ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1958

SOUTHAMPTON
County

COUNTY AGENTS'
ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
VIRGINIA

December 1, 1957 ---------- November 30, 1958

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I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Southampton County, Virginia, joins North Carolina on the south and southeast, Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties on the east and northeast, Surry on the north, Sussex on the northwest and Greensville on the west. It is in the upper Tidewater area and the elevation ranges from sea level to 300 feet.

Ninety-nine per cent of the soils in Southampton County are of a deep phase nature. Very few of our soils have clay near the surface. The other soils are of a deep phase and generally of a sandy loam. These soils leech badly. It is necessary that we add nitrogen and potash to get the best crop yields. We cannot use any great quantities of lime because of the soils being light and not having as much organic matter as might be desired. Our soils do respond to applications of fertilizer. The soils are of a light warm nature and immediately after fertilizer is applied to a crop, results can be observed. Our better types of soil are in a rotation that includes peanuts, corn and soybeans. A small acreage of cotton might be included in this rotation in some sections of the county; however, this is not a county-wide situation. The heavier type soils such as bladen and some others are generally planted to pasture or to corn and soybeans.

Sixty-one per cent of Southampton's land area is woodland. Good forestry is not practiced on all the woodland, but forest propagation is improving rapidly. Twenty-eight per cent of the land area is in cultivation. Approximately 30 per cent of the cultivated land is devoted to the production of peanuts, which is the county's leading money crop. Thirty-eight per cent is devoted to the production of corn, nearly all of which is fed to livestock; 5 per cent to the production of cotton, 10 per cent to pasture and the other 15 per cent to the production of soybeans, grain sorghum, watermelons, and garden crops for home use. The other 11 per cent of the total land area is devoted to highways, railroads, rivers and small streams.

Southampton is predominately rural, though only about 30 per cent of the total population is engaged in farming. The other 70 per cent is employed by forest products industries, peanut milling and other industries.

The size of our farms varies from a very small acreage up to 600 or 700 acres. The smaller farms are often worked by people engaged in other lines of employment.

II. GENERAL SITUATION

Farming conditions in 1957 were the worst that we have ever observed in the county. First, we had a severe drought on a county-wide basis which cut our corn production from a normal average yield of 50 bushels per acre to about 12 bushels per acre. Rains came after it was too late to help the corn, but peanuts grew satisfactorily and a very good crop was produced and dug. However, the last of October, just as the digging operation was completed, rainy weather came with severe results. Only a few farmers got their peanuts harvested before the wet weather damaged them to an extent that it was often impossible to dispose of them through the regular channels of trade. Several peanut dryers were installed and farmers picked their peanuts at every opportunity and sold them at a loss, due to high moisture content and weather damage. Severe freezes came and further damaged peanuts and the crop was not completely harvested until the 15th. of February, 1958.

Due to the severe drought during the summer of 1957, and in previous years, most of our pastures have been destroyed and feed crops so greatly reduced that we have disposed of many of our livestock. Consequently, our livestock numbers are not as great as they should be or normally would be. Hogs are our most important livestock crop, followed by beef cattle, dairying, and sheep, in order named.

Southampton County was declared an emergency county for credit purposes by the government. Credit is available to farmers who can prove dire need through the Farmer's Home Administration to a greater extent than has ever been the case before. For many farmers, credit to produce a crop in 1958 will be a problem. However, we do not anticipate anyone not being able to farm because of short credit.

Even though our livestock numbers have been decreased severely, a number of pig parlors have been built and we anticipate building up our herds to an approximate average number of animals provided weather conditions in 1958 are at all favorable.

For many years, Southampton County has taken full advantage of the various government farm programs under Agricultural Stabilization Act and Agricultural Conservation Program. The Soil Conservation Service has also come in for very hearty participation.

In 1957, many farmers took advantage of the soil bank program, particularly the acreage reserve feature of this program. In 1958, the same is true. From all indications, desired participation will be double what the funds available will permit. It has been anticipated that farmers of Southampton County would participate to the extent of about $140,000, excluding wheat participation. It has developed that several farmers participated in the wheat program and $150,000 was signed up the first week that participation was available to the farmers in corn alone.

