

SUMMARY

Each year we find that the people of Goochland County are realizing more and more the importance of Extension Work and Service.

Definite growth is being shown each year. Farm improvements and demands are greater than they were five years ago.

It is a pleasure to work as the Local Farm Agent for the improvement of all of the Standards of living for all of the people of Goochland County.

The leader and Farm Agent and sometimes both, meet with the 4-H Club members in regular meetings to guide them in their parliamentary procedures and with their projects plus helping supervise members in putting on projects. 4-H Club members put on demonstrations in their meetings. Time is allowed for 4-H Songs and games.

Seventy members are enrolled in garden projects, nineteen members are enrolled in Poultry, fourteen members are enrolled in Garden projects, fourteen members are enrolled in Swine projects, fourteen enrolled in Dairy Cattle projects, fourteen enrolled in Beautification of Home Grounds, three enrolled in Sweet Potato projects.

We had fifteen 4-H members to have health examinations as results of being in 4-H Clubs.

Goochland County had four boys to attend the 4-H State Course which was held at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia in June.

Three Clubs held outings during the summer months which was both educational and pleasurable.

Four Clubs observed National 4-H Club Week by attending church service in a group.

Forestry Service, Farm Credit, Social Security and Farm Home Administration.

OTHER ACTIVITIES- ADULT

Five farmers attended the Farm and Home Week in July at the Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia. One farmer attended the State Agriculture Advisory Board Award Program which was held in May in Sussex County. One farmer attended the Virginia State Agriculture Board Annual Meeting in Franklin County.

Local Leaders help with the T. E. Clinic, Red Cross, and the sale of T. E. Seals. They cooperate with the schools, Vocational and Agriculture and Home Economic Department and work with local church programs and all other county and community projects.

4-H CLUBS

There are five Community 4-H Clubs organized in the county with a total of one hundred twenty-seven boys and girls. Each club is supervised by an adult leader along with the Local Farm Agent.

outside, they are improving their yards by sowing grass, planting flowers and shrubs. All this was brought about by the Extension Program, using Local Leaders, field meetings, tours, visits to the experiment Stations, Circular Letters and personal visits by the Local Farm Agent.

COUNTY-WIDE IMPROVEMENT

The following improvements have taken place through-out the county this year.

1. Five new homes built.
2. Four homes painted.
3. Three homes put on siding.
4. Four homes put in water systems.
5. Three homes put in electric lights.
6. Four homes put in telephone service.
7. Five families bought deep freezers.
8. One home was remodeled.
9. One farmer bought a tractor.
10. Ten homes put screens in all windows and doors.
11. Three farmers remodeled barns.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

The Negro farmers of Goochland County are cooperating with the A.S.C. Program, Soil Conservation Program,

to four acres, their yields have been very low, so we tried to show them by having their soil tested, use of proper fertilizer and better seeds, they can increase their yield and by so doing their income would increase. Mr. Otis Pace of the Cedar Plain Community served as a demonstrator this year and by working he increased his yield and quality of tobacco by forty percent. To bring about this increase in yields we had meetings with tobacco growers, sent circular letters and made farm visits.

LIVE-AT- HOME PROGRAM

Our Live-At-Home Program has fitted right in with the production goals as set-up by the United States Department of Agriculture.

On forty farms we found that the farmers have reduced their acreage, but are producing more because they are using better seeds, more fertilizer, lime, phosphate and are testing their soils in larger quantity.

The Livestock and Poultry have been improved through the selecting of better breeds. The housewives are canning more vegetables, fruits and meats. The farm families are taking more pride in improving inside and

It was carried to the people by local leaders, circular letters, meetings and personal visits.

SMALL GRAIN

A large number of our farmers are supplementing their Corn acreage with oats and barley for home use as well as selling on the markets. We had several farmers serving as demonstrators with oats and barley. Then we went about helping these farmers, to improve their small grain yields.

