

# VIRGINIA EXTENSION

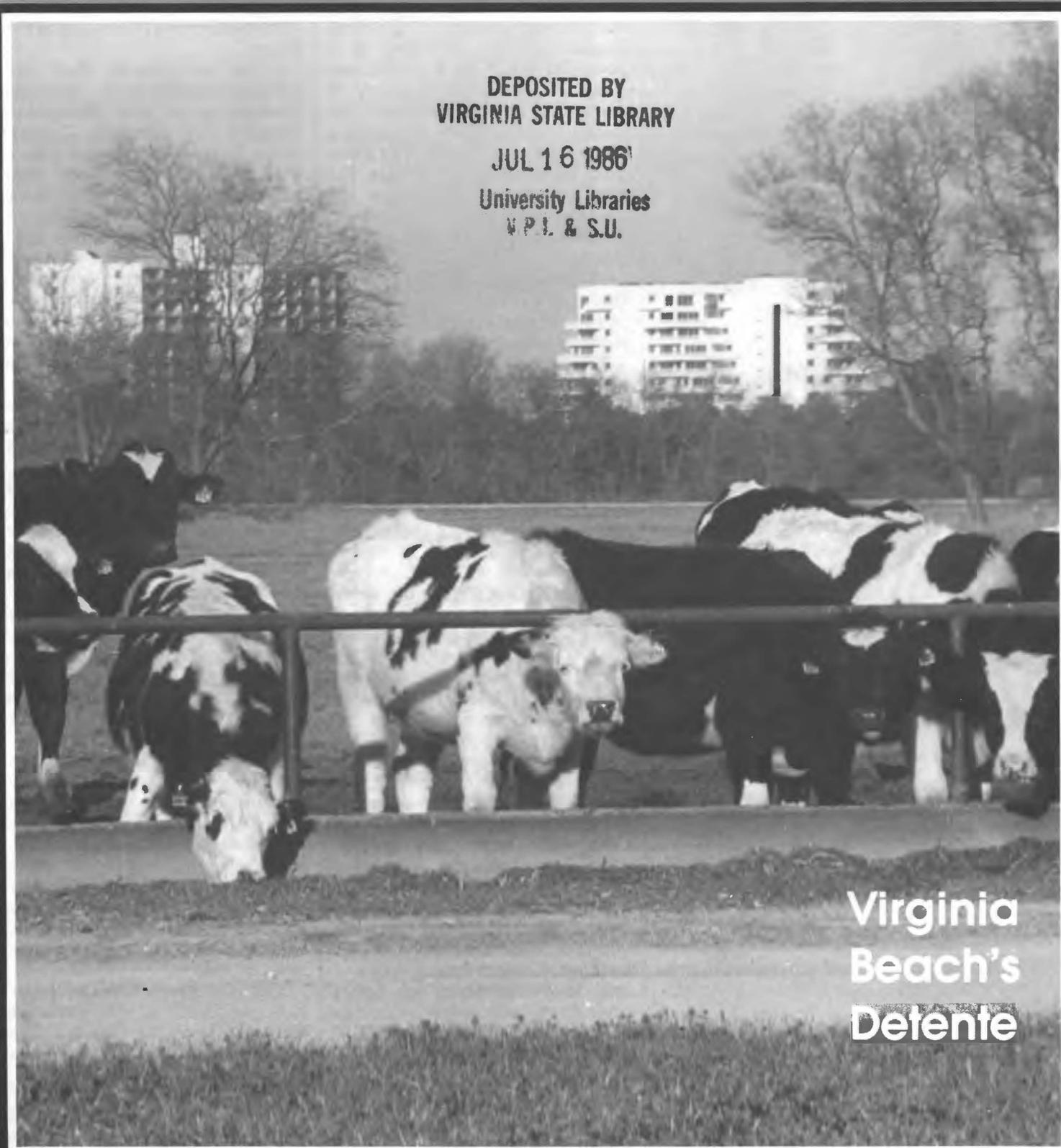
THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE MAGAZINE

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# COMMENTARY



*Mitch Geasler*

**M. R. Geasler**  
**Vice-Provost**  
**Extension Division**

I recently read a copy of a speech that R.H. "Twig" Strickler of Rocco Enterprises, Inc. in Harrisonburg gave at a meeting of Southern Regional Poultry Extension Specialists. When speaking about successful corporations, Twig made the statement that "The first ingredient (for success) is a powerful VISION, a whole new sense of where a company is going and how to get there." He noted that "The company's vision becomes a catalytic force and organizing principle for everything the people in the corporation do." He quoted Warren Bennis, noted author, teacher, and former university president, who said that the leader of a company must create "a compelling vision of a desired state of affairs."

Twig also made the statement that "to be effective you must thoroughly understand the vision that is driving the company and its people." And I would like to add a statement that is frequently used by Extension's Ted Pinnock, "Without a vision, the people perish."

The speed with which our society is changing is apparent when we look at an example of what we did five years ago and what we do today. The illustration is in the way we process and transmit ideas to one another. Five years ago, the University generally used the most modern typewriters on the market. Today, the latest versions of those same typewriters are obsolete.

This column was prepared on a word processor and, instead of my secretary typing from a handwritten manuscript, she edited my computer written version. This change occurred because someone had a vision of how to do the same job better and more efficiently. Change follows vision. Vision leads to more effective change.

After reviewing recent input we received concerning the question of faculty status for Extension agents and after talking with agents and specialists during the December in-service training session, I worry about whether we have conveyed to you the vision of the future.

I am convinced that the administration and program leadership of the Extension Division and Virginia Cooperative Extension Service has a vision but am not sure that vision is understood by all those involved in the system. As I stated at the Monday night "Friends of Extension" banquet during in-service, "we have planning efforts under way which are designed to keep Extension in the mainstream and on the cutting edge of state and national change."

From our viewpoint, the abstract concept of change has not been shared, based on what we see happening on the state, national and international levels. The society in which we live is changing so constantly and rapidly that we must anticipate change so that we won't be left behind.

One act in anticipating change is related to our advocacy of elevating agents to faculty status. We are convinced that the future demands of field staff would be better met with this new, more flexible status.

To me, a vision is the force that makes the contemporary mission of an organization an effective instrument in meeting tomorrow's new needs. Accordingly, we encourage staff not to be hesitant in taking risks by venturing into previously untried areas, to be proactive, and to think in terms of new dimensions.

The Extension Service, when it began in 1914, was not a lot different than it is today. The basics are the same, but the

*continued on inside back cover*

# VIRGINIA EXTENSION

*The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service Magazine*

## VIRGINIA EXTENSION

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Encroaching condominiums fail to disturb Virginia Beach cows. See story on Page 6. (Photo by Tom Baker.)



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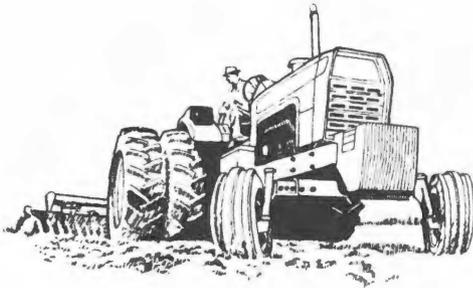
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# IMPACT

DOLLARS AND SENSE FROM EXTENSION



**Sewage sludge is saving Virginia farmers millions of dollars, says a Virginia Tech Extension agronomist. "Virginia farmers are saving approximately two million dollars a year in fertilizer costs," reports Thomas W. Simpson. "This estimate is based on the nitrogen, phosphorous, and lime in the sludge material."**

As the benefits of sludge are realized, its application on agricultural land is becoming more common. Last year, about 50 percent of the sludge generated in Virginia and 40 percent from the Washington regional facility was applied to Virginia farm land.