We feel that the reason for this participation has been due to severe weather conditions for five years out of seven. We are sure that the monetary returns are not sufficiently greater than crop returns to justify the participation that we are experiencing. However, due to the money that comes in by little effort on the farmer's part, and due to the weather that we have had, farmers are very much interested in participating in this program that is offered by the soil bank.

To develop this plan of work, we called in leading farmers and business men on agronomy, livestock, and forestry. We explained the situation existing concerning these crops and explained what we had attempted to do in the past and the success obtained. After thorough discussion, problems were outlined, goals for the year were set and methods to be used in obtaining the goals were suggested.

Farm management in Southampton County has been greatly improved though most of our managerial problems have not been the lack of interest but due to severe weather that has destroyed pastures and other feed crops though normally all the farmers do not use proper analysis fertilizer. Some of them do not use a sufficient quantity of the fertilizer that they do use and it is often put down in the wrong manner. Pastures have not been reseeded to the extent that we would like, though with sufficient encouragement from educational agencies and good weather, many pastures will be reseeded and our livestock population increased in 1958. We need more cattle feeders and better sanitation of hogs. We need to continue our forestry efforts and advise farmers not to cut their timber too close when they are thinning for pulpwood production.

We need more underground drainage. Southampton County leads in the footage tile drainage in Virginia. However, we believe that we can profitably install an additional 7,500,000 feet of this type drainage.

The agricultural agencies in Southampton County work together as well as members in one family. ACP, Soil Conservation Service personnel and the Extension personnel confer regularly and each understands and knows what the other is doing and why they are doing it. We have meetings of the personnel in the various agencies, where we discuss our problems and each promotes the other's problem to an extent where we all feel we have one large program in the county and we feel that this is the right way to get greater results and extend a greater service to the farmers in the county.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. AGRONOMY

1. CORN

Problem: Some of the problems to overcome to reach our goals are:

1. Need for better and adequate fertilizer.
2. The number of plants per acre must be given more consideration.
3. We must improve our methods of cultivation and weed control.
4. Land adaptation must be considered and land more adapted to the production of corn planted.
5. Insect control must be practiced to a greater extent.
6. Rotation of crop and the use of cover crops should receive more consideration.

Goal: By 1960, we anticipate having a production of 62 bushels per acre and for 1958, 60 bushels per acre. For 1958, we expect to emphasize:

1. Adequate fertilizer; 1200 pounds high analysis fertilizer preceding peanuts and a total of 100 pounds of nitrogen. When preceding a crop other than peanuts, 800 pounds of high analysis fertilizer with a total of 100 pounds of nitrogen.
2. Proper cultivation.
3. 10,000 plants per acre of full season corn, 14,000 to 16,000 plants for early corn.
4. Weed control.
5. Discontinue planting soybeans in corn to be harvested for grain and especially where peanuts will be planted the following year.

Methods: To accomplish our 1958 goals, we anticipate stressing:

1. Getting more soil samples and getting them properly.
2. Proper number of plants per acre.
3. Insect control.
4. Conduct a tour in August.

Results: There were 5,476.2 acres of corn put in the acreage reserve soil bank program. Even with this reduction, Southampton produced more corn than in any year since 1951, when there was a much greater acreage. Fertilizer was plentiful and farmers used amounts more in keeping with our recommendations than previously. The rainfall was adequate, consequently, a crop much greater than our 1960 goal. It is not unusual to hear of 80 to 100 bushels yield.

Cultivating the crop has not been a problem. With the rainfall and proper fertilization, the crop grew rapidly. Little cultivation was needed.

The plants per acre were below the number recommended. The reason for this was the previous dry seasons. It was thought that with fewer plants, a short water supply would go further.

Weed control is moving foward. Thirty per cent of the corn crop was treated with 2,4D. In most instances satisfactory results were gotten. For this reason and because this practice is economical in labor saved, the use of chemicals to control weeds will progress. The selling of the program is over.

In an effort to accomplish our crop goals, we handled more soil samples than any other county. We wrote thirteen news items, made three radio talks, conducted a farmers meeting, with seventy-nine in attendance, with Dr. H. L. Dunton cooperating and wrote a letter to our mailing list to promote corn yields. In our letter, we proposed that corn be planted on some of the better soils on the farm. Listed the recommended hybrids and made a general fertilizer analysis and application recommendation.

