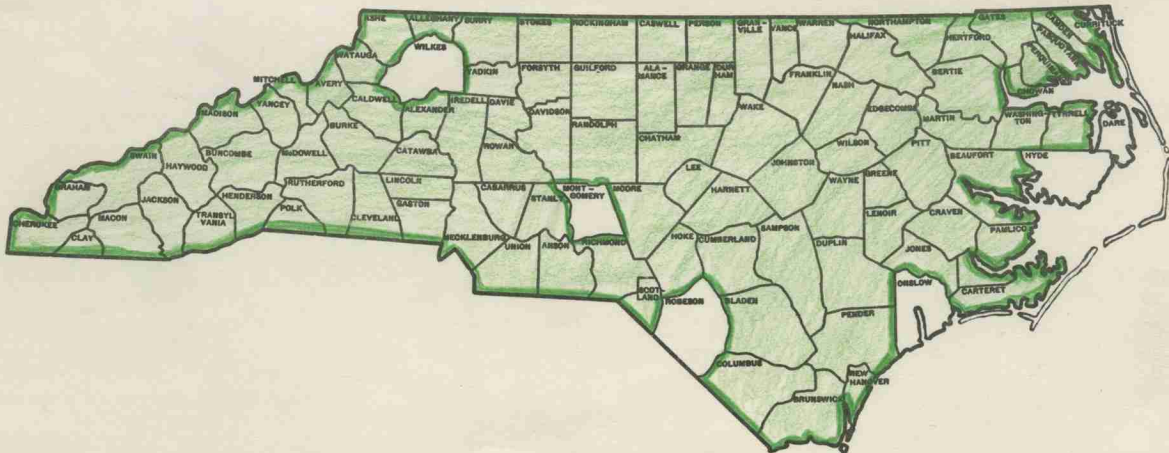
Controlled breeding will be a featured subject at all livestock schools, field days and other educational meetings. Its value will also be stressed in news articles, radio and television shows. Result

demonstrations in the main cattle counties will emphasize this program.

Method demonstrations will be prepared and presented on the control of both internal and external parasites with special emphasis this year going to internal parasites of calves.

Results of controlled breeding and parasite control will be reflected by heavier, healthier, higher quality calves moving through our feeder calf sales.

- D. Marketing. The main problem in marketing is to get more cattle in our cooperative sales where the farmers will benefit from the increased competition and marketing methods followed. To accomplish this method demonstrations in dehorning, castrating and vaccinating calves will be given. Marketing information will be released through mass media and given in educational meetings. In marketing problems livestock specialists will cooperate with the College Marketing Section, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, The Cattlemen's Association, livestock auction markets and packers in the state.



 COUNTIES IN GREEN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH BEEF CATTLE WORK

III. SHEEP:

- A. Breeding. The major problem in this field is getting ewes bred at the proper time and the culling of low or non-producers.

Method and result demonstrations on the advantage of late shearing of ewes and re-shearing of the ram will be conducted. Educational meetings, field days and mass media will all be used to stress the advantages of having lambs born so as to be ready for market when prices are the highest.

Method demonstrations on culling ewes will be conducted at field days and other appropriate events. Individual flock owners will be encouraged to keep records and cull flocks according to production records. This program can be evaluated by a study of the time, weight and grade of lambs moving to market.

- B. Feeding. The main problem to be worked on this year is creep feeding of lambs.

County agents will be furnished educational material collected from the lamb pools on the advantages of creep feeding. Plans for a low cost creep are available.

Farm flock result demonstrations, schools, field days and personal contact will be used to call the attention of flock owners to the advantages of creep feeding.

- C. Management. Problems that will receive major attention are parasite control and docking and castrating lambs.

Parasites will continue to be the number one problem of sheep production. Agents will be assisted with both method and result demonstrations to illustrate approved practices for eradication and control of parasites. This subject will also receive major attention at all educational meetings, field days, tours and through the use of mass media.

Agents will be assisted with method demonstrations and they will also be given at all field days. The economic reasons for this practice will be pointed out at livestock schools, field days and at the local lamb pools.

