

• Annual Report

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

• Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1954

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agent

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Henry
county

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I. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Some Extension work in Henry County is carried on through the County Board of Agriculture which is composed of 16 community chairmen (8 men and 8 women). This organization heads up the 160 neighborhood leaders in the 80 neighborhoods in the county. The neighborhood leaders are in turn responsible for carrying information to and from 12 to 20 families in their respective neighborhoods.

An advisory board composed of 8 farmers has been selected which can be called together on short notice for consultation in regard to farm problems.

Committees representing special interest groups have been selected for the purpose of assisting in promoting special phases of agriculture, including: (A) Agronomy (tobacco, pastures, hay, grain, and silage), (B) Poultry, (C) Dairying, (D) Beef Cattle and Hogs, (E) Horticulture, (F) Community Improvement.

Each committee is composed of from 5 to 10 farmers.

II. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Henry County, being highly industrialized, has an agriculture which is not duplicated in any other county in Virginia. The 1950 census shows that there are 1699 farms in Henry County with an average of 83 acres. It is estimated that approximately 85% of the farmers in Henry County are part-time farmers. This group includes the pleasure farmers, farmers who have jobs in town, and those who spend their spare time farming. The remaining 15% are those who make their living from the land. Almost all of the 15% group grow bright tobacco.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITY

A. Agronomy.

At a meeting of the Agronomy Committee, the group recommended that we hold two tobacco meetings in January, and also two meetings on tobacco diseases. The group also recommended that we hold a meeting on pastures, hay, and grain, in February; have two community pasture tours in May; and a county-wide pasture tour in June.

In order to bring farmers up-to-date on Experiment Station findings, a number of meetings were held.

B. Tobacco.

Mr. E. M. Matthews, Superintendent of the Chatham Experiment Station, spoke on tobacco before a large group of farmers on January 4. On January 7 he talked to another group of tobacco farmers at Ridgeway. On January 18 and 19, G. B. Fenne talked to two groups of tobacco farmers on tobacco diseases and insects and their control. Following these meetings a copy of Circular 338, "Suggestions for Flue Cured Tobacco Growers" was sent to every tobacco farmer in Henry County.

Timely information was given to farmers at different times during the year over the radio and in the newspaper. Farmers were encouraged from time to time to use TDE instead of Paris Green and Arsenate of Lead to kill tobacco worms. A number of farmers are using Chlordane in their plant water.

Ten boys signed up to enter the Junior Tobacco Contest. In the final analysis only one boy remained to complete the project. He took his tobacco to Danville and was pleased with the results. The warehouse ceremony which was put on by the Extension Service on this occasion was very colorful.

2. Pastures, Hay, and Grain.

During the month of February, W. W. Lewis, Associate Agronomist, spoke to a large audience at the Drewry Mason High School on pastures, hay, and grain.

(a) Pastures.

Leaflets on pasture seeding and management were mailed to all livestock farmers in Henry County.

Pasture information was disseminated from time to time over the radio and in local newspapers. Two community tours were held during the month of May. Mr. Curtis Mast, Associate Animal Husbandman, assisted with the tours.

On June 19, Dr. H. L. Danton, Head of the Agronomy Department, assisted with a county-wide pasture tour on the James and Robert Hodges' farm. At the conclusion of the program the Clover Creamery Company furnished ice cream for the entire group.

Three pasture demonstrations were conducted under the sponsorship of the Virginia - North Carolina Plant Food Institute.

(b) Hay.

Farmers were furnished up-to-date information on

seeding, fertilizing, harvesting, and curing hay. A copy of Circular 374, "Growing Alfalfa" was mailed to every livestock farmer. Farmers were encouraged to install hay driers wherever possible. From time to time the agent put on radio programs and published articles in the paper on growing and curing hay.

Grain.

At the meeting which was held during January, a large group of farmers were briefed on the newest recommendations for growing corn. A great deal of stress was put on the importance of using good seed, a sufficient amount of fertilizer, and good cultural practices. The importance of grain in a rotation was one of the primary items of discussion. It was pointed out that good rotations are important in insect and disease control.

