

Junior Council:

Our 4-H Junior Council met on two occasions this year. The Junior Council, Junior 4-H leaders and other leaders planned a 4-H Day that was sponsored Saturday, July 16th.

Approximately two hundred 4-H members, leaders, parents and friends gathered on the Training School Campus and enjoyed a gala 4-H Club Day. The program got on the way around 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches, ice cream, drinks and hot dogs were sold in the work shop of the Vocational building.

The H-D group donated most of the commodities to be sold. Committees of leaders did the selling. Groups were supervised in recreation and singing.

The \$22.00 cleared from sales was used in supplementing the County Advisory Treasurer. The group exhibited fine spirit in getting acquainted. We sang, played, ate and had an afternoon of fun. 4-H members, leaders and parents became to know each other better.

Fair:

Southampton's 4-H'ers participated in fairs and shows. Two members won the Grand Champion Single and the Grand Champion Pen on the Junior Market Hog Show and Sale in Suffolk. Two other members won first and second prize with calves.

Vegetables:

The entire group of my boys are obligated to participate in the family's garden. They are to control insects and diseases. They are to make sure that both recommended seeds and fertilizer be used. Most of this information is found in their garden bulletin.

Feeder Pig:

I take groups of 4-H boys to hog shows and sales and to feeder pig sales. The feeder pigs are inspected at farms before they are accepted. Pigs must be healthy as well as U. S. I's. The feeder pig sale is at least once monthly. The sales average easily 500 pigs. It's a relatively new enterprise that is paying off. Boys are taught to guard their animals against sources of infection. They receive individual training in showmanship. The boys are also taught sanitation and nutrition.

Records:

Boys are required to keep progress records. To stimulate interest, they are reminded of requirements for county and state awards.

Pledges:

4-H members are reminded of their motto in doing jobs the best they know how. They are asked to comply with their pledges. They are asked to practice the golden rule. In keeping with features pointed out above, the hope is that these grow into good loyal citizens and outstanding leaders.

4-H Activities

Enrollment:

We have thirteen 4-H Clubs with an enrollment of 847 members. Four hundred six of this number are boys. The boys are conducting 505 projects in field crops, vegetable gardens, soil conservation, forestry, wildlife, swine, home ground beautification and Junior leadership. Project work provides avenues through which energy of the teenagers may be transformed into achievement.

Training:

The boys are trained to give demonstrations in culling and grading for quality products. There is at least one judging team in each club. We put into practice the idea of learning by doing. We use the exchange program method that is a judging team doing a demonstration at another club meeting. Our clubs meet monthly.

Demonstrations:

Club members reporting on the progress of their projects and giving demonstrations enable themselves to face an audience and at the same time give us clues to locating talents.

Programs:

Club members present short programs at their monthly meetings. They present county-wide national programs in their season as Rural Life Sunday and National 4-H Week. Our 4-H leaders are active in assisting with programs planning. A committee of leaders agree on participants for most of our county programs. Again is a time to locate talents.

Publicity:

With most of our county programs each 4-H family is sent a notice. This not only assures good attendance but allows for 4-H publicity. Bulletins, bulletin boards and news articles help in completing advertisement.

It is also enabling others to make decisions for themselves. Letters, News-articles, counseling and meetings are mediums for getting new recommendations into practice.

a wool market was established in Franklin this year at which 1200 pounds of South Southampton wool was sold. This will become an annual sale.

Breeding:

The time may soon come when the extreme seasonal price swing on lamb disappears. Scientists have already produced several lamb crops in the fall of the year. This was made possible by using an artificial hormone to induce heat periods in Ewes. The problem so far has been low conception rate. Farm shearing men and 4-H members have observed ~~shanking~~ and have been given materials to enable them to perform the task of shearing.

Poultry

Markets:

Our farmers provide a few eggs for sale as well as have chickens and eggs for table use. Tender green grazing and culled green leaves from vegetables stimulate potentials for laying. Unproductive chickens are used for table or sold to supplement family economy.