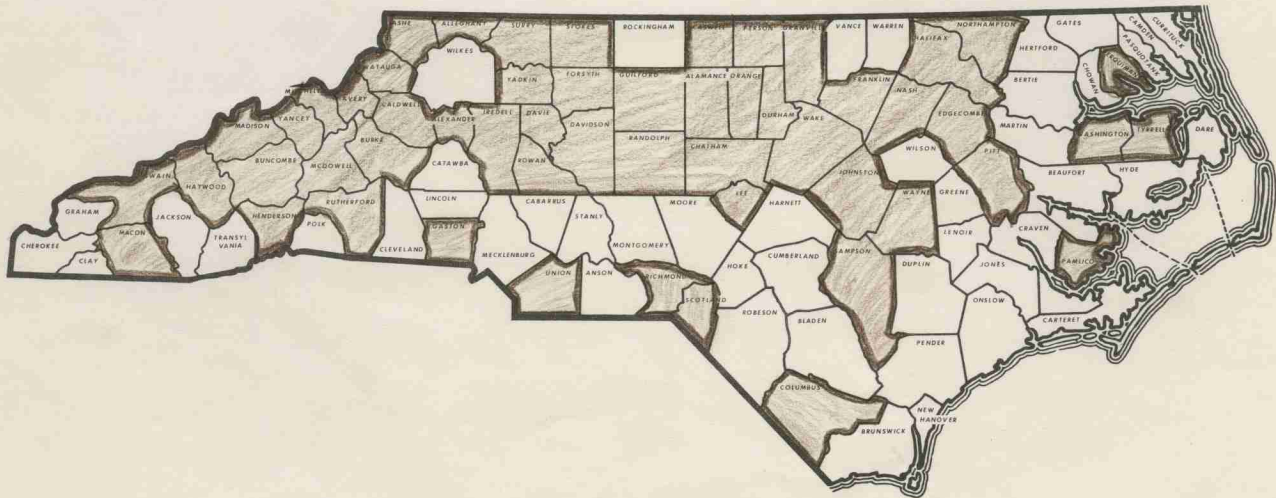
The results can be observed in the records of the lamb pools, in the farm flock records and requests for assistance along this line of work.

- D. Marketing. Improvement of quality of both lambs and wool are the main marketing problems.

Demonstrations on shearing, preparing and storing wool for market will be given at field days, tours and on television programs. Educational material will be furnished agents for distribution to flock owners.

Pilot demonstrations with 4-H Club members on the possibilities of taking light medium and common lambs from the lamb pools and feeding them to the choice grade will be conducted in the northwest counties.

Improvement in the quality of lambs and wool will be evident from a study of the pool reports.



COUNTIES REQUESTING SHEEP WORK

IV. SWINE:

- A. Breeding. Breeding for feeder pig production is being emphasized to promote swine production on farms not suitable for feeding, also to furnish feeder pigs for pig parlors. Plans are to work toward producing the right kind of pigs for the pig parlors. Plans are to continue working with the meat type hog program and hog grading program to encourage farmers to produce more of the right kind of hogs.

Swine breeding programs are planned with several counties to coordinate swine breeding programs and feeder pig sales, market hog show and sales and producing hogs for sale when markets are most favorable.

A breeding program on multiple farrowing is planned to help the large producers furnish pigs on an all year round basis.

- B. Feeding. A problem in swine feeding is to get a balanced ration fed to sows and pigs. Also to get farmers to feed a better ration. Demonstrations are planned to show the importance of feeding a balanced ration.

Growing 50 pound pigs in eight weeks will be stressed. A good creep feeding program on the county level is planned to produce heavier pigs at weaning time.

Swine feeding on pasture will be stressed in areas where good pasture can be grown. Feeding on concrete is on the increase. All information on feeding and management is being sent to county agents and swine producers. Another problem is to get the information on rate and cost of gain on pigs fed on concrete. Keeping good records will be emphasized to get this information.

- C. Herd Management. A program has been developed to get more pigs, save more pigs, and grow more pigs. These points will be brought to the producer through field days, educational meetings, news releases, television, radio, and on the farm demonstrations. Emphasis will be