It was recommended to them to secure varieties best for this section and to use more of better fertilizer suggested after a soil test.

Through the aid of local leaders, tours, field meetings, circular letters and personal visits we achieved the improvements.

As a result on six farms we found the yields and quality of grain greatly improved.

SUN-CURE TOBACCO

There are Sixty-seven sun cure tobacco growers in Goosehead County with allotments ranging from one-fourth

have tried to show them that by having good cows, it will improve the health of the family as well as increase the income of the family.

As a result of our suggestions we had five farmers to increase from one cow to two cows, also three families to sell milk who had not sold milk in the past.

These improvements were brought about with farm visits and circular letters.

HOGS

After making a survey of the county this year, we found the hog situation in Cooshland County among the average farmer is much better than it was five years ago, but there is room for much improvement. We found that the inbreeding of hogs is just about out of practice. More farmers are practicing better housing, better feeding habits, securing better breeds and more are going for vaccinating the hogs. By carrying out these practices more and better hogs are going to the market which means more income for the average farmer. This was brought about by our hog sanitation and breeding program.

3. To secure good stock.
4. To practice good Sanitation methods.
5. To secure good chicken houses.
6. To keep a supply of fresh drinking water at all times.
7. To keep a well supply of balance feed at all times.
8. To cull the poultry flock at least twice a year.
9. To give the poultry flock a good range.
10. To keep an account of all eggs collected.
11. Keep a record of all chickens and eggs sold and money spent for feed so as to see if your poultry flock is paying for itself.

As a result of this program there was an increase of twenty-five percent over the last two years. We are planning on carrying out the same program for next year.

DAIRY COWS

We still find that in the county we do not have sufficient milk and butter produced for adequate home consumption. For the entire year, we have been working with farmers to secure better cows for home use. We

GARDENS

After making a survey of some one hundred and fifty farms in Goosehead County. We found that just about fifty percent of the farmers raised enough out of their gardens to take care of the family needs, but we did find that sixty percent of the farmers did have some type of garden on their farms.

Our garden program was carried to the people by local leaders, circular letters, meetings, tours and personal visits. This program will be followed again this year.

POULTRY

After making a survey of the county this year we found that the poultry situation is still below what it should be among our people, so we set-out to do something about the condition. Our first move was to call on our local leaders and a discussion was held with them on the problem, then we followed with circular letters, in which we suggested the following steps:

1. To sell eggs and poultry to increase the family budget.
2. The importance of poultry for family needs.

But today we find that pastures have been improved by forty-five percent by using recommended varieties of grasses and fertilizers. This increase came about through the use of circular letters, bulletins, tours and farm visits, also by demonstrations conducted on five farms in the county.

It is our goal by next year to have Seventy-five percent of the farms in Goochland County with a year-round pasture.

WHEAT PROJECT

The outlook for wheat at the beginning of the year looked very good with an increase of twenty-five percent more farms with improved wheat. Using recommended varieties of wheat and fertilizer.

The following farmers served as demonstrators: Leroy Cox of the Second Union Community, Arthur Gray of the Rook Castle Community, John Ellis of the Maidens Community. These demonstrators had an average of 31 bushels to the acre. These increases were brought about by the use of farm visits, tours and circular letters.

These improvements were brought about by visits to the experiment stations, tours, circular letters and farm visits.

CORN PROJECTS

This year we had an increase of ten percent more farmers to plant hybrid corn and to use more fertilizer on their corn. We still have a few farmers that do not grow hybrid corn. The corn yields this year was very good with an average yield of around 73 bushels per acre. These improvements were brought about by visits to the Experiment Station, tours, circular letters and farm visits.

The following farmers served as demonstrators using recommended varieties and fertilizers: Robert mealy, Fauquier Community, John Allen, Randolph Community, John Minor, Chapel Hill Community, William Nunnally, First Union Community.

These demonstrators had on the average of 79 bushels to the acre .

