

Agent Attacking Problems in 1940

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Aims at Tenant Farm, Single Cash Crop and Non-Diversification

The plan of work of T. A. Hamme, Negro farm agent for Durham county, for 1940 is aimed at combatting three major local farm problems: the large percentage of tenant farmers, the large percentage of farmers who grow only one cash crop (tobacco), and the inability of many farmers to see the advantages of the diversified method of farming.

Several solutions to these problems are offered by the farm agent in his projected program for the year. One is to teach and preach home ownership through schools and churches.

Another step toward a solution is to begin demonstrations with the younger people on diversified farming, by poultry raising and hay raising, as well as in small grains. Hamme also urges the development of a market for truck crops.

The program of the county commissioners for rural improvement, especially the live-at-home farm contest, are helping to solve the farm problems, Hamme stated.

The farm agent plans to stress the importance of keeping accurate records of what is produced and sold, and will continue to drive hard on producing high yields of corn per acre.

It is not to be expected that a solution to the problems of Durham county's Negro farmers can be achieved in one year, but a number of goals have been set up so that the farmers will have something specific to which to strive.

Among the goals for 1940 are listed the following:

1. Drive hard for 150 good gardens.

2. Organize a county poultry club. Get 10 farmers to keep at least 50 hens on the yard the entire year; get 10 members of 4-H clubs to carry poultry demonstrations; give five demonstrations in poultry culling.

3. Get five swine demonstrations, and get five farmers to build a self-feeder for pigs.

4. Get 70 adult farmers and 100 members of the 4-H clubs to carry corn demonstrations; have four farmers grow more than 100 bushels of corn to the acre.

5. Have five alfalfa demonstrations in the county, and get 150 farmers to sow five acres of one of the following: peas, lespedeza, clover, or soy beans.

6. Give 10 demonstrations in terracing.

7. Get 10 farmers to plant extra vegetables, and grow extra livestock for marketing purposes.

8. Stress home beautification in two communities and get at least 10 families to enter a home beautification contest.