Bulletins on growing corn and small grain were mailed to a number of farmers. From time to time, farmers were informed in regard to the production of grain, over the radio, and in the newspaper. Particular emphasis has been put on the use of sufficient nitrogen to produce a good grain crop. This particular phase of the educational program seems to have paid off well since the yields of grain were very good this year.

Silage.

Through the educational program which has been put on by the Extension Service, farmers are beginning to realize the importance and economy in producing silage for livestock. More silage was produced this year than ever before in

Henry County. This feed is being used by both dairymen and beef cattle producers. More trench silos are being built every year.

B. Poultry.

Harry Moore, Head of the Poultry Department, met with a group of poultry producers to work up a poultry program for 1954. At this meeting the committee recommended that a field day be held at a poultry farm and that a county-wide night meeting be held during the month of February.

On February 25, Harry Moore, spoke to a large group of men and women on poultry production. He stressed the importance of sanitation and proper housing for poultry. He stressed the importance of comfort and good management for the poultry flock.

On May 17, Denver Bragg assisted with a poultry field day at Kenneth Washburn's poultry plant. Some of the items which he mentioned on this occasion were range management of pullets, selection, culling, and winter management. A copy of the Extension News and the "Peep and Moo" was sent to every poultryman each month.

The agent took sick poultry to the Pathology Laboratory in Blacksburg on several occasions to diagnose the trouble.

A Junior Poultry Judging School was held at the Lee Ford Camp in Henry County. Denver Bragg, R. S. Cofer, Carl Coiner, and C. C. Tucker conducted the school.

C. Dairying.

The Martinsville Milk Market has been very unstable within the past year. The county agent has been called on a number

of times to give information in regard to marketing procedures. Apparently, competition has been the cause of all of the instability and unrest among local dairymen. The agent has attended numerous meetings of the local milk control board. The county agent assisted dairy farmers in organizing the Martinsville Milk Producers' Association. Mr. Upton Livermore, Associate Agricultural Economist, was called in on several occasions to assist this organization in securing a charter, formulating by-laws, and agreements. Mr. R. G. Connelly, Secretary, Virginia Milk Producers' Federation, was present on two occasions to familiarize the farmers in this area with the advertising program which is now in the making. Farmers have had to "stick together" and employ an attorney in order to protect their interests.

The local milk control board has been usually active in solving the many problems which came up frequently.

For the first time since the early thirties there is a surplus of milk on the Martinsville market. In this connection the agent has encouraged farmers to use good management and be very efficient in producing milk. The time has arrived when inefficient producers can no longer exist. The agent has assisted farmers in culling low producers and replacing them with efficient producing cows when they can be found.

Farmers are realizing more and more the importance of artificial breeding in their herds. They have found that the calves which are produced through this method are very superior

to other calves. The DHA has also proved to be very valuable in culling cows and building good herds.

Pasture information has been given to dairy farmers through circulars, radio programs, and the newspaper. Every dairy farmer receives the "Peep and Moo". Many dairymen have called on the county agent to furnish formulas for mixing farm grains for dairy cattle.

D. Beef Cattle and Hogs.

On January 5, Curtis Mast, Associate Animal Husbandman, met with the livestock committee. This committee recommended that one county-wide livestock meeting be held to brief the local livestock men on the newest methods of livestock production. They also recommended that a livestock field day be held for the purpose of demonstrating the various things which have to be done to fit calves for the feeder calf sales, and to demonstrate a modern fence.

On February 4, George H. Litton, Head of the Animal Husbandry Department, spoke to a large group of livestock men. He stressed the importance of superior herd sires and good management. He also briefed the group on the approved methods of castration and dehorning. Other items discussed were black leg inoculation, treating cattle for grubs, and treating hogs for lice and mange.

On April 3, a livestock field day was held at the James Richardson farm. Under the supervision of Mr. C. D. Kite a modern fence was built and a long discussion took place as to the importance of building the necessary equipment for handling cattle; including cutting pens, holding chutes, and loading

ramps.