PASTURES

Some ten years ago the average farmer took very little pride in trying to have a pasture on his farm.

Mr. Cox, has a tractor that he uses for his farm operation. His corn yield this year was 82.5 bushels to the acre, wheat yield was 31 bushels to the acre. He has six acres of very good pasture. He had enough vegetables for home use and sold some on the Richmond Market. Mrs. Cox canned over six hundred quarts of fruits and vegetables. Mr. and Mrs. Cox cooperate with the Extension Worker, taking leading parts in all community and county improvement programs along with religious, agricultural and educational lines.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT

Sixty percent of the farmers in the county are following improved practices suggested by the Extension Worker, such as crop rotation, using more fertilizer, lime, phosphate, doing fall and winter plowing, planting cover crops, having pastures and securing good seeds.

So by doing this we find that crop yields are much better, as well as the quality of the product raised.

cooperating communities.

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS

There are sixty-five dependable local leaders in the county. These leaders are responsible for the three hundred and fifty Negro Farm Families in the County. Leaders discuss production goals with the farmers and serve as demonstrators and many other cooperative activities.

These leaders have done an excellent job this year in helping carry out the Extension Program of improving the Live-At-Home Program.

Mr. Leroy Cox of the Second Union Community is one of the most outstanding Club Leaders in Goochland County. His method of farming is in keeping with the Extension Program and he has not just started to farm along these lines, but has been doing it in the past years. He is cooperating with the Soil Conservation Program. He uses his benefit payments from the A.S.C. Program in securing Lime and Phosphate for the improvement of his farm. On his sixty-five acrea farm, he produces corn, wheat, hay, hogs, chickens, a year-round garden and has five cows.

9. Community Organization

10. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- (a). Community entrance signs
- (b). School ground beautification
- (c). Recreational Facilities
- (d). Cemetary Improvements
- (e). Display of Farm Names
- (f). Church beautification

At the Community Club Meetings these points were discussed as to how we would go about getting this information over to the rest of the people in this community. It was decided that we would make personal visits, send circular letters, use the local newspaper and to check at each meeting to see just what progress has been made on each project.

The Community this year made an average of thirty-five percent improvement on all of the above points. The Extension Worker and the Club Leaders are directly responsible for the work.

There are two more Communities set-up much the same as the Demonstration Community and are working as

this community are working to improve their community by applying the rules governing the contest.

The Objectives of the Community Improvement Program are:

1. To strengthen farm management and farming practices.
2. To strengthen farm and home demonstration work.
3. To improve family living and home surroundings.
4. To create a more informed and active community leadership.
5. To develop better communities by strengthening the economics, educational and social activities.
6. To develop more potential leaders for the future.

The following points are the ones the community will be scored on:

1. Farm Development (Production and Practices).
2. Farm Development and Machinery.
3. Home Development(Outside Improvement).
4. Home Development (Inside Improvement).
5. Family Food Supply
6. Clothing the family.
7. Family Life Development
8. Health(Family Participation).

Clubs organized in the three districts.

It is estimated that some three hundred and fifty families were reached through the leaders and clubs. These clubs are organized for the purpose of bringing out at least once a month the farmer, his wife and older children, where they can come and discuss their home and farm problems along with the ever-changing conditions of living during these times and how it affects rural life. In these meetings the Farm Agent brings information to the groups of changes that have taken place in the present Agriculture situation and explain the importance of lining-up with the State and United States Department of Agriculture Programs, and the State Extension Program here in Goochland County. We also try to have some kind of demonstration put on by the members. There is time allotted for discussion on local farm and home situations as results of Extension Teaching.

DEMONSTRATION-COMMUNITY

Each year a community is set-up to represent the county in the State Wide Improvement Contest. This year the Hadnesville Community was selected. The people of

farmers to do collectively the things they cannot hope to do individually.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board is the general planning board for the Extension work in the county. It is made up of Community and Neighborhood leaders. All members of the Advisory Board are members of a Community Club. These members are selected from the Three Magisterial Districts in the county. This board meets three times a year. If the agent or president feels that conditions warrant it, a special meeting is called.