2. PEANUTS

Problem: Southampton County is the largest peanut productive county in Virginia and in the United States. However, our yield per acre is not the highest in the state.

1. We are not, in every instance, using the best varieties for the particular soil.
2. We are not using proper crop rotation.
3. We do not always use the right analysis or the right amount of fertilizer.
4. We do not use cover crops to the extent we should.
5. Our insect control is not as effective as it should be.
6. Our disease control efforts should be improved upon.
7. Harvesting methods in some respects are the same they were many years ago.
8. Cultivating and weed control can be improved upon.
9. Spacing in both row width and in the drill often differs from that recommended by the experiment station.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 2,200 pounds per acre.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 2,000 pounds per acre.

Methods: To accomplish our 1958 goals, we will recommend the

1. Right analysis and right amount of fertilizer on soil sample reports.
2. The proper use of cover crops.
3. Proper insect control.
4. Proper disease control.
5. Proper spacing in both row and drill, 4 inches on 34 to 36 inch rows.
6. Send peanut letter to mailing list
7. Apply fertilizer and plaster at right time. Broadcast plaster in June.
8. Work with those requesting help in mechanical harvesting and artificial curing of peanuts.
9. Advise in stem rot control by breaking and cultivating.
10. Improve stacking methods.

Results: It is too early to say what our 1958 peanut yield is. This crop is hard to estimate but there are certain measurements which can be applied that will give a reasonable yield indication. The number of peanuts on sample hills and the stacks per acre are two of these. If these measures hold good, we have reached our production goal for 1960. The vine growth is greater than usual so these measurements may not hold good, though we think they will.

A large majority of the 1,100 soil samples handled this year were from fields to be planted in peanuts. For each of these, we suggested fertilizer, lime, and gypsum treatments according to the findings of

the tests. Such recommendations were made for a three year rotation from each sample.

Most of our suggestions were followed. Farmers rely on soil sample reports in Southampton County. This is proven by what the farmers say, because they come back year after year for more of the same, and by comparing our notes with statements of fertilizer and lime dealers.

Our farmers have been very efficient in controlling peanut diseases and insects. We suggest proper applications of aldrin or heptachlor to control corn root worms, thrips and other soil inhabiting insects. Our recommendations are for heavy soils or soils with much organic matter. Soybeans, we think, causes stem rot to be more devastating. Many farmers have discontinued planting soybeans in corn if peanuts are to be planted the following year. We have advocated this for six years. If the present trend continues, in ten years no beans will precede peanuts in the rotation.

Three years ago very little aldrin or heptachlor was used. This year 40 per cent of the peanuts were treated. By controlling thrip, the peanut plant will grow four times as fast during the thrip or pout season. For this reason nearly every farmer used one of the insecticides, though controlling thrip does not noticeably increase the yield of peanuts. By controlling corn root worm, a better quality peanut and more of them are harvested.

We did not have the invasion of foliage eating insects we usually have. We anticipated the invasion and had proper chemicals in escrow. Leaf hoppers were more prevalent than before, but these were very well controlled by using one pound of DDT per acre at the first or second application of sulfur.

There are two diseases, leaf spot and stem rot, which are very destructive. Everyone uses sulfur; 50 pounds applied by two applications, or 60 pounds at three applications, to control leaf spot. As bad as leaf spot is, we do not worry about it. We know that the producers know how to control leaf spot if they wish.

Stem rot is a problem. This, a fungus disease, has not been as prevalent as in previous years. On some fields, however, the crop was nearly destroyed.

We held six meetings, made three radio talks and wrote three news items on this problem. We advised breaking land deep, turn under all organic matter, use dinitro to control grass and weeds and cultivate shallow. Our advice was followed generally but on light soil fields, where the soil moved easily and on heavy soil where grass was hard to control, cultivating without covering the stems was impossible. In such fields stem rot disease is devastating.

We had no trouble getting peanuts planted thick. We suggested four inches on 34 to 36 inch rows. Many planted two to four inches. We think this is too many plants per acre on most soils.

