

1955

Balanced Farm and Home Planning Program Calhoun Progress Report

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PROGRESS REPORT (Condensed)
CALHOUN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
BALANCED FARM & HOME PLANNING PROGRAM

August 1, 1954 - July 31, 1955

In Calhoun County the procedure of informing the public, setting up an advisory committee, and enrolling farm families was carried out as recommended for all the counties. During the first year 63 families were enrolled and it is expected that there will be more than 100 by the end of 1955. These include 35 farmers with beef cattle as one of the main sources of income, 28 producing hogs commercially, and 15 dairymen.

During the year the associate agents made 1690 visits to farms enrolled in the program.

The Farm and Home Planning Program for each farm family actually started when the application for assistance was processed. This application contained information as to the over-all farm and home set-up.

A. Yearly Plans

Upon the first visit to each of the families approved, the associate county agent and associate home agent made a joint call. This meeting included the farmer, housewife and larger children. This first visit brought out problems that faced this family and, in most cases, they requested immediate assistance from the agents. Some typical problems where families requested assistance were kitchen arrangement, landscaping, soil testing, fertilizing, securing pine seedlings, and remodeling of house.

Where families had children of 4-H Club age, their Club program was brought into the picture.

In order that the farm families could take advantage of purchasing at an early day seeds and fertilizer, and engage in other activities in preparation for the near cropping season, the annual plan of work was given much consideration.

This plan centered around the following:

1. Labor force.
2. Feed, seed, and fertilization on hand.
3. Farm machinery and equipment on hand and needed.
4. Farm map.
5. Land use.
 - (a) Crops on land.
 - (b) Fertilizer.
 - (c) Improved practices to be carried out.
6. Annual farm woodland practices to be carried out.
7. Estimated production and disposition of crops and livestock.
8. Improved livestock practices to be carried out.
9. Estimated feed for livestock.
10. Annual financial summary.
11. Landscaping plans.
12. Remodeling of kitchens.
13. Poultry management.

14. House planning or remodeling.
15. Year-round home gardens.
16. Food plans for the family.
17. Food preservation plans.
18. Interior decorating.
19. Family clothing needs.

All 63 farm families have a tentative annual farm and home plan completed.

B. Long Time Plans

In looking at the annual plan of work, the long time plan was given much consideration and partially completed on all 63 families. This included the crops and livestock program to be followed.

A complete long time tentative plan has been drawn up for 15 farm families now enrolled in the Balanced Farm and Home Planning Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY BALANCED FARM AND HOME FAMILIES

In view of the fact that long time plans carry accomplishments that cannot be measured as of this date, below is a list of accomplishments that can be seen either as completed or in the making.

Complete soil testing -----	75%
Timber stand improvement work ----	55 acres
Pine seedlings set -----	65,000
Land reclamation -----	52 acres
Secondary drainage ditches -----	4 mile
Farmers changing 1 or more practices according to best land use -----	63
Farmers changing one or more livestock practices -----	58
Annual farm and home plans-----	63
Long time farm and home plans-----	15
Amount saved one farmer on altering plans on land reclamation work -----	\$700
One farmer was advised not to put in an irrigation system costing \$15,000 with 40 acres of cultivated land and not sure of a supply of water	
Silos constructed -----	10
New barns -----	2
Barns repaired -----	6
Number of farmers carrying out cotton insect control program ----	63
Number of farms following a complete Bangs testing and vaccination program-----	59
Number of beef farmers following a good castration program -----	35
Number of farmers using sub- soiling practices in 1954-55 -----	8

Number of permanent pastures established 1954-55 -----	128 acres
Farmers increased supplementary grazing	
Winter -----	52
Summer -----	28
Number of farmers assisted in securing credit -----	11
Number of 4-H Club members assisted in project work from Balanced Farm and Home families -----	36
Homes Remodeled	
Completed	4
Started	3
To Start, 1955	3
New Homes	
Completed	4
Planning Stage	3
Kitchens Rearranged	
	3
Planning Stage	3
Homes Landscaped	
Plans Completed	7
Plans Started	10
Interior Decorating	
Plans Completed	4
Plans Started	3
Upholstery and Refinishing	
Plans Completed	4
Plans Started	7
Water Systems Installed	
Plans Completed	7
Plans Started	4
Bathrooms Installed	
Plans Completed	2
Plans Started	4