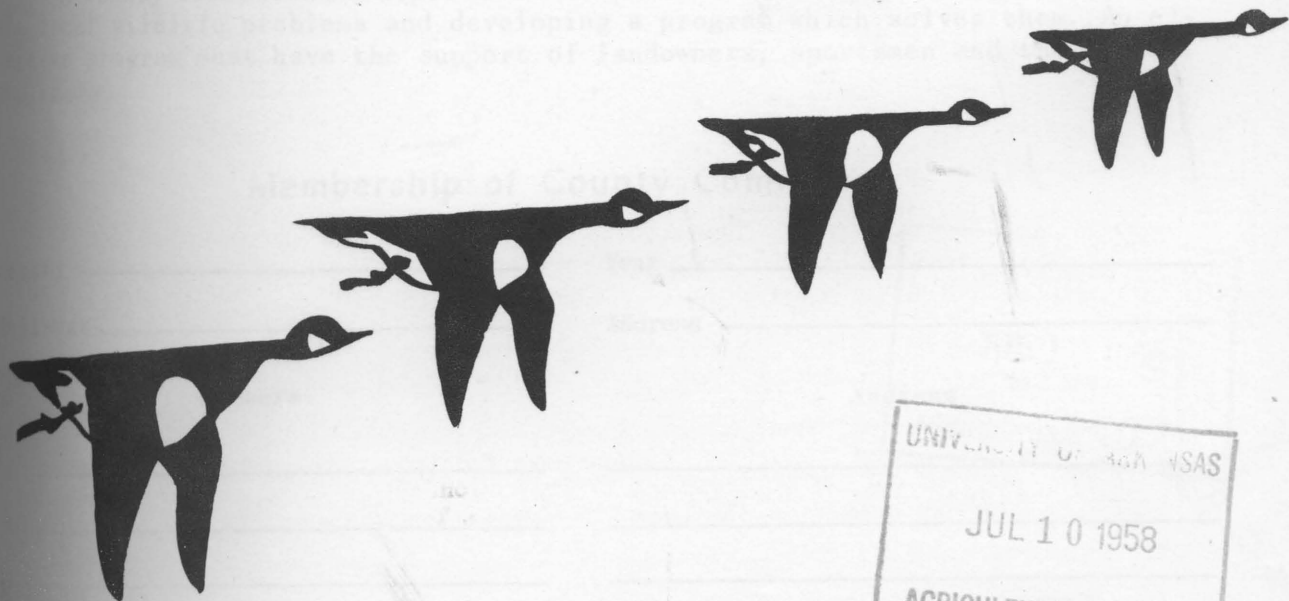


A Guide for COUNTY WILDLIFE COMMITTEES



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
JUL 10 1958
AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. HUTCHISON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

[Blank Page in Original Bulletin]

A GUIDE FOR COUNTY WILDLIFE COMMITTEES

EDWIN H. COOPER

Extension Specialist, Wildlife Conservation
Texas A. & M. College System

THE ABUNDANCE OR SCARCITY OF WILDLIFE in any area is determined largely by land management. Properly managed land can produce a wildlife crop which will add to the beauty and economic value of the farm or ranch.

A county committee can improve the local wildlife situation by determining the local wildlife problems and developing a program which solves them. An effective program must have the support of landowners, sportsmen and the general public.

Membership of County Committee

County _____

Year _____

Chairman _____

Address _____

Members

Address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

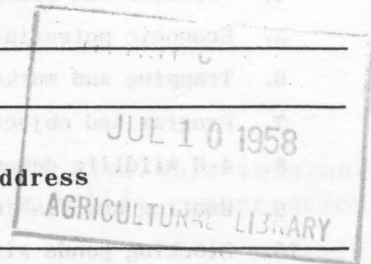
6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



County Extension Agents

Agricultural Agents

Home Demonstration Agents

Local Wildlife Situation

The first step in developing a county wildlife program is to determine the local problems. These problems will vary each year due to the nature of wild animals and their relationship to weather, vegetation, soil fertility, hunting pressure and other factors.

Check the appropriate columns by each of the listed subjects.

	Does this subject need attention?	
	Yes	No
1. Abundance of game birds and mammals, such as deer, turkeys, quail, doves, waterfowl, etc._____		
2. Landowner-sportsmen relations_____		
3. Illegal hunting_____		
4. Predator and rodent control_____		
5. Economic potentials of wildlife_____		
6. Trapping and marketing furbearing animals_____		
7. Program and objectives of game associations_____		
8. 4-H wildlife demonstrations and award program_____		
9. Hunting and fishing safety_____		
10. Stocking ponds with fish_____		
11. Fertilizing ponds_____		
12. Pond weed control_____		
13. Proper harvest of fish_____		
14. Countywide conservation education program_____		
15. Damages by wildlife to farm or ranch_____		
16. Others (list)_____		
17. _____		
18. _____		

Selecting A Work Program

After studying the existing problems, the committee should select a work program to solve the most urgent problems first.