"Cash-crop farmers and livestock farmers benefit from the use of sewage sludge," Simpson says. "Sludge is not particularly well-suited to vegetable crops and is restricted from that use in Virginia." Most sludge is applied to corn land, with a substantial amount going on hayland, pastures, and small grains.

The only disadvantage to the procedure is a sometimes lengthy wait for application rights. "After expressing an interest in receiving sludge, a farmer can generally expect to wait six to twelve months for the valuable material," Simpson explains.

Representatives from the municipality must meet with the farmer to obtain information about the

cropping system and the area on which the sludge will be applied. A site evaluation is then conducted to determine its suitability. If all tests are satisfactory, a permit is then issued.

□

**When the Extension Service in Madison County learns some lessons in saving money, it doesn't keep them a secret.**

Extension, in cooperation with federal and local agencies, reached 10,000 Madison citizens last year. They offered a variety of practical workshops on economizing around the home.

Nutritional workshops ranging from food preservation to diets for children and the elderly resulted in \$12,550 in savings through acquired self-sufficiency.

Workshops in Family Economic Stability resulted in \$4,000 in savings through lessons in child care and financial planning, and even simple first aid.

Home management workshops in topics such as clothing and textiles and home repairs led to 28 persons saving \$2,900.

□

**Many Virginia farmers have turned to a fungus to help make them some additional money. The fungus is allowing more and more people to enter Shiitake mushroom farming. Shiitake mushrooms respond to warm days and cool nights. Consequently, they grow well in Virginia's climate, which is similar to parts of Japan where more than 90 percent of the world's shiitake is grown.**

The availability of hardwood in Virginia makes shiitake farming attractive as a secondary source of income, says Andy G. Hankins, Madison County Extension agent.

"Farmers already own most of the big hardwood forests in the state. This also gives them a good way to use farm labor during the slack winter months."



Oak logs are cut and stacked for curing during the winter, then inoculated or planted with spawn or seed in early spring. The mushrooms begin fruiting six to eighteen months later. Average production is two or three pounds of mushrooms per log per year.

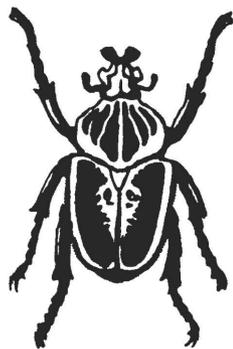
Hankins believes the large increase in the number of logs being cut this past winter is a signal that there will be increased mushroom production in the near future. To help Virginia growers learn the basic biology and production practices of the shiitake, Virginia Extension has a new publication on the subject.

□

**Westmoreland County last year had the highest rate of increase in acreage in the Virginia soybean integrated pest management (IPM) program. The county had 1,510 acres in the scouting program, an increase of 1,063 acres over 1984. Westmoreland Extension agent Samuel W. Johnson received a plaque for organizing and heading the scouting effort in the program.**

Eighty-five farmers in eleven counties last year had 10,122 acres

being checked by scouts. The IPM scouting program involves hiring scouts to regularly check fields for insect pests. This curtails the use of pesticides because chemicals are only used when the insect population grows to the point it will severely damage the soybeans.



Robert C. Haston Jr., Essex County Extension agent, received the second place award. Essex County had 2,553 acres in the program, an increase of 378 over 1984.

King and Queen County Extension agent James R. Grove came in third. His county reported 1,365 acres in the program, an increase of 200 over the previous year.

**Extension beef marketing and management programs** are working like a jig saw puzzle to create a picture of better profits for Giles County producers.

Extension programs aim to increase returns for 750 producers 5 percent annually through 1987. Beginning last year, the programs have already made solid advances.

Piece number one of the profit picture was organized sales. Tele-auction sales added an estimated \$40,000 in income to local producers. Organized field sales in connection with special sales resulted in another \$40,000 in returns.

Piece two was the managerial programs for beef which increased average feeder calf weight sold by 35 pounds, and yearling steers by 55 pounds. Piece three was increased quality of the feeders calves. Now 60 percent are of first quality and in the highest price per pound market. Piece four was the tax management programs which

saved an additional \$15,000 for 125 producers.

Giles Extension hopes more producers will put it all together this coming year.

**Essex County has some VIPs** and its school system is the better for it. VIP, in this case, stands for Vitally Interested People and the program is geared toward providing volunteers in the school system.

The program is the brainchild of volunteer Jan Fletcher who modeled it after one that she was familiar with in Ohio. The object of VIP is to find and enlist volunteers who are willing to give their talents in school classrooms, offices, and libraries.

"We began the program in October," Fletcher says, "with the blessing of the school officials. They were just as eager to find ways to help the students as were the parents." She was "pleasantly surprised" when she began enlisting people to work in the three schools and got nearly ninety names. "We haven't used all of them yet, because it is a new program. But we will," she says.

The volunteers serve as home-room mothers, school trip advisers, library aides, classroom tutors, typists, and in a variety of other roles. The fathers, mothers, grandparents, and students who participate in the program all have one goal—to try and assure that each child in the school system has the best education possible.

Fletcher is quick to point out that Essex County Extension agent Betty Jo Cobb and Center for Volunteer Development Extension specialist Roger Lamphier provided a great deal of assistance in getting the program under way and in enlisting the backing of the school principals and other local officials.

"We have only begun," Fletcher says. "The teachers and principals have only started to see the potential in this program. The result will be a better school program and better graduates."



**Southwest Virginia families are learning** to save money by mixing their own cleaning products and grooming aids from common household items. The knowledge is coming from a booklet paid for by the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association and prepared by the group's home economics committee, all but one of whom are members of Extension Homemakers clubs.

Doris Minton, a retired Washington County school teacher, chaired the committee that put the booklet together. "Unfortunately," the Area 3 Extension Homemakers president says, "we only printed 4,000 of the books. We really did not anticipate the demand and are thinking of reprinting it."

The booklet contains formulas for such things as household, upholstery, drain, carpet, wall, wallpaper, grout, and varnish cleaners as well as lemon oil polish, furniture polish, fireplace brighteners, soap, deodorants, shampoos, tooth powder, mouthwash, after shave lotion, skin fresheners, windshield wipers, suntan lotion, face cream, and soap.

The ingredients for the formulas include household items as shortening, cornmeal, mayonnaise, glycerin, witch hazel, alcohol, alum, baking soda, vinegar, and ammonia. The booklets were distributed through local Extension Homemakers and Extension offices in Southwest Virginia.

# Caroline Youths Work To Stay Out of Jail

The Caroline County community work alternative program will not eliminate juvenile delinquency, but it may prevent some youngsters from getting more deeply into crime.

That satisfies county agricultural agent Dan W. Moody who has supervised juvenile offenders sentenced to work and study during the past two years.

The Caroline Extension unit devised the program after being approached by juvenile authorities. The unit secretary, Sandra Taylor, wrote the program from information that 4-H agent Victoria E. Clark had gathered about other similar ventures across the country. Then, Moody, Clark, and agent Kathryn W. Burruss added the finishing touches and got the county supervisors, courts, and law enforcement officials to approve it.

Moody says a giant step in the community acceptance of the program occurred when the Extension operation became the sentence, and was not just an alternative. "This showed that they thought that the program was succeeding," Moody says.

The county already had a work alternative program which was for adults but the local officials liked the educational part of the Extension plan, thinking its educational aspects could result in some juveniles deciding that they wanted nothing more to do with the law from a violator's point of view.

The program is simple. Extension takes groups of three or four Caroline County youth who have been sentenced to forty hours of public service by the juvenile court and supervises their sentence. The young people spend thirty hours cleaning up around the sites of the county's dumpsters and ten hours in educational activity.

It is the ten hours of educational activity that make the program different from other alternative operations. The ten hours consist of three hours interviewing people connected with the legal system; five hours reading a book from an approved list and writing a report; one hour discussing attitudes, values, responsibilities, and conflicts with a counselor; and an hour talking with a volunteer evaluator about the program.