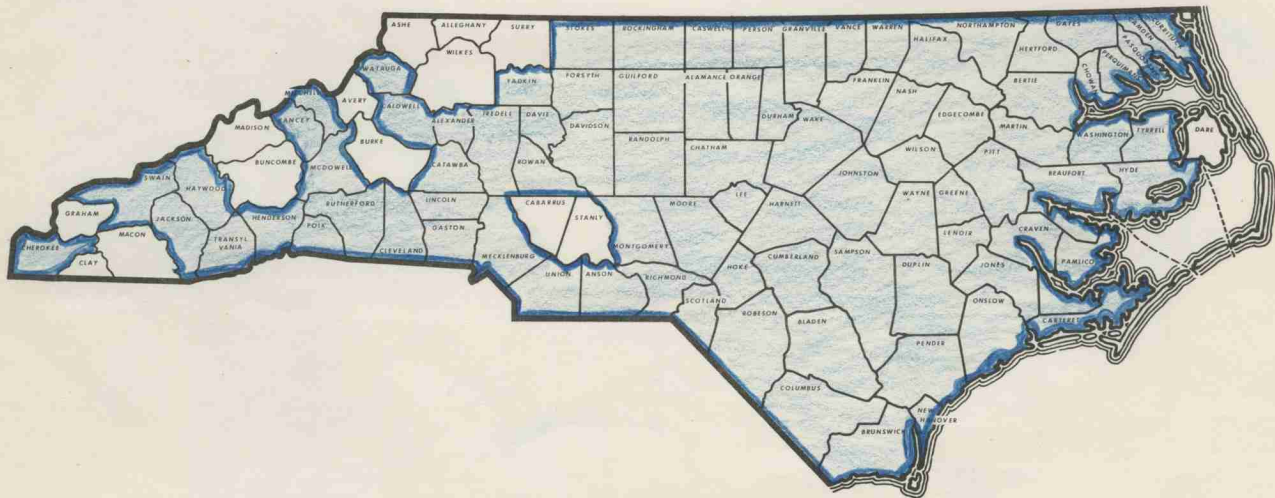
on parasite control, saving baby pigs and a good housing program.

- D. Marketing. A problem in marketing is getting hogs sold at the proper weights. Programs through farm meetings, meetings at auction markets and demonstrations will be given to emphasize the importance of selling hogs at the right weight to receive the top dollar.

Outlook information will be sent to all county agents and producers to inform them of the possibility of lower hog prices during the fall of 1959.

E. Other Activities.

1. County swine program. Each county agent will be encouraged to develop a long range county swine program for his county.
2. Field days at demonstrations and on farms to teach the best methods of swine production.
3. Type conferences are being planned to demonstrate the best type of hogs to grow.
4. Grading demonstrations with market operators and county agents.
5. Specialists will work with markets and packers in order to help improve marketing facilities.
6. Farm and home development will be used as one method to encourage the production of hogs and to develop a sound program for increasing farm income.
7. Radio, television, news articles and circular letters will be made use of.
8. Requests by county agents for assistance will be filled as far as possible.



Counties Requesting Swine Work

V. MEATS:

- A. Beef. The big problem in the preparation of any meal is selecting and using the proper kind of meats. More information for the consumer is needed so that she will know how to prepare certain qualities and cuts of beef.

Information is being compiled to send to ^{C. H. F.} home demonstration agents for distribution to the consumers in the county on the selecting and using of quality meats. There are plans for holding several demonstrations on cutting and selecting of beef, also on the proper use and storage of meats. There will also be several meetings held in cooperation with locker plants and packing companies to get this type of information to the consumer.

Another problem is the low beef consumption, especially among the lower income brackets in eastern North Carolina. Plans are to hold several meetings in this area to promote the raising and using of more beef in this area. Information will be given through radio, television and news articles on the nutritional value of beef and why it should be a part of the protein diet.

- B. Pork. A problem in farm pork supply is the curing and storing of farm meats. We have several demonstrations planned on cutting and curing, (1) to prevent over-salty meats, (2) to keep the insects out of the meats and (3) on proper storage of meats under farm conditions. Bulletins and information pertaining to the curing and storing of meats will be sent to all of the ^{C. H. F.} farm agents, ^{C. H. F.} home demonstration agents and to the commercial ham curers giving them the information on the proper ways of handling cured meats. Several demonstrations are also planned on the cutting and using of country hams and shoulders to get the most from them. Information is available to the consumer through bulletins