Progress

Farm & Home Development

Farm and Home Development activities as a unit approach is progressing. Original families are still providing stimulus to newer families. They are being counceled to use their resources to best advantages. In discussing ways and means, problems are identified. Changes and problems present opportunities.

Industries

New industries are being developed. These industries are furnishing employment to farmers who are retiring from farms. An increasing number of buses provide transportation to Planters Peanut industry in Suffolk, Naval Base in Norfolk and other industries.

Mass Media

Leadership is doing a wonderful job in aiding farmers to make adjustments.

Pasture:

Good pasture or good gleanings has much to do with pork economy. Other than hogging down corn peried, hogs help in salvaging corn pecker losses. Good gleanings are worth from \$5 to \$10 per acre. Hogs gain a pound a day grazing corn fields with the proper supplements. Care is taken not to allow hogs to hunt for the last bit of feed. They will walk off much of what they gained while picking was good. The lever grain prices are the more stressed on live-stock feeding.

Fairs:

Fairs and sales have definite and important places in Agriculture. Conditions at these places make it easier for diseases to get started. We encourage that sources of infection be guarded against. Dangers begin when animals are subjected to "stress factors" during travel, at which time they are more susceptible. Certain animals are considered as carriers. Farmers are asked to quarantine animals after they are returned from fairs. Hogs are excellent gleaners and are used to salvage much of the crops that are left in fields.

Cattle

Farmers of Southampton County are gradually increasing their cattle program. Yearling cattle help in salvaging stalks, vines and the like. Feeder cattle gains from 2 to 3 pounds a day on stalk and vines with protein supplement. Lemuel Warren of Ivor Community exhibited two Guernsey Milk Cows on the Tidewater Fair, winning first and second prizes. Two of his sons who are 4-H'ers, exhibited the two calves winning first and second prize.

Sheep

Just ten years ago the number of matured sheep in the county was around 230. It has now grown to 1700. To provide a convenient market for this wool,

It is sold through the hogs to which the corn is fed. Around a hundred thousand hogs will be sold from the county this year. The average weight will be around 200 pounds, and the average price per pound around 18¢. That will be \$3,600,000 to the county. Southampton County is the largest pork producing county in Virginia.

Breeds:

Hampshires, Yorkshires, Spotted Poland Chinas, Black Poland Chinas, and Durocs form the basic breeds raised in the area. Hog production supports several areas meat packers and add greatly to the economy. Among these are Gwaltney and Luter of Smithfield, Beale of Southampton, Harrell of Suffolk and National Swift and Company on Franklin-Courtland highway 58. In 1959, planned hog sales were started in Southampton County. Now the Courtland Tidewater Sales Barn conducts all hog sales in the entire area. Bred stock, feeder pigs and private sales are held at periodic intervals and attract buyers from all over Virginia and neighboring states.

Market Types:

We place stress on the fundamentals of growing good hogs. We emphasize the type of market hogs to produce, choosing gilts from the best available producing lines. Baby pigs are ear-tagged in order to know which gilts come from the top sows and boars. Farmers are advised to feed and manage for top returns learning the feeding value of various feeds.

Health:

Vaccination is the best way of insuring hogs against diseases. This should be done properly and on time. Premises where pigs are kept are clean and sanitary. The balanced ration keeps natural body defenses at a high level to resist infection. Sanitary measures and a balanced nutritious ration are basic to producing good hogs.

Landscaping

Diseases:

Urban and rural families are assisted with landscaping, rooting cuttings and transplanting shrubs around the homes. Trees, shrubs and other ornamentals present more and difficult problems in controlling fungus, diseases and insects.

Soil Conservation

Drainage:

The soil conservation service of the county this year installed thousands of feet of drainage, tile built thirty or more ponds and removed thousands of cubic yards of soil in continuing efforts toward soil improvements.