Each juvenile offender must interview three people. The juvenile must interview the sheriff, a state trooper or other approved law enforcement officer, and an attorney from an approved list. The juvenile must ask certain questions although the interview is not limited to just those.

The third and most effective interview is with a prisoner in the county jail. This is done by a group of juveniles who generally interview one of the jail's long-term occupants. The juveniles also are locked in a cell for a short period, generally five to ten minutes,



Jim Hall

*Looking at the changes being made in the alternative program by secretary Sandra Taylor are, standing from left, agents Dan Moody, Kathryn Burruss and Victoria Clark.*

in an effort to give the youths a feeling of what it is like to be confined in a jail cell. The jail interview and the accompanying lockup makes a distinct impression on most of the juveniles and is considered very effective.

The juveniles in the program are kept on a schedule. In the summer when school is out, the offender must do the educational sessions five consecutive days and the work cleaning up the trash sites on four consecutive days. When school is in session, the educational program runs five consecutive days after school while the work program is on four consecutive Saturdays.

Moody oversees the work at the county dumpster sites. He runs the program on a strict schedule. If a



Bill Burleson Photos

*Extension agent Victoria Clark checks with Joseph Medley about times for evaluation of youths in the program.*

juvenile is ten minutes late reporting for the work crew, he will find everyone gone. Moody takes the young people to the site and leaves them. It is up to the youth to get the area cleaned within the time limit.

If the area is not cleaned within the estimated time, the hours will not be counted. The agent returns them to town for lunch and when the day's work is completed.

"If you are hunting for a program with a magic formula for success, this is not it," Moody says. "We have had our failures. It still is too early to count our successes as we will have to wait a number of years to see how the youngsters who went through the program turn out."

It is estimated that it will take about six years to truly evaluate the program's success. Currently, about one third of the forty-six who have been through the program have found themselves in trouble again.

T. Joseph Medley Jr., who works for the government at nearby Ft. A.P. Hill, does the evaluating. Medley, who has a long career of working with youngsters in the Boy Scouts and Little League, tries to determine if the program has had any impact upon the individuals and if there are any program deficiencies which can be corrected.

An advocate of the program, Medley attempts through conversation with the youth to determine if there have been any positive changes in attitude and if the youth understands the alternatives that will be faced if another violation occurs.

He does not work with the young people he knows, passing the evaluation chore on to someone else. This has happened twice since the program began. He also has recommended that a youngster not be released from the program but returned to the courts. The three teenagers receiving this recommendation soon were before the courts again, charged with more serious crimes.

"Overall, the program seems to be a good influence on those who have gone through it. The young men appear to have received some benefit from the program. Whether it lasts, only time will tell," he says.

How do others view the program? Becky Resio, acting county administrator, believes the program has "worked very well indeed," and believes it does



*John Edmonds believes one of the program strengths is that it provides "someone for the young people to talk to."*



*Parole officer Ann Ingebritsen speaks about juvenile case on telephone.*

prevent young people from committing a second crime.

Parole officer Ann Ingebritsen speaks highly of alternative work programs. In cases where it is thought that a youngster may benefit from the Extension program, she, as an officer of the court and with the approval of the defendant, can assign the juvenile to the Extension program, thereby "keeping him from having a record."

John Edmonds, director of missions for the Herman Baptist Association, does the counseling. A veteran of more than two decades of personal counseling, Edmonds likes the program. "It gives the young person an opportunity to talk to someone other than a person in the court system.

"There is only so much you can do. Many are under intense peer pressure and several have had family problems. This program cannot reach beyond the young person going through it. I have recommended that a boy's parents seek counseling but the recommendation was ignored. Of all of those that I have seen in connection with the program, only one has come back to talk to me on his own accord."

Mike Mastropaolo, supervisor for Juvenile Court Services, believes work alternative programs do work.

"It is a viable alternative to incarceration. You have to keep trying to keep youngsters from getting into trouble with the law. I think this program has some successes and failures. The successes are what make it worthwhile." ☞



*Jack Patterson, left, and Mike Mastropaolo are advocates of programs that give youthful offenders "a second chance."*



# Can Detente Survive In Virginia Beach?

Photos by Tom Baker

by Mary Frank

High costs, low returns, and unpredictable weather are obstacles that many farmers are fighting. Yet Virginia Beach farmers have an even tougher contender—and it's often called progress.

A rapidly expanding tourist trade helps put Virginia Beach among the nation's fastest growing cities, making it an unwitting arena for a showdown between suburbanization and its oldest industry—agriculture.

For now, an imaginary boundary called, "the green line," separates development in the northern part of the city from the farmland in the south. Most farmers, however, feel that it's only a matter of time before the line catches up with them.

A recent study found an overwhelming desire among Virginia Beach farmers to preserve the city's agriculture, yet an overriding pessimism that it won't be done, according to Virginia Beach Extension director E. Richard Cockrell Jr.

Nearly half of the city's 185 farmers participated in a survey that was prepared and conducted by R. Michael Chandler, Extension community resource development specialist at Virginia Tech, and the city department of agriculture. "We had to do the study," says Cockrell. "There had not been any attempt to find out what farmers felt about their future in the city of Virginia Beach. And farmers own most of the land in the southern part of the city."

Some respondents used words like "grim," "dismal," and "bleak," to sum up the feelings of many toward the future of Virginia Beach agriculture. One wrote, "I feel that they would like to continue farming, however, it is a lost cause. Development will ultimately cover the entire city of Virginia Beach." Another wrote, "Farming is on the way OUT!"

Cockrell is using the survey results to represent farmers' views as a member of a planning task force called, "Virginia Beach Tomorrow," and a subcommittee on land use and environment. He says city planners have been under a lot of pressure to permit other land uses for the city's farmland. "That pressure continues," says Cockrell.

About 36,000 of the city's 200,000 plus acres are producing crops—corn, wheat, and soybeans, for the most part.

More than half of the farmers surveyed had been approached about selling their land within the past five years. Forty percent indicated that they didn't sell because they wanted to continue farming. Only 5.7 percent indicated that the offering price was too low.

Seventy percent of those surveyed said they feel the city should adopt strict regulations to preserve farming below the green line. Fifty percent said they favor agricultural districting as a way to preserve farmland while 33 percent were not sure. One farmer



**Don Horsely says it's a shame for agriculture to lose the good farm land found in Virginia Beach.**

wrote that it is "the ONLY way" to save farming.

Forty percent responded favorably to the idea, but 53 percent said that they could not support policies restricting large landowners from selling property for development. One respondent wrote, "When agriculture becomes no longer possible due to negative returns, etc., I believe the owner should be able to secure the greatest return on his investment possible at that time."

More than half of the farmers indicated that they do not plan to be farming the same land ten years from now, although 87 percent have been farming their land for ten years or more.

Swine producer Barry Knight does not plan to quit farming in Virginia Beach anytime soon. "The young farmers are looking for a way of life," he says. "They're looking for an occupation, a business to stay in. They see a threat to their profession as the houses and buildings come this way."

Knight, president of the Tidewater Pork Producers Association, foresees a day when development moves into his neighborhood in the southern part of the city. "The first thing the residents are going to do when they come down here is complain about the hog smell," he says. "And even though you do things right, they can make it tough on you."



**Subdivisions continue to creep into areas where there is agriculture.**



Mary Frank

**Extension agent Richard Cockrell, left, and Barry Knight examine one of the farmer's new piglets.**

The farmers surveyed were divided about whether other farmers are more interested in harvesting food or reaping profits. Forty-five percent agreed that "farmers below the green line will stay in farming until they can sell their land at a high price." Fifty-one percent thought it an unfair statement.

Knight was among those who disagreed. "I don't feel I have anything to offer the developer," he says. "I feel if prices would get back to parity that I could make a decent living here. And that's what I want to do. I don't want to collect a big sum of money and sit back and drink iced tea for the rest of my life. I want to work for a living."