Mr. Hugh Henderson gave the following demonstrations: dehorning with paste, tube dehorner, Barnes' dehorner, and Keystone dehorner. He also gave a demonstration on inoculating calves for black leg and dusting and spraying for cattle grubs. James Prillaman, a Local Animal Husbandry graduate, gave a demonstration on spraying cattle for lice with a Lindane solution. Hugh Henderson also explained why calves had to be dehorned, castrated, and inoculated for black leg and hemorrhagic septicemia in order to be put in the feeder calf sales. He impressed upon the farmers that the buyers wanted them that way.

A number of bulletins were sent to beef cattle producers, including the following: Bulletin No. 207, "Beef Cattle"; Circular No. 533, "For Top Pastures - Top Dress"; Circular No. 624, "Feed Steers on Your Farm"; Circular No. 374, "Growing Alfalfa"; Bulletin 99, "More Corn Per Acre"; Circular No. 502, "Growing Small Grain". Bulletin No. 192, "Succeed with Hogs" was sent to a few livestock men. A copy of Bulletin No. 191, "Prosper with Sheep" was sent to four farmers.

From time to time livestock progress were put on the radio and a few articles were published in local papers. A number of farmers have requested help from the county agent in regard to livestock management and the selection of herd sires. The agent also assisted farmers in selecting feeder steers.

The agent gave several demonstrations on castrating hogs. Information was also given to farmers in regard to treating hogs for lice and internal parasites. Farmers are breeding

more sows this year than they did last year. Due to market demands the county agent has recommended a gradual shifting from the lard type to the bacon type. Hampshires are definitely on the increase and a few Tamworths are coming into the picture.

E. Horticulture.

On January 8, L. C. Beamer assisted in organizing a Horticulture Committee. During the month of February, George Williams, Associate Horticulturist, spoke to three groups of Men and women on vegetable gardening and ornamental horticulture. A copy of garden suggestions was mailed to a large number of people each month. A number of people also received a copy of Circular No. 475, "Vegetable Garden Suggestions for Virginia". The agent answered a number of requests in regard to insecticides and fungicides. The agent talked to many garden clubs on vegetable gardening and ornamental horticulture, as well as entomology. One educational display was put on at a county-wide flower show.

A large number of people received information on seeding and beautifying lawns. The agent also formulated plans for landscaping a large school in Bassett.

Milky white disease was distributed to assist in combating the large population of Japanese beetles which exists in this area. Instructions were also given in regard to poisoning this insect with DDT and Chlordane.

F. Community Improvement.

Perhaps the most important extension project in 1954 is the community improvement program. Five communities are in

this project. Three communities, including Figsboro Road, Irisburg, and Horsepasture, are in competition. Axton and Spencer are not in competition but are continuing with the improvement program.

In January, the community improvement committee at a planning meeting, voted to continue the community improvement program. After this meeting, three communities decided to enter the contest. The First National Bank of Martinsville agreed to continue the sponsorship of this important program. All three of the groups held regular monthly meetings and executed a very outstanding program of work. Both county agents and specialists were active in helping these groups to get started the right way. A great deal of improvement has taken place in these communities. Perhaps the two outstanding projects in all of the competing communities are mail box and roadside improvement and the construction of community buildings.

These contests have brought about excellent cooperation among the civic leaders of the different communities. A great deal of fine leadership has been developed and it is believed that a number of capable leaders have been discovered which can be used to an advantage in future extension programs. The Figsboro Road Community, the county winner placed fifth in area competition.

The Public Enlightenment Contest seems to have made people in all three communities conscious of the necessity of being better informed. The Figsboro Road Community was also the county winner in this contest.

G. Agricultural Planning.

Agricultural planning has centered around a "live at home" program. This program includes the production of tobacco and livestock and a small amount of grain for cash, and more attention to the other side of the farm, which includes the growing of sufficient feed, food, and livestock for home use. Preservation of food for home use was included in the over-all farm plans. Some items stressed by the agent were home freezers, canning, drying, and storing of vegetables. The farmers have included in their plans the improvement of pastures and hay crops. The pasture program required lots of planning during 1954. The various meetings and tours require much planning, which planning is now underway in regard to the community improvement contests.