Subcommittees then can be appointed to begin work on assigned tasks.

Most Urgent Problems

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Subcommittee Assignments for Problems

Subcommittee 1

_____ Chairman

Subcommittee 2

_____ Chairman

Subcommittee 3

_____ Chairman

Subcommittee 4

_____ Chairman

Finding the Answers

An aggressive subcommittee will seek and evaluate all available information related to its problem assignment. Some sources of wildlife conservation information are:

Sport Fishing Institute
Bond Building
Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas, Inc.
1011 San Jacinto Blvd.
Austin, Texas

Outdoor Writers Assoc. of America
419 Farnum Street
Beverly, New Jersey

National Assoc. of Soil Conservation
Districts
P. O. Box 307
League City, Texas

National Audubon Society
1130 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Wildlife Society
Joe Linduska
Remington Farms
Chestertown, Maryland

Specialist in Wildlife Conservation
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
College Station, Texas

Texas Game and Fish Commission
Walton Building
Austin, Texas

National Wildlife Federation
232 Carroll Street
Tacoma Park
Washington, D. C.

National Rifle Assoc. of America
1600 Rhode Island Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.

Izaak Walton League of America
31 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois

Ducks Unlimited
165 Broadway
New York 6, New York

Wildlife Management Institute
709 Wire Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Most areas have wildlife biologists who are well qualified to recommend wildlife management practices in their respective areas. These biologists, who are employed by the Texas Game and Fish Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, frequently work with local groups or landowners on wildlife projects. Requests for their services should be sent to the headquarters of their agencies or to them.

County agricultural agents also are familiar with necessary procedures for requesting assistance from subject-matter specialists.

Solving the Problem

Each subcommittee has accomplished its goal when it has studied the local problem assigned and found the answer by thorough review of the best information available. Then a program must be presented to the entire committee which, if put into effect, will solve the problem in the county.

Suggested Program Outlines

The following program outlines show possible approaches to hypothetical problems. Similar programs can be developed by the committee on other local wildlife problems.

I. Problem: The bobwhite quail in the county have decreased and an increase in them is desired.

A. Hold a countywide wildlife meeting with a member of the committee and a qualified wildlife authority to lead the discussion.

1. Discuss:

- a. Quail food and water requirements.
- b. Quail cover requirements.
- c. Quail space requirements.
- d. Effects of land use on quail numbers.
- e. Effects of hunting pressure on quail numbers.
- f. Effects of predators on quail numbers.
- g. Importance of quail habitat improvement.
- h. Food and cover plants.

2. Hold a question and answer period.

3. Explain the plans of the county wildlife committee and ask for suggestions.

B. Set up quail habitat improvement demonstrations on several farms in the county.

1. Get assistance from wildlife authorities when setting up demonstrations while they are still in town following the county wildlife meeting.

2. Arrange demonstrations which:

- a. Protect existing quail cover plants.
- b. Protect existing quail food plants.
- c. Develop additional food and cover plants by disking, fertilizing and fencing selected areas.

- d. Plant or transplant additional food and cover plants where necessary.
- C. Conduct tours of quail habitat improvement demonstrations.
1. Have the landowner show what has been done, discussing costs and the results.
 2. Encourage other landowners to set up demonstrations or adopt recommended practices.
 3. Publicize demonstration results by radio, television, news stories or other forms of mass media.
- D. Arrange a wildlife program for each 4-H club and other youth groups of the county.
1. Discuss:
 - a. Values of wildlife.
 - b. Reasons for low quail population.
 - c. Ways 4-H members can improve the quail situation on the farm.
 - d. 4-H wildlife demonstration possibilities.
 - e. 4-H wildlife award program sponsored by Folgers Coffee Company.
 2. Distribute D-394, Texas 4-H Wildlife Demonstration Handbook. (Available from your county extension agents.)
 3. Encourage 4-H members to develop quail habitat improvement demonstrations as club or individual projects.
- E. Stress quail management throughout the year and urge landowners to try management practices on their property by:
1. Radio programs.
 2. Television programs.
 3. Meetings, occasionally.
 4. News stories.
 5. Newsletters.
 6. Wildlife publications.
 7. Posters.