Most survey respondents were farmers who owned their farmland. Those who lease their fields, however, have little say about their future in Virginia Beach. Grain farmer Billy Sawyer leased fields that straddle the green line; some are already home to housing developments. Sawyer says he has literally harvested wheat directly in the path of an earth mover.

Since he has too much invested in his equipment to quit farming, Sawyer is moving to North Carolina—with mixed emotions. "The traffic has become quite a problem and there is a lot of frustration trying to farm in the city, so in that respect, I'm looking forward to moving to a rural area that's more conducive to farming," says Sawyer. "But I've lived here all my life and I have friends here, so it's hard to leave."

Many Virginia Beach farmers expressed concern that "urban sprawl" poses a threat not only to their way of life, but also to their quality of life. Virginia Beach Farm Bureau President Don Horsely has other misgivings. "This is probably one of the most productive areas in the state," says Horsely. "This land will grow crops. Even in a real dry year, you can plan on raising what some other parts of the state get in a real good year.

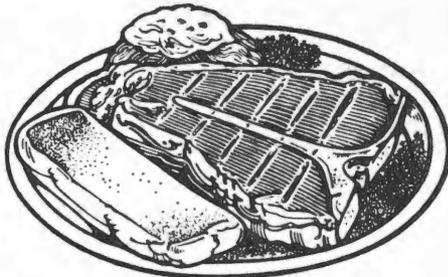
"It's a shame to lose this type of land, because once you put cement over it, it's gone. You can never replace it, no matter what you do." ☒

# INNOVATIONS

RESEARCH TO BENEFIT VIRGINIANS

Virginia Tech food scientists are convinced that a juicy New York strip or boneless pork chop can be improved. They are conducting research aimed at enhancing the flavor, nutritive value, and storage life of various meat products.

"We are specifically looking at restructured meats," says Norman G. Marriott, Extension meat processing specialist. "It's an area that is enjoying increased popularity, especially in fast-food facilities." Restructuring meat involves reducing particle size by methods such as grinding, flaking, or chopping. After the particle size is reduced, the meat is formed or restructured into a desired shape.



"Besides the obvious advantages of controlling the size and shape of meat cuts, restructuring allows us to upgrade the lower value cuts that have more connective tissue," Marriott says. "Restructuring meats could create new markets for roast cuts that are losing favor in the microwave age."

Marriott and Paul P. Graham, assistant professor of food science and technology, are experimenting with such flavor enhancers as liquid smoke, mushrooms, dried apples, corn crumbs, and other natural flavor ingredients that are extracted from foodstuffs.

The Tech scientists have compiled some interesting preliminary results. "Liquid smoke, for example, seems to protect and stabilize meat flavor more than it

actually enhances it," Marriott says. "It also appears to increase storage life, especially in the case of frozen meat."



A new rescue tool that was developed at Virginia Tech may well mean the difference between life and death for rural accident victims. The Dillon Easy Lift System (DELS) is a technique that allows small rescue crews to free trapped victims from beneath heavy farm machinery, logs, trees, or other situations that may arise in a rural setting.

"Two people often make up the typical ambulance crew on a rural rescue squad," says Glen H. Hetzel, Extension safety specialist at Virginia Tech. "When the accident site is in a remote location, several precious minutes tick away while additional help or equipment is enroute to help lift a heavy object off of a victim."

The DELS is based on items commonly carried by many rural ambulances—two full backboards, a prybar, and a cable or chain hoist with between a 2,000-and 4,000-pound capacity.

The Tech specialist says the concept was devised by Esley Dillon, manager of Tech's printing plant, who has more than twenty-five years experience as a member of the Montgomery County rescue squad.

An Extension bulletin describing DELS and providing step-by-step instruction for its use is available through local Extension offices.



The forage testing laboratory at Virginia Tech now has a new tool to use in analyzing forages—Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIR). Gerald M. Jones, Extension dairy scien-

tist, says the process is quick, it requires less technical support, and it does not use chemicals that can be noxious and dangerous.



Basically, NIR details the chemistry of finely ground forage and feed samples by transmitting radiation or monochromatic energy through them. This is possible because plants are composed of organic molecules that contain many carbon-hydrogen, nitrogen-hydrogen, and oxygen-hydrogen chemical bonds. The amount of energy or radiation reflected off the feed sample is detected, amplified, and fed to a computer.

The computer then predicts several nutrients based on specific wave lengths of energy reflected from the feed sample. Sample identification is important when using NIR. The process predicts protein, acid detergent fiber

(ADF), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and minerals, using equations that have been developed for specific plant species. The lab personnel cannot accurately predict the ADF content of alfalfa using an equation developed for orchardgrass.

Although there is an equation for mixed hays which can be used on unknown samples, lab personnel prefer that the plant species be identified as closely as possible when it is submitted to the forage testing lab. On Jan. 1, the lab began refusing to accept hay samples that were improperly collected.



The loss of valuable sales has caused Virginia's hay producers to start looking at a hay marketing system. "There is no way hay producers currently can locate buyers or buyers can locate good Virginia hay," says Harlan E. White, Virginia Tech Extension forage specialist.

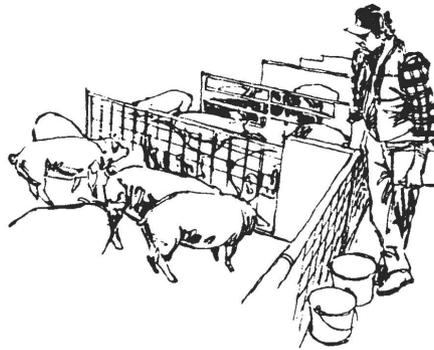
For example, the hay needs of Virginia horse farms are often met with out-of-state hay because farm owners don't know where to find hay within state boundaries. Producers also are losing out-of-state sales. "Truck lines often are looking to back haul a load of Virginia hay."

Because hay producers usually do not have enough extra hay to fill a large order, there is a definite need to organize collective efforts to sell surplus hay.

Numerous meetings have been held across Virginia with growers interested in forming hay associations or cooperative-type groups that would allow producers to pool their supplies and establish a grading system necessary to advertise a given quality of hay.

Also being explored, White says, is the possibility of establishing a state-wide computer network where hay availability could be listed.

"Everything is sort of unsettled right now, but White predicts "a lot of time and energy will go into developing some sort of a hay marketing system within the next year or so."



Things are not always what they first appear. Virginia Tech researchers found that sloped-floor pens are no more effective than traditional farrowing crates--a finding that refutes their earlier claims.

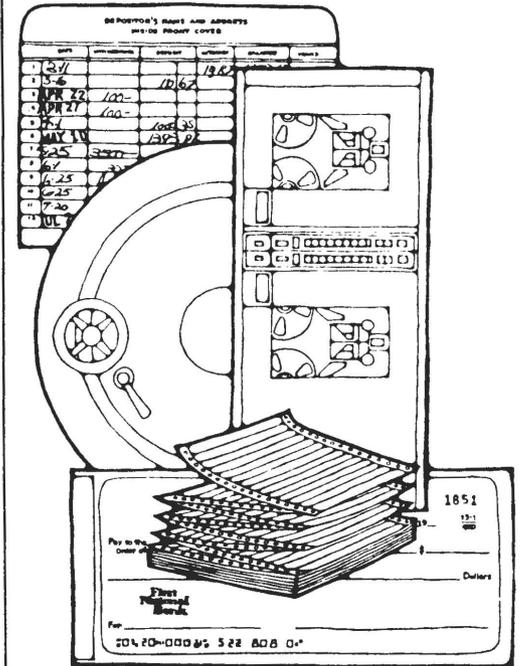
"It originally appeared that more pigs survived the rigors of birth in the sloped pens than in flat farrowing crates," Eldridge R. Collins, Extension agricultural engineer, says. After running the project through ten trials and 120 sows, however, those statistical differences disappeared. Survival rates averaged eighty-eight percent for both the pens and crates.