The board met twice this year, to study the county program for the farmers and pledge itself to pass on to the farmers in their community all information received in regards to the Agriculture Extension Program, National, State and Local. The board arranged three field meetings on pasture, wheat, and corn demonstration, a tour was made to Experiment Station. Two delegates were selected to the State Advisory Board Meeting.

COMMUNITY CLUBS

In the three Magisterial Districts in the County Extension Work was conducted in each. Four Farm Community

There is approximately 126,700 acres of commercial forest, exclusive of public reserve and other non-commercial forest land. About 50.8% of the timber is softwood (short leaf pine, red cedar and other softwoods), and 49.2 percent is hardwood (red Oak, White Oak, Yellow Poplar, sweet gum, hickory and miscellaneous hardwood).

SOILS

The predominate soils in the county belong to the cicial and Iredall series. The cicials soils are yellowish clay, siely loams, fine sandy loams and sands, six to sixteen inches deep with subsoil to a depth of thirty-six inches composed of firable and greasy red clays. They have been derived from light to dark granites and gneisses.

The Iredall soils consist of dark brown clay loams, six to sixteen inches thick, over a yellowish and reddish heavy clay subsoil as much as thirty-six inches deep. They have been formed from decay of dark green hornblends, gneisses, trap sikes and other basic rocks.

ORGANIZATION

An organization is a must in any kind of a job to make it a success. The community unit must unite with the districts, in turn the districts should be co-ordinated into the county organization. Such an organization enables

The test of a successful farmer is not how hard he worked, but how much he accomplishes.

COUNTY SITUATION

Goochland County lies along the North bank of the James River near the center of the Piedmont Province in Virginia. It is thirty-five miles East to West and five to twelve miles wide North to South. It is bound by Louisa and Hanover Counties to the North, on the West by Fluvanna County, on the South by Chesterfield, Powhatan and Cumberland Counties and on the East by Henrico County. There are three magisterial districts in the county, Byrd, Lighoe and Dover. It has a land area of 289 square miles or 184,960 acres. The total county population is 8,934, and of that number, 4,567 are Negroes. The surface is gently rolling, with altitudes average of 35° in mid-winter, 77° in July. The precipitation is about 41 inches annually.

The total farm operators 741- White 486, Negro 255.

The most fertile land is in the river bottom, where there are some very fine farms. Over the county, generally the soil is loam with red clay subsoil and is adapted to a variety of crops such as wheat, oats, barley, rye and a little sun-cure tobacco. In recent years, the biggest portion of farm income has come from stock raising of beef cattle, hogs, followed by dairy products and poultry, included also some income from tobacco and pulp wood.

PREFACE

The purpose of this report is to present to the public in narrative form, some of the outstanding activities of the Agriculture Extension Program of Goochland County Virginia, and what it is doing to improve the standards of living among the Negro Farm Families from the period of December 1, 1959 to November 30, 1960.

The report presents not only some of the problems of farm people in Goochland County, but also some of the effective means of meeting them and some of the results obtained. It further discusses the detailed results of some Extension Activities.

The County Extension Program is designed to fit all of the people of the county-men, women, boys and girls.

Grateful acknowledgements are made to the U.S.D.A., Virginia Agriculture Extension, V.P.I. Virginia Agriculture Department, Virginia State College and various other agencies, federal, state and local, County Board of Supervisors, for their valuable assistance and cooperation in making this program possible. We are grateful to our state Agents, District Agents and Local Community Schools and Churches, Local Club Leaders, Adult and 4H Clubs in the county who assisted in formulating and directing the Agriculture Extension Program in this County.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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Assistant Agent



1960

Goochland

County