II. Problem: Pond weeds should be controlled because many ponds in the county become so congested with moss that they are unattractive and make swimming and fishing impossible.

- A. Conduct well-publicized meetings and demonstrations on pond weed control at one or more local farms or ranches.
1. Have an experienced person discuss:
 - a. Types of aquatic plants (submerged, floating and emergent vegetation).
 - b. Advantages of aquatic plants.
 - c. Disadvantages of aquatic plants.
 - d. Control of plants by fertilization.
 - e. Control of plants by chemicals.
 - f. Sources of information available on the subject.
 2. Have an experienced person demonstrate methods of controlling aquatic plants by fertilization and/or by use of chemicals.

3. Encourage those attending the meeting, plus other interested persons, to visit the demonstration later to observe the effects of methods used.
4. Distribute appropriate literature on the subject.

B. Publicize effects of the demonstration to stimulate the interest of other pond owners in the county.

III. Problem: Discussing the program and objectives of the game association, because the game association in the county has a weak program and is seeking worthwhile projects.

A. Arrange a meeting of the wildlife committee to counsel with game association officers for assistance in developing good projects.

1. Arrange for wildlife authorities from various agencies and organizations to speak on specific topics of interest at regular or special meetings of the game association such as:
 - a. Stocking ponds with fish.
 - b. Studying the economic potential of wildlife.
 - c. Stopping illegal hunting.
 - d. Improving relations between landowners and sportsmen.
 - e. Thinking about prospects for the coming hunting season.
 - f. Discussing why fish are not biting.
 - g. Cooking wild game.
2. Sponsor, with the wildlife committee and the game association, a local contest in wildlife conservation open to 4-H, FFA, Boy Scout and school groups.
 - a. An award program for winners also can be planned.
 - b. The funds might be raised by sponsoring an outdoor barbecue.
3. Present a program on hunting and fishing regulations to school groups and civic organizations.
4. Sponsor a public education program in wildlife conservation, especially during National Wildlife Week (the first week of spring).
5. Arrange for all officers of the game association to receive copies of conservation newsletters and periodicals regularly from state and federal agencies.
6. Locate property which can be developed into a wildlife management study area so that management practices can be tested by members of the game association or youth groups.

B. Arrange a meeting of the wildlife committee with game association officers to discuss ways and means of increasing economic returns from hunting and fishing leases.

1. Arrange for a wildlife authority to counsel with business men, landowners, wildlife committee and game association officers to outline ideas on advertising county hunting and fishing facilities. (This could be a project for the game association.)
2. Have the wildlife committee assist game association officers in finding information on successful projects of this nature which have been undertaken by game associations in other counties.
3. Have the wildlife committee and game association officers outline a suggested program of activities to be sponsored by the game association to increase economic returns from hunting and fishing in the county.

IV. Problem: Local landowners are displeased because hunters leave gates open, shoot toward farm houses and set pastures on fire with discarded cigarettes and sportsmen are displeased because they can not find a place to hunt.

A. Arrange a meeting of wildlife committee members and a selected group of sportsmen and landowners to develop a county program for improving landowner-sportsmen relations and discuss:

1. Factors contributing to poor relations between landowners and sportsmen.
2. Ways and means of improving relations, considering the possibilities of:
 - a. Conducting a well-planned public meeting initiated by sportsmen, on hunting courtesy or a similar topic.
 - b. Determining a fair fee for hunting privileges to repay the landowner for sound wildlife management practices.
 - c. Developing a list of farms and ranches where sportsmen may hunt by permission with respect for the property.
 - d. Considering fees and payment for accidental damages.
 - e. Planning a program whereby local landowners and sportsmen share the cost of equipment, labor and materials in aggressive, sound wildlife conservation practices on county farms, ranches and fish ponds.
 - f. Planning a public campaign to show the need for respecting and obeying game regulations.

B. Put proposed plans of landowners and sportsmen into effect by:

1. Explaining plans to officers of local sportsmen clubs, landowner game associations, civic associations and other groups concerned.
2. Requesting officers of respective organizations to discuss the proposed programs at called or regular meetings of their groups.
 - a. Request additional suggestions.
 - b. Appoint committees for review of the subject and plan for coordination with committees of other organizations.