"The sloped-floor pens are as effective as farrowing crates in terms of protecting the piglets from being crushed or injured," Collins says. "An added advantage of the pens is more freedom for the sows to move about.

"While the sows made use of the extra space, they did not necessarily adhere to the popular notion of preferring to lie with their backs on an uphill slope. Some actually lay with their backs downhill," reports Collins.

"Now we are wondering if a slope is even needed," he says. "We

would like to remodel the pens and test some more ideas concerning floor space, floor slopes, and flooring material."



Teaching farmers to be better business managers is the goal of a new pilot program being tested by Extension. Project 2000 is a two-phase program designed to help farmers become proficient in the development and use of records and other financial management tools.

"Forty farmers who hope to still be farming in the year 2000 have enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture sponsored project," says Gerald W. Warmann, Extension agricultural economist and project coordinator. "We hope to increase enrollment if the project proves as successful as we think it will."

The project is part of Extension's continuing effort to aid the financially distressed farmers in Virginia. Extension farm management agents Henry Maxey and Bill McKinnon are offering the program to producers in Floyd, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, and Pulaski counties.

# Changing the Face Of Appalachia



Photos by Bob Vellri

*by Sherrie R. Whaley*

Lee Daniels is literally moving the mountains of Southwest Virginia. A mountain of a man himself, the Virginia Tech agronomy instructor is perfecting a technique that could ultimately change the face of Appalachia's coal-producing regions.

Since 1977, federal law has required surface mine operators to restore the land to "approximate original contour" after the mining operation is completed. The provision, commonly referred to as "AOC," requires mine operators to backfill or place the rock spoil generated in mining up against the exposed face of rock known as the highwall--a costly and controversial measure.

"In regions where steep slopes abound, such as Southwest Virginia, many feel the practice leads to unstable slope conditions, increased erosion, and decreased land-use value," Daniels says.

Costs associated with the AOC provision have been blamed for increasing the price of Appalachian surface coal to the point where it is no longer competitive in certain markets.

Even with these serious allegations, objective research in Appalachia's hard-rock regions was virtually nonexistent until Daniels began studying AOC backfills and their problems in 1983.

"Federal reports denied the existence of highwall failures, but we knew they were out there," he says. "With detailed on-site work, we hoped to find out why the failures occurred and if these backfills would be stable over the long haul."

Daniels got the chance he was looking for with the Powell River Project--a comprehensive research project started in 1980 by Virginia Tech. Representatives of Penn Virginia Resources Corp. of Duffield were responsible for the original concept and funding. Headquartered in Wise County, the project "aims to improve the future well-being of Virginia's seven coal-producing counties," according to H. John Gerken Jr., Tech Extension specialist and project coordinator.

Through Tech's Extension and research arms, dozens of innovative research activities have focused



*Lee Daniels wanted to "learn what the major weaknesses in the AOC techniques were."*

on mining and reclamation technology, post-mining use of reclaimed land, water quality and supply, and environmental and economic factors.

"The project has been called one of the most ideal land-grant programs going because it involves a partnership between Extension, research, and education," says Gerken. The coal industry, federal and state agencies, and local citizens are also heavily involved in the project, contributing more than \$1 million and the use of more than 10,000 acres.

With Powell River Project support, Daniels, research associate Jay Bell, and doctoral student Carl Zipper have spent the past three years studying AOC problems in the coalfields. "We surveyed over thirty sites, both failing and non-failing, to learn what the major weaknesses in the AOC technique were," Daniels explains.

What they discovered were three characteristic weaknesses. The fills had been put up too steep, they were weakened by water seepage, or were incorrectly constructed by placing spoil material beyond the front edge of the bench—a flat area left after the coal has been removed.

"No one had put these things up before, so a lot of variability was to be expected," Daniels says. "We're seeing the fallout of that now."



*Lee Daniels desires a better environment.*

However, the intent of the federal provision was good, the Tech researcher stresses. Tremendous environmental degradation had resulted from surface mining, much of it due to improper mining techniques.

Daniels explains, "The mining industry really had no economic motivation to do a better job until the 1977 law was enacted. With it came some fairly strict economic and environmental standards."



*Lee Daniels really isn't trying to make a shadow rabbit on the back of Lon K. Savage, Tech executive assistant to the president, as he explains his work to an open house visitor.*



*Powell River open house visitors learn about soil compaction.*

As a result of the law, coal operators are required to post bond before beginning work on a mining site. After the mining operation is completed, the site must remain stable and well vegetated for five years before the bond is released. If failures occur within the bond period, the company must return to the site and repair the fill—a costly and time-consuming task.

"Now that we know what the major weaknesses in the AOC technique are, we're compiling guidelines for coal operators that, if used uniformly, would ensure stable fills," Daniels says.

The Tech researchers also verified a computer modeling technique that can predict where failures might occur. "We're real happy with the program," says Daniels. "Every time a failure has occurred, the model predicted it would happen. With the correct data, operators or engineers should be able to use these models effectively.

In addition to searching for the best way to construct AOC backfields in various topography, the Tech researchers are also looking for alternatives to the current method. "We want to keep the fills stable and cover up most of the highwall without taking all of the spoil back up on a mountain and piling it up to reach approximate original contours," he notes.

Certain slopes are practically impossible to construct AOC backfields on. Native slopes in southwest Virginia commonly range from 25-33 degrees. Restoring mined land to original contour under these conditions is difficult for the miner and

can have severe environmental consequences if landslides occur.

One promising alternative is a mining plan currently being tested on Wise County's Amos Ridge. Daniels is working with Andy Hall, a contract miner and owner/operator of Amos Ridge Coal Company, on the experimental practice—the only one of its kind in the country.

Under a variance from the Office of Surface Mining, Hall is taking the rock spoil down into the mountain hollows, backfilling and revegetating all highwalls, and constructing nearly level areas where steep slopes stood before mining.

"In addition to meeting environmental performance standards, we are drastically increasing the land-use potential in a region where flat land is at a premium," notes Daniels. The fills are also being constructed with gentler outcrops so that failure is virtually impossible—a comforting thought to operators.

While coal companies are sure to find the project of interest, Daniels also expects to draw the attention of governmental agencies.

"Hopefully, they'll look at our findings and eventually allow a bit more leeway in spoil disposal regulations," he states. "It's not always best to put the spoil back up to AOC. There are feasible alternatives."

These alternatives, if adopted, could ultimately make surface mining a safer, cheaper, and more environmentally-sound method of coal removal. 73

# Taylor's Valley

## Washington County's Shangri-la

Taylor's Valley residents may sometimes feel they are more of a part of Tennessee than Virginia since their Virginia friends have to go into Tennessee to reach one of the two roads into the Washington County community.

Yet, the small Taylor's Valley Extension Homemakers Club has been a giant contributor to its Washington County neighbors. The twelve-member club represents one-fifth of the sixty families in the community.

The club members participate with the county's other twenty-two clubs in the annual Burley Tobacco Festival and Farm Show and help at the annual Virginia Highlands Festival by assisting with the kitchen tours, fashion shows, and craft sale. For several years, they have assisted in making wreaths to hang from the downtown Abingdon light poles during Christmas, sponsored the county Walk for Life, and worked to keep a portion of the hiking trail near their valley clear from weeds and brush.

The club helped organize and supports a 4-H club in nearby Damascus and made a quilt that was auctioned off to help raise money for the Extension Homemakers in the county.

The club's impact is not limited to Washington County; one of its members, Linda McMurray, is state citizenship and community outreach chairman for the Virginia Extension Homemakers Council.