We sent a letter to all peanut growers in the county, giving experiment station results as they apply to peanut production. It caused much interest and farmers came in to discuss how their own operations might be improved upon. These discussions gave us an opportunity to advise with the man across the table about a number of subjects. A friendly talk; concerning his neighbors, his family, peanuts, soybeans, corn, his new dog and where we could catch more fish. Always better seed and proper fertilization; we credit much of the improved management, such as getting fertilizer broadcast and plaster applied at the right time, to these talks.

In 1958, we introduced the new peanut variety, Va. 56-R. peanuts, in the county. This year we have 4,100 acres of this variety in production. It is an excellent yielder and the crop will grade much higher, due to the larger kernels and better hulls.

This is the fourth year we have conducted a variety test. This year we have thirty-four varieties. No results are available, but the test looks interesting. By doing this, we expect to find the variety of peanuts that is best suited to our soils. Much good has come from these test in previous years.

We sent a letter to our mailing list on cover crop production. We made two radio talks and wrote three news items. More cover crops have been planted to date than ever before. We believe our peanut land will also be covered as soon as this crop is harvested. We have determined that many have already purchased seed for this purpose.

3. SOYBEANS

Southampton County is fast becoming an important commercial soybean producing county.

Problem: The problems in the production of soybeans are that we do not often use:

1. The best variety, Lee.
2. The right analysis and right quantity of fertilizer.
3. Our insect control methods are not reliable.
4. Our seeding rate per acre and spacing are not according to experiment station recommendations.
5. We do not plant the majority of our crops at the right time.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 35 bushels per acre.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 25 bushels per acre.

Methods:

1. We shall recommend and arrange for seedsmen to have available the proper varieties of soybeans or the variety recommended, by the experiment station in this area.
2. We will recommend proper fertilizer, using the right quantity.
3. We will endeavor to get soybeans planted earlier than has been practiced in the past.

To put these methods into effect, we will use meetings, news articles and personal contacts, particularly with seed and fertilizer dealers.

Results: For many years we only interplanted corn with soybeans. These were for grazing hogs and to improve the nitrogen and organic content of the soil. This is not so any more. Much of our corn is planted minus soybeans. Soybeans have moved over to one side and demands the respect of a crop. On many farms small grain has replaced, often as much as one-half, the corn acreage and is followed with soybeans or milo. Soybean acreage is four times what it was in 1954, and increasing annually. This crop may be considered of major importance financially. It is harvested and sold for crushing for it's oil and meal. We find soybean meal is grand for a protein supplement for hogs and can be used up to seventy-five per cent of this type feed.

Our production goal for 1958, we are sure will be made. The 1960 goal would have been accomplished except for the fact a majority of this crop follows small grain and the second crop of the season.

Ninety per cent of our acreage is of the Lee variety. We have recommended this variety because it does not pop out of the hull on

maturity. Much of the 1957 crop was harvested in January and February of 1958, because of bad weather when the crop should have been harvested. Very few of the beans were lost.

This situation convinced farmers they should plant the Lee bean. The problem of the right variety was easily taken care of.

Our soil sample reports indicated that we should use 500 pounds of 2-12-12 fertilizer. In addition to making the proper recommendations, on soil sample reports, we wrote two news items for two papers and made one radio broadcast, making 500 pounds of 2-12-12 a general guide. Our suggestions were followed on seven out of ten farms.

Insects did not do too much damage this year. We wrote news items, made radio talks and many personal calls in an effort to head off any insect damage. We know that where invasions started, our recommendations were followed and the ravages reduced or stopped entirely. Seed was plentiful and spacing in both row width and drill was in keeping with our advice.

The crop is not planted at the right time for best yields. The crop should be planted two to three weeks earlier, but because soybeans is a second crop, this is not feasible.

We introduced the Hood bean in the county for the first time. Seventy acres of this variety was planted. It looks good. The stems are not too woody, it has good foliage, grows to the proper height and fruits to the top of the plant. This makes it ideal for combine harvesting. Before advising farmers to use this variety instead of Lee, we must see how it resists winter weather and lends itself to late harvesting. We think yields of the Hood will be in keeping with the Lee bean, but the quantity saved is what counts.