To get the planning program underway, specialists were called in at different meetings to give the best information available on various phases of farming. These specialists came from the following departments: Agronomy, Chatham Experiment Station, Biology, Animal Husbandry, Poultry Husbandry, Dairy Husbandry, Agricultural Engineering, Horticulture, Bug Control, Forestry, the State Entomology Department, and the Apalachian Power Company. Results indicate that farmers and home owners have used the information given at these meetings.

Cooperatives.

The agent assisted in organizing the Martinsville Cooperative Milk Producers' Association. There are two other

cooperatives in Henry County, including the Southern States Cooperative, and the Henry Cooperative Line Association. The Martinsville Cooperative Milk Producers' Association has to do with marketing milk in the Martinsville Milk Shed. The Southern States Cooperative handles a full line of seed, feed, and fertilizer, as well as certain farm equipment.

The Henry County Line Association sells and distributes lime. The county agent attends the meetings of all of these cooperatives and makes recommendations upon request.

I. Forestry.

A. B. Lyon, Associate Extension Forester at U.P.I., has assisted with forestry problems on several occasions. The agent has furnished information to a number of farmers in regard to treating pests with different chemicals. The agent has helped a few people to secure trees for reforestation.

J. Publicity.

Excellent cooperation has been received from the local paper, which is a daily publication. A reporter calls by the office frequently and as a result something of an agricultural nature is published in the paper each week.

The Bassett Journal, a weekly publication, has been unusually cooperative this year. They run a farm page in their paper each week and the extension service has something on this page in every issue. Both the Martinsville and Bassett papers use lots of the material which comes from the publicity department at U.P.I.

The Appalachian Electric Power Company has rendered valuable assistance in helping county agents to take pictures

of various phases of farming. They have made a number of cuts and furnished them to the county agents to use as they see fit. These cuts have been used for pictures in both the Bassett Journal and the Daily Bulletin in Martinsville. Articles have been written by the agent to go with these pictures. A news reporter spent two days following the county inspection tour. She wrote a nice article. Station WJLS in Roanoke also assisted with publicity, including both radio and television.

Two radio programs are put on each week at Station WJVA; one on home problems and the other on 4-H and farm news. Special broadcasts are made during the news hour.

K. Selling Savings Bonds.

During the summer a representative from the Treasury Department met with a group of business and professional people and asked that they cooperate in a United States Savings' Bond Drive. It was decided at this meeting that the county agent would be designated as the one to send letters to all farmers in Henry County encouraging them to purchase United States Savings' Bonds. These letters were written by the Treasury Department on their stationery and mailed by the county agent's office during September.

L. Agricultural Engineering.

Mr. G. D. King, from the agricultural engineering department, supervised the construction of a modern fence. This fine piece of work was used as a demonstration on the livestock

field day. Help has been received from the agricultural engineering department on farm housing and plans for farm buildings. The agent assisted several people in constructing holding chutes and cutting pens. Assistance was given one farmer in planning to build a cinder block silo. The engineering department at Blacksburg has also furnished information in regard to the kind of farm machinery to purchase.

M. Henry County Drought Committee.

The county agent assisted the drought committee in administering the emergency grain and hay program. During the first part of the year many carloads of hay and grain were secured for farmers at reduced rates.

IV. 4-H CLUB

A. 4-H Club Organization.

Henry County 4-H Club boys were organized into 30 separate clubs; twenty-nine of which were organized in the 12 schools of the county, with one club being organized out-of-school.

These 855 boys were enrolled in projects as follows: corn 27; small grain 7; tobacco (bright) 7; home garden 234; pasture improvement 8; hay 19; soil and water conservation 1; tree identification 2; baby beef 3; market beef 12; beef heifer 4; beef herd 7; dairy calf 41; dairy heifer 6; dairy production 24; breeding pig 6; sow and litter 9; market pig 61; entomology 1; tractor maintenance 7; farm and home electric Unit I, 101; Unit II, 32; home grounds beautification 268; poultry brooding

and rearing 129; egg laying 3, rabbits 36; safety 19; for a total of 1081 projects. Assisting with this organization were 29 junior project leaders and 1 adult leader.