An area conservation office is operating in Franklin. This office provides technicians and soil scientist for all eastern Virginia. Over Southampton County during the past few years, the march of agriculture has been upward. Soil improvement, conservation, research and continuous innovations in production have driven crop yields up. Farmers efforts add immeasurably to the economy of the county and towns.

Industries

The Franklin area of this county has a liberal amount of mills, factories, and other industries. The surrounding forest and land is feeding Franklin's population, sustaining her industries and absorbing her products.

Cotton

Southampton out produces the surrounding counties in cotton, yet, calls cotton a minor due to the permanence of corn, peanuts and watermelons. We sometimes refer to Southampton County as a land of "pines, pigs and peanuts".

Hogs

Present Crop:

Southampton has gained national fame in the production of pork products. Southampton's gigantic corn crops which lead the state is not sold as corn.

produced at a low cost. They have been produced in corn over the years for after grazing. We now seed soybeans in rows to be harvested, for market. Harvest machines have been scarce. Harvest cost has made soybeans an expensive crop. Now that combines are increasing in numbers, soybeans are more profitable.

Marketing:

Southern States Store in Franklin has recently improved facilities for handling the product and are now buying. Oil from soybeans is now being used as an ingredient in chicken feed.

Grassland

A number of farmers have seeded their idle land to grass and have increased their livestock. Should the livestock market fall below a profit, the land can easily be converted again to crops.

Watermelons

Large acreage of land has been diverted to the production of watermelons, so much that very little profit was made this season. At last resorts, the last of the watermelons made good grazing for hogs.

Gardens

New Varieties:

Year-round vegetable gardens with a variety of useful and nutritious vegetables are becoming better established. Farmers are becoming deeply interested in growing winter Kale (broccoli) and other unadopted vegetables.

Preserving:

Deep freezers are well established and vegetables are stored for out of season use. Not only does this help with the food variety but fresh vegetables means so much for improving the health situation. I work with the people religiously in controlling insects and diseases.

good. Prices are also good. My farmers were asked to follow the latest recommendations: Holland Jumbo (runner) for light sandy land, Virginia Bunch (bunch) for dark heavy soil, Virginia 56-R (runner) for light or dark soil & Ga. 119-20 (bunch) for light or dark soil.

Seed Treating:

To prevent seed decay and to improve stands we emphasized treating our seeds with arason. We also recommended that fertilizer be applied to the previous crop in rotation or to cover crops. 0-10-20 or 0-9-27 or the equivalent in some other analysis be applied, the pH to be kept between 5.7 and 6.2. We asked that peanuts be cultivated so that little or no soil is thrown to the base of the plants or on the vine, which causes stem rot. Peanuts wilt can be controlled with the use of split applications of sulfur dust.

Good Grazing:

Peanuts left in the soil at harvest time provide profitable grazing for hogs. Rye grass seeded on peanut land at harvest time provides excellent cover crop as well as late winter and early spring grazing and may be turned under as a good soil conditioner. Peanut vines make an excellent feed and livestock like it.

Marketing:

Peanut markets and buying stations, are most convenient. Planter's peanut warehouses and buying stations are distributed over the county. Hancock peanut Company is stationed in the county. Peanut factory is located in Franklin. Government peanut warehouses are stationed over the county. With the convenient methods of harvesting peanuts here, they are conveyed directly from the fields to market.

Soybeans

Fits Our Program:

Soybeans fit into our program as traditional grazing for hogs. They are

Surplus land over and above allotted crops is seeded to milo, soybeans or grass for pasture.

Peanuts

Production:

Peanuts are big business in Southampton. Southampton produces more peanuts than any other county in the country. So far as total income is concerned, peanuts form the money crop of the county. We produce 34% of the peanuts grown in the state. Peanuts are planted on 30,800 acres in the county. Our yield per acre is around 1900 pounds. 1300 farms operators are engaged in raising this important crop.