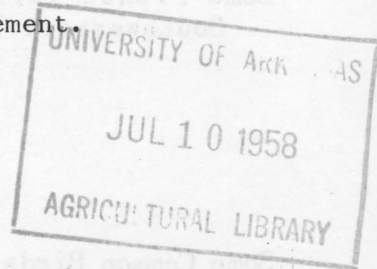
C. Arrange a program which landowner-sportsmen groups agree on and which should:

1. Be given full support by the county wildlife committee.
2. Be publicized and commended as a conservation achievement.

References for Committee Use

Agricultural Extension Service
College Station, Texas

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|---|
| B-213 | Farm Fish Ponds | D-394 | Texas 4-H Wildlife Demonstration |
| L-212 | Raising Minnows | | |
| L-196 | Raising Earthworms for Fish Bait | 10 | Commandments of Shooting Safety |
| B-128 | Rabbit Raising | | Federal and State Fish Hatcheries Serving Texas |
| B-256 | Common Diseases of Domestic Rabbits | | Control of Aquatic Plants in Ponds and Lakes |
| TAP-65 | Wildlife Is Big Business | | Wildlife Training and Employment |



Waterfowl Food Plants	Control of English Sparrows
Cooking Game Meat	Deer and Rabbit Repellents (In Orchards and Gardens)
Pocket Gopher Control	Conservation Reserve of Soil Bank Program
Control of Small Predators	Wildlife Training at Texas A. & M.
Eliminating Bats From Buildings	List of Books on Wildlife Conservation
Mole Control	

Texas Game and Fish Commission
Walton Building
Austin, Texas

Digest of Game and Fish Laws of the State of Texas	Tracks--Do You Know Them?
Wildlife Information Packet	Turtle Trap Leaflet
Deer Bonanza	So You Want to Catch Turtles
The Game Regions of Texas	Minnow Propagation
List of Wildlife Motion Pictures Distributed by the Game and Fish Commission	The Need For Conservation
Food and Game Fishes of the Texas Coast, Bulletin 33	Raising Catfish in Texas
Gar Fishing Leaflet	Utilizing Stock Tanks and Farm Ponds For Fish
The Poisonous Snakes of Texas and First Aid Treatment for Their Bites	Selected References of Wildlife Conservation For Teachers and Pupils
Quail Management Handbook for East Texas	Wild Turkey Studies in the Divide Area of the Edwards Plateau
Some Plants Valuable to Quail in Southwestern Texas	Life History, Ecology and Range Use of the Pronghorn Antelope in Trans-Pecos Texas
	The Armadillo - Relation to Game

Superintendent of Documents
U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington 25, D. C.

Some Common Birds Useful to the Farm, Cat. No. 1, 1.72:18 15 cents	Raising Bait Fishes Circular No. 35 45 cents
Homes for Birds Cat. No. 1, 1.72:14 15 cents	Migration of Birds Cat. No. 1, 49.4:16 35 cents
Basic Fish Cookery Cat. No. 1, 49.39:2/2 25 cents	Regulations Relating to Migratory Birds, Cat. No. 1, 49.29:47 10 cents

Improving Duck Marshes by Weed Control

Cat. No. 1, 49.4:19

20 cents

Fish Culture

Cat. No. 1, 49.26:35

20 cents

Lespedezas for Quail and Good Land Use

Cat. No. A, 1.35:373

5 cents

Tanning Skins

Cat. No. A, 1.9:1334

15 cents

Aransas, A National Wildlife Refuge

Cat. No. 1, 49.36:11

15 cents

Guarding Our Wildlife Resources

Cat. No. 1, 49.36:5

35 cents

Multiflora Rose for Fences and Wildlife,

Cat. No. A, 1.35:374

5 cents

Russian Olive for Wildlife and Good

Land Use Cat. No. A, 1.35:292

5 cents

Youth Can Help Conserve These Resources, Soil, Water, Woodland, Wildlife, Grasses

Cat. No. A, 1.75:52

15 cents

Making Land Produce Useful Wildlife

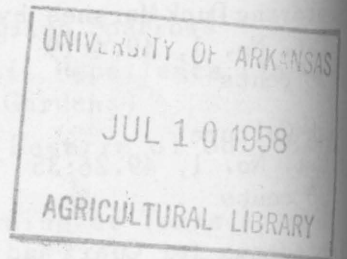
Cat. No. A, 1.9:2035

15 cents

Fish and Wildlife

(Publications and Price List) PL21

Free



Have You Met



. YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS? If not, drop by to see them soon. They represent both the United States Department of Agriculture and The Texas A. & M. College System in your county and they can furnish the latest information on farming, ranching and homemaking.

Most county extension agents have their offices in the county courthouse or agriculture building. Get to know them and take advantage of their services.

This publication is one of many prepared by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to present up-to-date, authoritative information, based on results of research. Extension publications are available from your local agents or from the Agricultural Information Office, College Station, Texas.