1. 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council was reorganized in February of 1954 with a large number of members present. The main goal of the year that was established was: to assist with the Henry County Junior Dairy and Beef Heifer Shows and to place as many educational and project booths as possible in our two local fairs so as to secure sufficient money to pay the Henry County share of the State assessment on the National 4-H Center at Washington, D. C. Each of these goals were accomplished. Eleven boys attended the State 4-H Short Course and 36 boys attended District 4-H Club Camp.

2. All Stars

The County 4-H All Stars are used as advisers in 4-H and YW activities in the county. They held one official meeting and several took part in the many phases of 4-H Club work in the county in their respective communities.

3. 4-H Project and Junior Leaders

Many of these boys who are now attending the three high schools are outstanding as members of the school - four in one school are members of the Student Cooperative Association, a "liaison" group between the faculty and student body. This is a selected group elected by different groups in the school. These young people have also taken

a very active part this year in all county 4-H judging and demonstration activities.

B. Project work

1. Dairying

Due to the insufficient number of eligible 4-H Club members, no judging team was trained during the year.

Sixteen boys entered animals in the Henry County Junior Dairy and Beef Heifer Shows, with Charles Wingfield of Route 3, Martinsville, exhibiting the Grand Champion Guernsey in both shows. This was a three year old Guernsey cow, bred locally by Charles, out of his original 4-H Heifer.

Several members have secured registered Guernsey calves and grade Holstein calves which they expect to use to continue their interests in 4-H dairy projects.

Instruction was given in the selection of animals by charts and field demonstrations, as well as, worm and grub control.

2. Beef Production

Three baby beef steers were produced by 4-H members for the spring sale held at the Purebred Sales Pavilion near Roanoke in April. Two of the calves graded prime in grade and also in carcass, with the third grading choice plus.

Due to a fire on the truck while being transported to the show and sale, these animals were not exhibited but were slaughtered soon after reaching the show.

Two of these calves that graded prime were put on the

following ration: 8 parts corn, cob, and shuck; 1 part oats; one part bran; and one part cottonseed meal.

Thirty days prior to the show (March 20) four parts of barley were substituted for 4 pounds of the corn and cob meal.

One purebred Angus heifer was purchased for one of the members who wished to start a herd. This member, Billy Marshall, carried five steers during the year that he had purchased at a nearby market for experience in feeding and management.

Grub and worm control was also discussed and advised to be used in several of these projects; especially with the baby beef calves.

Philip Pigg of Spencer, our top beef herd member, had a total of nine registered animals - one of which was sold in a nearby sale for \$160. Three more of his steers are now on feed for the district fat steer show to be held in May.

This agent has also helped in the selection of 16 other animals to be entered in the show.

3. Swine

The production of market hogs has been encouraged through the promotion of breeding pigs, and sow and litter projects. These projects are developing slowly in the county but most hogs are kept for home use.

A 4-H livestock judging team competed in the District Contest - placing eighth.

4. Field Crops

Nine of the older club members were encouraged to

carry a balanced crop program especially crops to care for their livestock, including grain, hay, and pasture. This was done successfully, with each member being well satisfied with his results. Three club members entered their records in the State Crops' Contest two of which received district awards.

These members used recommended seeding and fertilizing practices.

No work was done on land judging.

5. Poultry

Three new poultry flocks for egg production were started by club members. These members were instructed in range shelters, winter housing, feeding, and general care. Due to the lack of demand by local markets, the production of broilers was held at a minimum.

Kenneth Washburn of Ridgeway used his first range shelter during 1954 with excellent results with 4 - A selected New Hampshire pullets. At 9 months of age they are producing slightly above 75%. The development of care and management by this club member covers a four year period to where he has developed from an 8 X 8 brooder house to a 14 X 42 laying house, plus an 8 X 16 brooder and laying house, with a range shelter for developing his pullets.