Improve Machinery:

During the past few years, peanut harvesting machines are increasing. After the peanuts have been plowed up and dried the machine takes the vines from the ground, separate them and load the peanuts into trucks without the use of bags getting the peanuts to market in a shorter time with less labor.

Artificial Dryer:

Artificial peanut drying apparently is going to pay off. N. S. Boykins, a member of the Board of Supervisors, representing Ivor district owns and operates the first two-storied peanut dryer ever built in Virginia and possibly in the world. Mr. Boykins has been a peanut buyer for twenty years. He feels that this machine will be the solution to the farmers harvest problem. The machine dries 500,000 pounds in three days. Whereas four to six weeks is taken to dry them in shocks. Boykins market his peanuts in Suffolk, the world's largest peanut market, a distance of 22 miles. Peanuts are not the only crop dried by the plant. The plant dries beans, milo, corn and other grains.

Varieties and Yields:

Peanuts are considered an all purpose interprise and may be considered our outstanding cash crop. Yields are running short this year but the quality is

Recommended seeds might be the solution. We emphasized checking drills before seeding the bulk of the particular crop.

It was stressed that we not only use the proper analyzing and amounts of fertilizers but that it must be properly placed for best results. Though large amounts of phosphate and potash is used the lack of nitrogen may be a limiting factor. Experiments and experiences have shown that weed control is necessary for best crop production. Insect and disease control are also important. At times, small grain yield is not as good as desired because the variety used is not resistant to certain diseases.

Corn

One might try growing 100 bushels of corn on an acre of 50 bushels per acre land, a most unprofitable procedure. The soil might simply not have the potential ability to produce high yields of corn. A lack of moisture may be the limiting factor. Perhaps the land will do better in a grain crop more tolerant to dry weather than corn.

We have had a few consecutive dry summers. Southampton's corn crop did not do so well. Lack of moisture was the limiting factor. Though we find varieties more tolerant to dry weather, we supplemented corn with milo which was more tolerant, and requires less labor to produce. Milo's nutritional value almost equals that of corn. We have large acres of milo. The cost of production is low.

Corn Uncertainty:

Grain sorghum or milo perhaps would be a better crop fit in this situation. Of course climatic conditions are important factors effecting corn yields. This year in this area almost every farmer had a bountiful yield at times a variation of a few days in rain fall might mean success or failure.

Soil Bank:

In the past few years farmers have placed most of their corn land in the soil bank.

Extension Teaching:

Agricultural Extension work is a cooperative understanding between land grant colleges, the Department of Agriculture and with local people and their government. The purpose of extension teaching is to assist farm people enabling them to adopt recommended practices for greater income and better living. The basic approach is high production to keep the unit cost down and the farmers income up. Basic to all teaching, farmers are encouraged to do their farm jobs properly and on time.

Teaching Methods:

Having kept research findings before farmers with frequent meetings, counseling and interviews, they are learning to understand principles involved in making decisions. Farmers are also being trained to recognize opportunities.

Farm Trends:

The trend is toward larger and fewer farmers. Skilled farmers with good managerial abilities are encouraged to expand the size of their operations but not necessarily by increasing acreage.

Soil Test:

A record breaking number of soil samples were taken last fall and winter. This was for the purpose of seeding crops in soils best suited to them. Work was done with the farmers on other limitations. In getting crops in soils best suited, we also want the variety whose characteristics conforms to the particular type of soil as, a variety that withstands drought.

Field Limitations:

Farmers were advised against bad crop stand, a limiting factor on some farms. There simply may not be enough stalks to an acre to make the best yields.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

_____ **S. C. Mansfield**
_____ **Name**

_____ **Local Farm Agent** **Agent**
_____ **Title**

_____ **Assistant Agent**

_____ **Assistant Agent**

_____ **Assistant Agent**



1960

_____ **Southampton**
_____ **County**