Nearer to home, the club organized a neighborhood crime watch; sponsored an annual Halloween party for valley residents; planned, prepared, and hosted the annual valley Thanksgiving dinner; got residents



*Looking over kit of toys for tots that the club made from everyday household items are Mildred Blevins, who was the club's first president, and Effie Price, immediate past president.*

to post their house numbers for easy identification in the case of emergency; had local clean-up days in connection with Keep Washington County Beautiful campaign; made new seats for the chairs in the valley community center; and met regularly to make new craft items to sell at events to raise funds for more projects.

Effie Price, immediate past president, is a registered nurse and uses that training to regularly test the blood pressure of members and valley residents. She also is available to give allergy or other necessary shots. The women members also made a kit showing how to make toys for small children out of common items found around almost every home. The kit currently is being circulated around Southwest Virginia to help young mothers with limited incomes provide items of enjoyment for their offspring.

Husbands are not forgotten. In the winter when bad weather makes it hard for the women to attend educational programs, a husband who works outside the valley is asked to attend and relay the information to the club. Last year, two husbands attended programs on gardening and picture framing and gave presentations to the members. Their presentations got high marks from club members.

"We really don't do that much," says Price. "Being a little out of the way, we get together often to socialize and it is just as easy to work on a project while we are visiting. We all enjoy helping out in the county. I guess you could say it's fun, not work." ☞



*Showing off a quilt they made to help raise funds for the county Extension Homemakers are, from left, Linda McMurray, Blanche Hash, Janet Bowling, Effie Price, Aubrey Osborne, Mary Gentry, and Mildred Blevins.*

# PEOPLE

*Rhoda Maddox:*

## A Volunteer's Volunteer

The Volunteer's volunteer would be a good description of Rhoda Maddox.

Volunteering is the aspect of Maddox's life that crosses her diverse activities from serving on the Virginia Extension Advisory Council, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors, and the state and national levels of the Extension Homemakers, to managing her own business, a dress shop called Dot's.

Her varied interests were once obscured by a focused and highly technical career. After graduating from Lynchburg College in 1958 with a degree in mathematics, she wrote programming and carried out statistical analysis for medical research projects as an instructor in biophysics and biometry at the Medical College of Virginia. The statistical analysis of thirteen years of human burn research data resulted in her being a co-author on several published papers.

She left that work, however, to raise a family when her husband completed his medical training and established his practice. Returning to her hometown of Winchester, she turned her talents to volunteer roles, starting with the Winchester Medical Center Auxiliary in 1968. Working with that organization, she led its major fund raising and community project, the Hospital Follies, in 1976 and 1977. She has been the buyer for the hospital gift shop since it opened in 1976.

"These roles really got me into issues of organization and



*Rhoda Maddox*

*D.D. Galyean Photos*

administration of volunteers," says Maddox.

She felt that the value of volunteerism was not being recognized by the tax structure at the federal level in ways that could provide incentives for continued and increased volunteerism. She authored a proposal that would allow a tax deduction for unreimbursed expenses for volunteers who are not eligible to itemize deductions. This proposal was presented at the National Extension Homemakers Conference and was adopted as a resolution directed to the U.S. Congress. She also presented the proposal to the public comment session of the committee studying revision of the Internal Revenue System.

To assist volunteerism in her community, Maddox helped to organize the Voluntary Action

Center of Winchester, Frederick, and Clarke. The center serves as a clearinghouse both for individuals who want to volunteer their time and for agencies and organizations that use volunteers to carry out their missions. After a year of preliminary work on the steering committee, Maddox became its first executive director in 1983-84 and is currently chairman of its board of directors.

"My goal in this organization is to promote first-time volunteering and to document the amount of volunteer activity in the community," she says. "It is an impressive amount."

That goal fits with her work as a member of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors, the first woman to be elected to the post. Currently serving her second term, she works with Extension on projects that will have a long-range effect on the quality of life, such as a regional concept of providing services in corrections, water treatment, and airports.

Through all of her activities she and her husband, Joseph E. Maddox, have raised four sons. She likes to point out that none of the sons "are under six feet tall, so I must have learned nutrition." The



*Rhoda Maddox talks with customer in hospital gift shop.*

Maddoxs also have two grandchildren.

Her interest in supporting and promoting volunteering extended to the Center for Volunteer Development at Virginia Tech where she became a member of the national task force that developed ideas and information for lesson plans for practical use of the Certified Volunteer Unit—a concept created by the Virginia Extension Homemakers and adopted by the national organization.

One goal in the Certified Volunteer Unit project is to provide a vehicle by which volunteers convert volunteer skills into career skills when and if the volunteer may wish to enter the job market. Maddox has done just this by calling on the marketing skills learned as buyer for the hospital gift shop to help establish the dress shop which she owns and operates in Berryville.

With this background, Maddox was ideal to be a part of the State Extension Advisory Board when it was formed in 1982.

Extension volunteers show that the Extension mission is being fulfilled, Maddox says. For example, "In May 1985, our state Extension advisory board invited state and local leaders and officials to a day of observing Excellence in Action—the story of Extension at work in both urban and rural settings. The program presentations were made by volunteers who demonstrated quite successfully to the audience that they not only enjoyed the volunteer work they do with extension but also were very knowledgeable in the program areas and were quite capable of teaching the program to others.

"To me this leadership development is another key role of extension. The volunteer leader networks the program content to the broad audience that is served by Extension. With changes in the nature and size of the farm and rural population, Extension programming has broadened to serve a population that includes every family and individual in Virginia."

—Mary Ann Johnson

Joe Gilmer:

## The Coaching Court Clerk



Bill Burleson

Joe Gilmer enjoys working with 4-H'ers.

It's easier being a team member than being a coach. Joe H. Gilmer, Russell County clerk of Circuit Court, found that out last year when he volunteered to coach the county 4-H livestock judging team.

"It definitely was a learning experience," Gilmer says. "It was harder being a coach than I expected, but I enjoyed working with the youngsters. And although we didn't win, we didn't come in last, either," he says grinning. His enjoyment of coaching is readily evident as he volunteered to coach again this year.

Russell County Agent Nancy Ascue evidently found out that Gilmer participated on the meats and livestock judging teams while he was a student at Virginia Tech. This experience made him a leading contender when a coaching vacancy came up last year.

"I was surprised when Nancy asked," he recalls. "My 4-H experience was minimal—one year while in school. But after considering the invitation, it seemed like fun. And I was right, it was fun working with the teenagers each week."

Gilmer worked one night a week and on weekends with the four girls and three boys who were members of the "A" and "B" teams. Gilmer is like most coaches in that

he is a perpetual optimist. He believes his charges will do a better job this year, if for no other reason than he thinks he will do a better job coaching.

Gilmer, in addition to being circuit court clerk, farms some 1,200 acres in the county. He owns about half of the acreage he tends on what he describes as a beef-sheep-burley operation. He currently has about 200 yearlings and 140 cows in his steer-cow-calf operation and one hundred ewes. He also raises two-and-a-half acres of burley tobacco each year.

Raised in the town of Lebanon, Gilmer always wanted to farm. That is why he studied animal science at Virginia Tech. He joined the meats and livestock judging teams and also was a member of the Block and Bridle Club and Alpha Zeta agricultural fraternity when he received his degree in 1972.

He is married to the former Judy Smith of Russell County. The couple has two daughters, Ellen, three, and Sarah, one.

What with clerking, farming, and family, Gilmer says he doesn't have too much free time, but enjoys being busy.



Joe Gilmer helps deputy clerk Peggy Blevins get deed book.

# Bedford County Keeps Ahead of Crime

Bedford County Sheriff Carl Wells has seen his officers apprehend 108 persons who were suspected of vandalism and robbery during the last three years because of the county's neighborhood watch program.

"Such programs make our law enforcement efforts in Bedford County more effective and a lot easier. There are neighborhood watch groups in seventeen of the nineteen communities in the county and residents in the two areas without programs are interested in the program," Wells says.

The neighborhood watch program, as well as a county crime prevention youth program, can trace their beginnings in Bedford to the interest of Brenda M. Mosby, Bedford County Extension unit director. It was her interest in lowering the crime rate in the county that led to the formation of the Bedford City-County Crime Prevention Council.