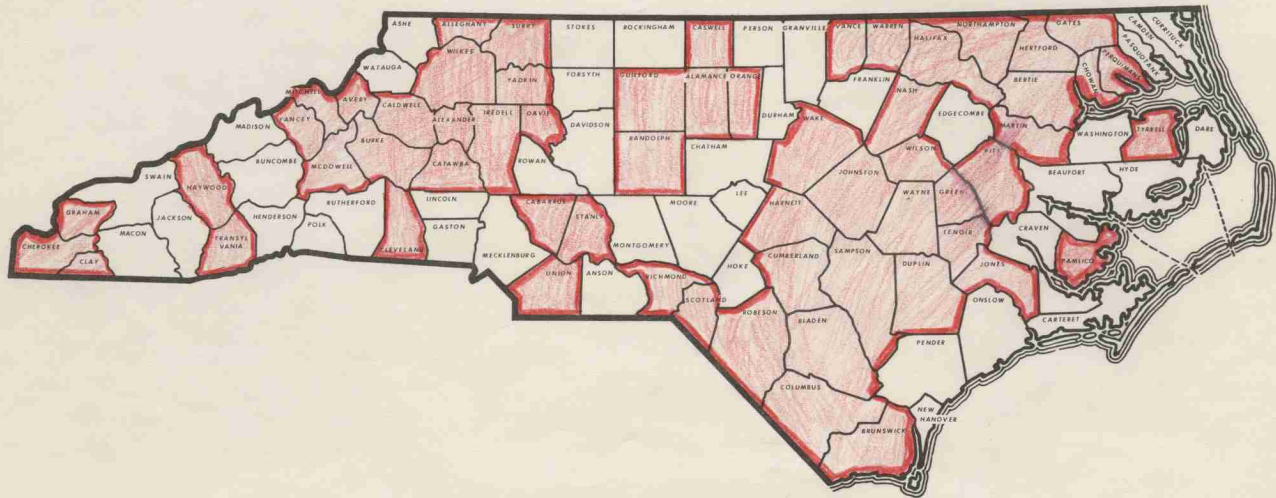
and newspaper articles. ✓ *meat*

- C. Lamb. The problem on lamb in North Carolina is to get the public to consume more of it. Several television programs have been planned to give the information to the consuming public on the nutritional value of lamb and the economy of serving lamb to the family. Newspaper articles, radio programs and personal contact will also be used to help increase the consumption of lamb in North Carolina.

- D. Locker Plants and Packing Companies. Much needs to be done with the locker plants as there is a change in the basic service of which they offer. More and more of the locker plants are changing from a storage plant to a processing plant and need help in this conversion.

The packing companies are beginning to buy more cattle and hogs on carcass grade and yield basis and it is important that the information on this way of marketing be given to the producer and also to be checked with as far as the locker plant and packing companies are concerned.

- F. Proper Storage Facilities for Cured Meats. A problem exists on having proper storage space for cured meats. Plans are to work with the county agents and commercial ham curers on building a modern, usable storage house for cured meats. We are also working with the producers on bagging of hams to prevent insect damage and the construction of ham houses that can be fumigated to prevent insect trouble. Continued efforts will be necessary to increase the number of good curing houses and also to reduce the amount of spoilage of meats due to insects and rodents.



 COUNTIES REQUESTING MEATS WORK.

VI. H-H CLUB:

- A. Steer Projects. Numbers of steers and quality of steers on feed will both be down this year due to the high cost of feeders. The main problem is to reduce feed costs and increase efficiency so that the projects will be profitable.

Rations of home grown feed will be worked out and distributed to the club members. Demonstrations of mixing home grown feeds will be outlined for agents use at club meetings. This will also be stressed at educational meetings including fat stock shows.

The use of hormones and/or other feed additives to increase the feed efficiency of the steers will be recommended and where possible will be set up in the nature of a demonstration.

- B. Sheep. These projects include fat lambs as well as sheep breeding flock chains. The main problem of the fat lamb project is in fitting and showing the lambs. With the sheep chains the problems are about the same as with adult sheep. This year correct feeding and parasite control will be emphasized.

Fitting and showing demonstrations will be put on in as many counties as possible. Club members will be furnished a list of necessary supplies and show officials will be encouraged to offer larger prizes for fitting and showing.