Kenneth is also a member of the State 4-H Poultry Judging Team which competed in the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest in Chicago in November.

Scott White of Route 3, Martinsville, is another 4-H member who will compete in the Eastern Poultry Judging Contest at Boston in January, 1955.

Two contestants entered the State Poultry Records' Contest.

6. Home Grounds Beautification

This project has been used extensively by 4-H Club members in the non-farm group, with some results, but not with the results expected.

Several demonstrations in pruning were made to demonstrate methods by which certain shrubs should be pruned.

One contestant entered the State Home Grounds Beautification Contest.

7. Home Gardens

Four-H members were encouraged in the development of home gardens. A lecture and demonstration was given to each club, along with a list of the recommended varieties of seeds and plants. Due to the early and late droughts, many gardens were a failure. Tomatoes, snap beans, sweet and Irish potatoes, giving the best results.

Two members entered the State Garden Records' Contest.

8. Rabbits

This has never been a practical project in this area due to management and diseases. Few boys are allowed to enroll in this project as it generally has shown no income.

9. Tractor Maintenance

Two boys attended the State Tractor Maintenance Clinic

at VPI. They conducted four classes in the county - one of these members competed in the district and state tractor drivers' contest.

10. Electricity

Classes were held in proper lighting, fuses, and overloading of circuits with the 12 - 16 year old groups in schools. An attempt was made to organize an out-of-school group to meet at the local utilities auditorium (Appalachian Electric Power Company) but due to a lack of interest, proved unsuccessful since the attendance was rather small at all meetings.

11. Leadership

Much stress was put on the development of leadership of the club members. This was done by explanation and application during 4-H meetings, at 4-H Camp, and during the 4-H Short Course.

John Dyer, a Junior 4-H leader, was invited to attend 4-H Camp to assist recreation leaders with the camp recreation program. This proved a worthwhile project and can be used very successfully if leadership is carefully selected.

C. Achievements

1. Publicity

Publicity of 4-H members and projects has been emphasized in our two local papers and over our local radio station, through articles about 4-H Club work and about 4-H experiences, trips, tours, and other phases of the program being fully explained.

2. Shows and Fairs

Four-H Club members exhibited project work in the following:

Roanoke Area Fat Cattle Show

Henry County Junior Dairy and Beef Heifer Show

Southern Piedmont Junior Dairy Show

Henry County Fair

Martinsville Agricultural Fair

Danville Agricultural Fair

Atlantic Rural Exposition

Arden Community Fair

Spencer Community Fair

Educational booths, as well as project exhibits, were entered where the fair permitted.

3. Contests

Eighteen records were entered in various State 4-H Records' Contests.

A poultry judging team entered district and state judging contests - one member was placed on each the first and second teams.

The livestock judging team was eliminated in the district judging contest.

The county tractor driver entered district and state tractor driving contest.

4. Cooperation with Schools

An attempt has been made to keep the county school officials, as well as principals and teachers, up-to-date on the county and club program, bearing in mind that the

success of the program depended on their knowledge of our work.

On several occasions at PTA meetings we discussed the program before the parents present, explaining our objectives and goals.

The principals are notified monthly by letter when they can expect us and what our program for the month may be.

Principals and teachers are urged to attend the meetings so that they may observe the instruction and procedures.

5. Youth Activities

Work with youth has been done through two organized groups this year, the 4-H All Stars and Spencer Youth Club. Some individual work has been done with this group and other individuals not included in the above work.

The chief results have been those taking part in the State 4-H Short Course and the twelve who attended DMW Camp, with several evenings of recreation at the local club house.

Many of the original members of this group are now in service or away at college so their activities are generally limited to summers and holidays.

Work with those not in youth organizations has been individual farm problems and through community clubs.

V. COOPERATION WITH AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

Educational assistance has been given the ASC through the Extension staff. The county agent assisted the ASC in educational programs on the radio. The agent has attended a large number of ASC meetings.