The Bedford City-County Crime Prevention Council is the organ that works to keep enthusiasm high. The group of seventeen neighborhood watch representatives is headed by Buz Cooper, an insurance salesman.

Mosby was approached by city and county law enforcement officials and the local office of the Virginia State Police about the possibility of Extension organizing a neighborhood watch program.

"We decided that the best way to get such a program started was by forming the council. We were able to get the assistance of community leaders which started the council with a representative from each of

Bill Burleson



*Extension agent Brenda Mosby inspired Bedford County's crime prevention program.*

the city's three and county's seven jurisdictional areas. As the watch program began, the leaders on the council turned over their places to those from the neighborhood watches," she says.

Mosby found the county Extension homemakers clubs receptive to the neighborhood watch idea and their members helped get the neighborhood watches going in the areas in which they had members.

Mosby contacted the Virginia Crime Prevention Association, the American Association of Retired Persons, and other organizations for information on how to organize a watch program. Members of a neighborhood watch area monitor strangers in the neighborhood and check on neighbors' homes while they are away.

"Actually, it is not hard getting persons interested in starting a neighborhood crime watch," Mosby says. "The hard part is keeping them interested. Interest in anything always lags after the initial burst of enthusiasm wears out and a program becomes routine."

The council is unlike many similar groups in Virginia and other states in that the local law enforcement officers are not voting members. They only work in an advisory capacity, letting the council decide on its programs and efforts. The crime watch representatives then carry the ideas and information back to their respective organizations.

In an independent effort, Mosby has developed a crime prevention effort, called "Crime and You," for

Brenda Mosby



*Neighborhood watch signs are common sight in Bedford County.*

the county 4-H'ers. Working with the law enforcement officers and volunteers she met through the neighborhood watch program, Mosby developed a program that explains the responsibilities of good citizenship as well as what the penalties could be if a young person was convicted of vandalism, stealing, theft, or other crime.

"Dealing with the young people was certainly an eye opener," she says. "I was amazed to find that many of them thought that because they were juveniles, they were not responsible for their actions. Many of them did not think that such things as breaking a street light or stealing something from a store was a crime."

Before introducing the program to the school clubs, Mosby tested the program on the 4-H'ers attending camp at the Smith Mountain 4-H Educational Center. In this way, she found which presentations were most effective.

The school program lasts eight months and deals with a variety of crime—vandalism, shoplifting, theft, and drugs—and the neighborhood watch. Interspersed with the crime education information are programs on safety at school, in the community, and at home.

Mosby has found that the most effective programs deal with local happenings and events. Consequently, the messages are localized as much as possible.

The illegal substance segment, for example, is taught by a sheriff's deputy who worked undercover in Bedford County for a year in gathering information. His exhibits of drugs and evidence all were gathered in the county. "His use of local evidence and examples brings the message home," Mosby says.

Local businesses this spring will be given educational material on crime prevention. A few are expected to help purchase an anti-crime robot for special events. The robot, called Robot McGruff after the dog that is the symbol of crime prevention, will deliver crime prevention and safety messages via a loudspeaker.

The "Crime and You" program has been so successful that the county's education officials have introduced a tips or crime-prevention program for all



4-H'ers get a taste of what it is like to be behind bars.



Bedford County Sheriff Carl Wells is staunch supporter of crime prevention program.

eighth graders. They feel the message is too important to limit the information just to those in 4-H.

She has been asked how she measures the effectiveness of the program. "I just tell them that we won't know until these young people become adults and see if they get in trouble with the law. I believe it is doing some good. I had a young 4-H'er thank me after one program for giving him information concerning the law that he was not aware of.

"It only takes a few of those to make the whole program worthwhile," she says. ☒



George Beckwith presides over a meeting of those participating in the Montvale neighborhood watch.

# Clowning Around In Shenandoah County

One of the constants in this changing world continues to be the ability of clowns to bring laughter and smiles to the faces of both children and adults. Seven members of the New Market Extension Homemakers Club are learning the secrets of clowning to bring those moments of mirth to the residents of Shenandoah County.

"I saw a television program about some homemakers in New York who used clowning to entertain children in hospitals and senior citizens in nursing homes," says Paulette Eaton, who got the members of her club to adopt the project. "We hope that the 'Clowning for Therapy' project will catch on and we will have membership from all eighteen of the county clubs."

The appearance of clowns in hospitals and nursing homes helps children forget their illnesses and problems and provides a welcome break in the routine that often is found in an institutional setting.

Shenandoah Extension agent Beverly S. Butterfield says the "clowning" homemakers have plenty of ideas for various programs. "They are planning a program for a group of retarded citizens and have volunteered to work at several of our Extension programs that are held around the county. They want to be involved and help." The next project will be to develop an assembly program to take into the local schools.

If, as Eaton hopes, the other clubs have members

Bill Burlison



*Delores Lam likes performing as a clown.*



*Paulette Eaton smiles greeting to new arrival.*

who join the project, there will be at least one clown in every locality. This would make it easier to schedule appearances and reduce the time it takes to drive to and from engagements.

Eaton and sister clown Delores Lam were interviewed at an Extension open house during interludes when they were not showing slides about the clowning program or entertaining the guests.

Eaton and Lam, along with New Market club members Debbie Davis, Wilma Hughes, Barbara Lauderdale, Ramona Neese, and Virginia Thompson, are following the Extension prescription of "learning by doing." The seven, who range from parents with young children to grandparents, already have appeared in two parades and at the county health fair. They realize that they have a great deal to learn about clowning before they will feel comfortable while working in one-on-one situations.

To learn, the seven are meeting with another homemaker, Mary Sheppard, who has done some clowning. Sheppard, who is deaf, is adept in the art of mime. "She is just wonderful at pantomime," says Lam. "She can tell a joke in mime and you have no trouble following what she is saying."

It is much easier to "do something silly" when you are dressed as a clown.

Eaton says it takes a little more than a half hour to put on her face. The special formulated makeup does not irritate the face, and, with the help of vegetable shortening, can be removed in about fifteen minutes.

The members usually drive home from clowning engagements in costume. "You certainly get a lot of strange looks when you are dressed as a clown and driving down the highway," the two women say grinning. "Watching those people makes the trip home more enjoyable." ☞

# IN BRIEF

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM ACROSS VIRGINIA



A seventeen-year-old *Emporia 4-H'er* has been awarded a four-year scholarship at \$1,000 per year from E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co. *Melvin L. Tucker* is one of ten 4-H winners of scholarships from duPont to encourage under represented youth to pursue careers in agriculture.

Tucker, son of James and Cozy Tucker of Rt. 1, Emporia, plans to major in agronomy at a state land-grant university. "I chose that field because I was raised on a farm and know the importance of being knowledgeable about the soil," he says. The high school senior has been in 4-H eight years and attended state congress three times and national congress once.



Twenty rural Virginians with leadership potential are participating in the Virginia Rural Leadership Development Program. The program, sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, is a two-year project designed to equip potential rural leaders with a greater understanding of the problems that relate to their respective communities and the state. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided initial support to the program.

The first three meetings of the group were in *Blackstone, Lexington, and Williamsburg* and concerned various aspects of government, budgets, and politics. Next fall, a tour is planned for the group to visit neighboring states to see how those governments operate.