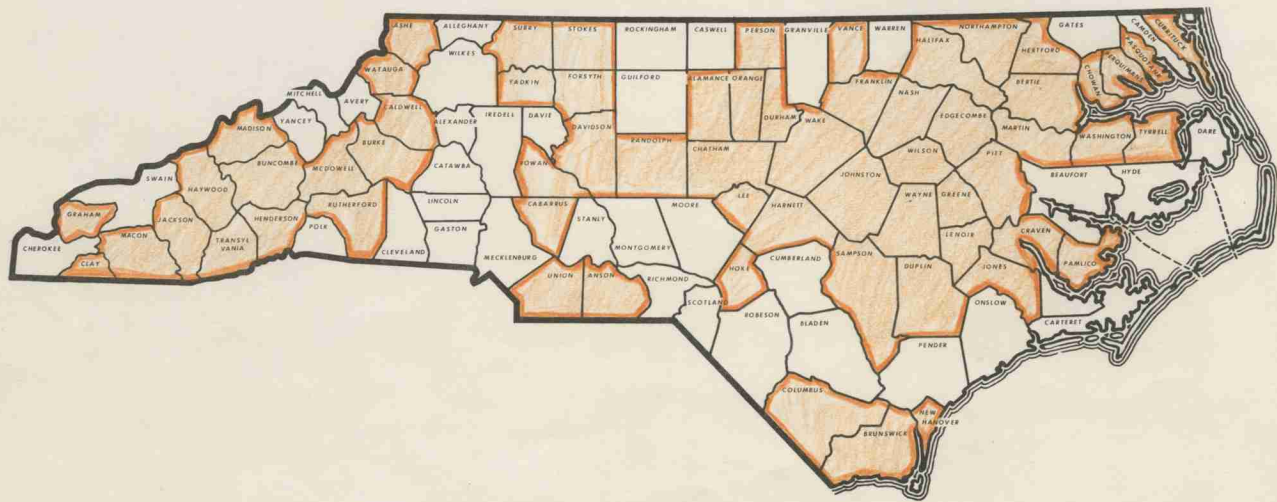
Correct feeding of ewes before and after lambing will be stressed and recommended rations will be furnished agents for members and prospective members of the sheep chain. Parasite control will be the same as outlined for adults.

- C. Swine. Both breeding and fattening projects are available for club members. The majority of the breeding projects are in the nature of

pig chains sponsored by civic, commercial and professional groups. Problems to be stressed are selection of breeding stock and feeding protein supplements. Market hogs may be shown in most of the twenty-nine fat stock shows and in the State Market Hog Show and Sale. Problems to be emphasized are selecting hogs that are the right age, weight and type to be at their peak at show time.

Demonstrations will be presented and educational material furnished on the selection of breeding stock and pigs for market projects. Selection of animals that are off-spring of certified meat type boars will be stressed.

- D. Other Activities. In addition to the animal projects, specialists will work with agents, leaders, club members, civic groups, industry and others interested in club projects other than live animals. These projects will include livestock conservation demonstrations, livestock judging teams, sheep shearing teams and county fairs and sales.



□ COUNTIES REQUESTING 4-H WORK

VII. PROJECTED PROGRAM NEEDS:

The trend in the state is toward more livestock on the farm. They are needed to diversify, to provide a better market for grain and a more desirable land use program. If livestock are to hold the gains they have made and look forward to even greater expansion in the future, they must be alert to continuous improvement.

Beef cattle need to make improvement in their rate of gain, feed efficiency and lean meat ratio if they want to compete for the feeder's dollar. This is a problem that must be solved by better breeding and production testing offers the fastest solution to the problem. We need a state-wide production testing program supervised by a specialist of this department. More and more of our grain should be marketed through beef cattle. To accomplish this a more satisfactory manner of marketing of finished cattle needs to be found. Much could be accomplished in this direction by working with the auction markets in the grain growing sections.

Sheep are naturally adapted to our mountain section and a lot of work should be done to expand sheep numbers there. One of the major problems is the lack of adequate marketing facilities for lambs. Lamb pools need to be consolidated so that numbers would approach 1,000 per pool. A more satisfactory market is needed for our low quality lambs and we do have an undeveloped potential for feeding out some of this type of lamb in our own state.

The trend in swine is toward mass production in both breeding herds and fattening for market. Planning work is needed on mechanization of these large operations. Breeding work must be done to more rapidly expand the meat type hog. Testing facilities are needed and again the

overall supervision of the program should be by Extension. Marketing hogs at the correct weight and grade for the most profit is another problem that will receive lots of attention in future years.

Livestock of any kind is a new project for the majority of our farmers. If they get started with low quality animals that are poor producers they will not remain in the livestock business. One of our big problems for the next several years is to get and keep new producers with animals most suited to their feed, labor and market conditions.