VI. COOPERATION WITH CREDIT AND LOANING AGENCIES

The agent assisted the government credit agencies serving the county by advising farmers which agency to use for their specific needs. Close cooperation is impossible, however, since government lending agencies have only part-time personnel in Henry County.

The agent has assisted several farmers in securing loans from banks, the Farmers' Home Administration, and the Production Credit Association.

The agent assisted one farmer to do the following:

- (1) Secure \$3400.00 from a local bank to build and equip a milking parlor. To be retired at the rate of \$50.00 per month. Secured by first mortgage on 186 acre farm.
- (2) Secure \$1600.00 from another bank to buy 10 dairy cows. Two name paper renewable every 90 days.
- (3) Secure \$2000.00 from the Farmers' Home Administration to seed 28 acres of pasture and 6 acres of alfalfa. To be retired at the rate of \$35.00 per month. Secured by a chattel mortgage on 22 cows.

The farmer in question has been meeting his obligations on schedule. He had been selling B grade milk for years. The agent recommended that he either convert to grade A or sell out and get a job. He is being closely supervised by the county agent.

The agent assisted another farmer in securing a Production Credit loan to purchase 15 milk cows. The loan is secured by a chattel mortgage on 30 cows. This debt is being retired by quarterly payments.

VII. COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Cooperative relationship between the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service is on a very high plane. The local technicians have been very helpful to the agent in getting constructive farm planning and land use done in the county. This cooperation carries through to the Blue Ridge Soil Conservation District, and any suggestions made by the agent are certainly well received by Soil Conservation Service men. The agent assisted the local technician in getting complete farm plans on a number of farms in the county during the year.

Changes have been brought about in the Soil Conservation organization whereby assistance can be given to farmers without making complete farm plans. This change has brought about greater service to the farmers and it enables the county agent to do better work. The cooperation between the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation technician in this county is excellent.

VII. TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The general trend in Henry County's agriculture seems to be a gradual shifting from tobacco growing to livestock farming. Some factors which may have a bearing on this gradual change are:

- (1) Shortage of farm labor due to the high wages received in local industries.
- (2) The adaptability of Henry County soils to growing pasture and hay crops.
- (3) Increased local demand for meat and dairy products.

This area is becoming more and more industrialized as time passes and this condition will result in an increased number of part-time

farmers. Recent census figures show that the number of farmers in Henry County are decreasing and the size of the farms is increasing. This is borne out by the fact that in 1945 there were 2326 farms with an average size of 64.3 acres; in 1950 there were 1699 farms with an average size of 83 acres.

The census further shows that in 1945 there were 15 farms ranging in size from 500 to 1000 acres; in 1950 there were 25. In 1944 there were 362 acres of alfalfa in Henry County; in 1949 there were 1113 acres. In 1954 there is perhaps about 1500 acres of this important crop.

The introduction of modern machinery, plus the increase in size of farms, and the increased acreage of alfalfa, all fit in well with the growth of the beef cattle industry. For economic reasons all strictly beef cattle farms have to be large units in order that the operators may make a comfortable living. According to the census, small farms are continually being purchased and combined to make larger units. It seems that 85% of the farmers in Henry County are part-time farmers.

The farmers who make their living from the land include tobacco farmers and a few dairy farmers. More people are entering the dairy business, which is a good sign, for it is a very stable enterprise and provides steady employment for the entire family throughout the year.

SPECIALISTS HELP USED IN 1954

ADMINISTRATIVE

E. W. Carson

AGRONOMY

H. L. Danton

W. W. Lewis

E. M. Matthews

R. L. Shaw

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Donald R. Fessler

D. Upton Livermore

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

W. D. Kite

James L. Gammoun

C. D. Wheary

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Curtis Mast

George Patton

Hugh Henderson

DAIRY HUSBANDRY

Kerol Ruston

C. R. Pattison

D. C. Connors

ENTOMOLOGY

A. W. Lynn

FOREST PRODUCTS

W. A. America

FOOTWEAR

E. V. Seane

George Williams

சென்னைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

பெரிய கல்வி

சென்னை - தஞ்சை

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