Those participating in the program are *Julia C. Bagwell, South Boston; Michael W. Beahm, Roanoke; Denise W. Bland, Cape Charles; Lisa L. Green, Barren Springs; David K. Hauslohner, Troutdale; Steven G. Meeks, Crozet; Janet M. Mitchell, Collinsville; Martha W. Myers, Boyce; Sheila D. Nelson, Pulaski; and Brenda J. Olafsen, Jeffersonton.*

Also, *Daniel T. Payne, Dayton; W. Clinton Pettus, Ettrick; Van H. Petty, Cumberland; Terri Johnson-Rupe, Dublin; Wilsene H. Scott, Penn Laird; Randall F. Shank, Aylett; Susan E. Sink, Christiansburg; George C. Stonikinis, Jr., Farmville; Richard L. Turner, Carrolton; and Steveanna S. Wynn, Blacksburg.*



Virginians care about wildlife—both of the game and non-game variety. A random mail survey conducted by Virginia Tech's department of fisheries and wildlife sciences, finds that ninety-six percent of those surveyed noticed wildlife around their homes and on their way to work.

"Approximately eighty percent of those who had homes and yards actually fed wild birds," says *Peter T. Bromley*, Extension wildlife specialist. Not surprisingly, hunters and fishermen were especially attuned to wildlife resources.

Bromley puts the figure into perspective by comparing it to

agriculture, Virginia's largest industry. "The economic impact of hunting and fishing is actually greater than the combined cash receipts for all agricultural commodities, excluding tobacco," he says. "This shows just how important hunting, fishing, and wildlife are in Virginia."



The Center for Volunteer Development at Virginia Tech has four new members on its advisory council. They are *Mary Russo, Virginia Beach; the Rev. Cessar L. Scott, Richmond; Joan Volpe, Vienna; and Maureen Watkins, Lynchburg.*

Russo established the city government volunteer program in Virginia Beach; Rev. Scott heads the Baptist General Convention in Richmond; Volpe has served in many volunteer capacities in Fairfax County; and Watkins serves on Campbell County Library board of directors.

In addition to the four new members, the center's advisory committee is composed of *Willie Young, Fairfax; Dot Blanchard, Blacksburg; Judy Gough, Charlottesville, chair; Diana Bradshaw, Courtland; Virginia Kennedy, Blacksburg; Jennifer Taylor, Danville; Hugh Rowland, Norfolk; Clark Jones, Appomattox; Sam*

Clay, Fairfax; John Hairston, Christiansburg; Dorothy Cowling, Richmond; and Jean Newman, King George.



Linda McMurray

A program designed to develop and strengthen leadership skills attracted eight members of the Virginia Extension Homemakers Council (VEHC) and Virginia Extension to Jacksonville, Fla. The program, funded initially by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is designed to help Extension homemakers and other volunteers to gain skills at running meetings, resolving issues, forming networks, learning about public policy, and influencing decision makers.

The Virginia delegation to the conference included *Margaret Amos*, West Central District home economics program leader; *Becky Bowling*, Buckingham County, VEHC president-elect; *Ruby Chapman*, Hanover County, VEHC president; *Barbara Ellsworth*, Southampton County, state family relationships and child development chairman; *Linda McMurray*, Washington County, state citizenship and community outreach chairman; *Janet Tuckwiller*, Extension specialist, VEHC adviser; *Elizabeth Welsh*, Rockbridge County, VEHC vice president; and *Helen Williams*, Prince William County Extension agent.



Virginia Extension homemakers will host approximately 4,000 of their counterparts from across the nation at the National

Extension Homemakers Conference, (NEHC) Sunday, July 20, to Thursday, July 24, on the Virginia Tech campus. NEHC, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is coming to Virginia because it was a Virginian, *Mrs. Guy Roop*, who was the first president of the organization in 1936.

"Virginians have played an important role in the programs of the national Extension Homemakers during the years," says *Karen DeBord*, Virginia Extension specialist who is serving as adviser to the conference. Another Virginian, *Jean Beard*, Harrisonburg, authored the national creed. Theme for the meeting will be "Honoring Yesterday, Living Today, Building Tomorrow."



The Southside Virginia Produce Cooperative has a new receiving facility at the Sinai Industrial Park near Halifax. Local and state officials attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the broccoli packing plant. The cooperative was formed through Extension efforts at getting local tobacco producers interested in alternative crops.

The 11,500-square-foot building includes a modern ice plant and cooling room where Piedmont broccoli and other produce will be chilled and prepared for shipment to distribution centers in the eastern United States.



Each fall, Amherst County's Extension homemakers hope they never see another apple pie—at least for a while. They make about 270 pies to sell at the Amherst County Apple Harvest Festival. Volunteers combine 288 pie crusts, 125 pounds of sugar, a pound of apple spice, a thirty-two-ounce bottle of lemon juice, and twenty bushels of apples to make the pies.

*Betty Marshal* oversees the project, which includes about fifty volunteers peeling apples. The homemakers use the kitchen at the Amherst Elementary School so they bake the pies thirty at a time for the two-day event. The homemakers started baking pies for the event ten years ago, mixing

the ingredients in a trashbag inside a cardboard box.

"We had two electric skillets and could bake three pies and eight puffs at a time," Myers recalls.

Homemaker *Frances Butler* says the event isn't very profitable because ingredient prices are high, "But we feel we need to have apple products at an apple harvest festival. But there is enough profit to help with educational programs, send homemaker leaders to training programs, and provide funds to the Madison Heights Branch Library and the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center."



Two Virginia Tech alumni were named the state's Outstanding Young Tobacco Farmers by Philip Morris USA. They are *Guy M. Gilbert* of Pennington Gap, a 1980 graduate, and *Andrew L. Barker* of Axton, a 1977 grad.

Gilbert was named the top young burley producer while Barker was tops among the flue-cured growers. They were among winners from eleven tobacco-growing states to receive a \$1,000 cash award, a plaque, an all-expenses-paid trip to the Philip Morris manufacturing center in Richmond for the awards program. The two farmers were accompanied by their Extension agents, *Harold L. Jarrell* of Lee County and *Gene H. Amos* of Henry County.

Last year, Barker and his wife, Deborah, were named one of the three outstanding young farmers in the nation by the American Farm Bureau.



## COMMENTARY continued

techniques have changed some. The vision of how to accomplish the 1914 mission, however, cannot serve as a vision of how to accomplish the mission of Extension in the year 2000. Principles may remain constant but processes, techniques, and practices must change. What do we teach our clients so that they will be prepared for tomorrow?

Martin Luther King Jr. had a vision that he called a dream. Whatever you may think of his techniques, he constantly kept his vision before the world by effectively prefacing his remarks with the words "I have a dream..."

With that vision, Martin Luther King Jr. changed practices in this nation and the world. King's dream was not a mission statement, it was a vision punctuated with the positive images of what could and would be if those ideals of brotherhood and their companion goals and objectives were achieved.

The contemporary vision of Extension in Virginia as held by the program and administrative leadership embraces the following elements, concepts, and ideas as underlying principles.

- That the system in which we work will have adopted a set of priorities derived from needs of citizens of the Commonwealth and that these program priorities will determine allocation of resources.

- That the system continue to become an integral part of the total University at both Virginia Tech and Virginia State and the total resources of the universities are available to citizens of the Commonwealth through the Extension system.

- That the staff of the Division consist of well trained, aggres-

sive, innovative individuals who are excellent communicators, are self confident and willing to take risks, and are professionals by anyone's definition.

- That all staff at all levels be evaluated effectively and fairly with rewards for excellent work being based on the verified accomplishments of the individual.

- That all employees in the system work together through a common structure to develop and deliver the programs needed in the Commonwealth.

- That the Extension Division will continue its commitment to continuous formal staff training and upgrading and will encourage its self directed professionals to implement non-formal, self-improvement projects and community-based research on future needs.

- That in the decade to come, Extension staff will master one or more new languages, will become knowledgeable about the cultures of other nations, and will think no more then of traveling out of country than they now do to traveling out of state.

- And finally, that a spirit of cooperation and trust be developed between and among persons of different genders, races, ethnic groups, and those in Extension administration so that the destructive force of doubt will be transformed into the creative energy of change—all within the vision of a growing, productive, and happy population.

The above components are not the only ones that may be included in this vision. Each of us must add to this vision from our own perspectives.

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