4. COTTON

Problem: Some of our problems in cotton production are unique; possibly the greatest problem is the small acreage allotment. However, we do not always:

1. Use the right amount of properly balanced fertilizer.
2. Often we do not space the plants properly.
3. Our insect control methods are not as efficient as they should be.
4. Our harvesting and selling methods are unusual and not in accordance with the better practices. The crop is generally sold "in the seed" and not ginned as it should be.

Goal:

1. One bale per acre in 1960. For 1958, our goal is one bale per acre.
2. 600 pounds of a high analysis fertilizer plus 200 pounds of a 14-0-14 or its equivalent side-dresser.
3. Endeavor to control boll weevils by dusting or spraying with recommended insecticides, toxaphene or aldrin-DDT.
4. Plants should be left 4 inches in row.

Methods: To accomplish these goals, we will use our usual publicity channels, soil sampling, proper fertilizer recommendations and work with supply dealers such as fertilizer and seed men.

Results: Cotton is becoming less important as a crop in Southampton County. Only a few years ago, it was one of the primary money crops. Today, the acreage is reduced well below 40 per cent of what it was 25 years ago and much of the cotton allotted to Southampton County in 1958 has been put in the soil bank acreage reserve program.

Our activity in the cotton program in Southampton County, has been to maintain a one-variety crop. We plant about 99 per cent of our crop in Coker's 100 wilt resistant, and we have had a very satisfactory yield and disease-free crop from this variety. We worked with the Southampton County, Virginia Cotton Producers Association in making it possible for producers to have their cotton graded, classed, and stored. Quite a large number of farmers have taken advantage of this opportunity to know what the cotton is worth before it is sold and have profited thereby.

Another field of activity has been in fertilization. A large number of soil samples were brought in for analysis and we made recommendations according to the findings of these tests. Generally speaking, our fertilizer recommendations, depending on the organic matter in the soil, were either 600 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer with 30 to 40 pounds of nitrogen and potash applied as a side-dresser, when the

cotton is thinned, or a 3-9-18 fertilizer with a similar side-dressing application when the cotton is thinned. The different amounts of nitrogen applied would depend upon the organic matter in the soil, the type of soil, the owner of the land or the management the land would receive and had received in the past.

We kept informed about boll weevil infestation. For some unknown reason, we have had less boll weevil this year than in any prior ten or twelve years. We found a very small infestation in some fields. In some, no infestation. We would make counts at regular intervals where we thought boll weevil would be found, and to our surprise, very few weevils existed.

Prior to planting the crop, we had written a letter to our cotton producers, advising them that if they were going to plant cotton, they should by all means arrange to control insects, but very few people needed to dust. We had available for them, sufficient insecticides so that they could have dusted to any extent they needed.

We have found, we think, because of the additional quantities of potash being used, that rust is no longer a problem in Southampton County. We have seen some rust but in every instance it was on fields where we had not made a fertilizer recommendation. We can control rust in Southampton County with sufficient potash.

Red spidar and boll worms were not in great quantities this year. We have had some, but they were controlled with a minimum of effort.

One phase of cotton production has not taken so well in Southampton County. We are recommending that cotton be spaced 4 inches on 4 foot rows, or 6 inches on 3 foot rows. Most farmers, regardless of the row width, spaced their cotton from 6 to 8 inches and in some instances, 10 inches. The yield of cotton, however, has increased and we cannot criticise the producers too much, because it is the yield that they are interested in and if they have found a way to produce a good crop of cotton, we cannot criticize them for not changing their practices.

5. PASTURE

Problem: Southampton County needs more pastures. Our livestock is increasing when available feed justifies and for this trend to continue, we must overcome the following problems:

1. Overgrazing and proper clipping.
2. We do not always use the right amount of the proper analysis fertilizer and do not make the applications of fertilizer at the right time.
3. The seed mixture is often not the mixture suited to the land where it is used.
4. Insect control is not properly practiced.
5. Time of seeding should be in the early autumn, preferably to spring.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is an adequate amount of pasture for the livestock on hand.
2. Our goal for 1958 is also an adequate amount of pasture for the livestock on hand.

Methods: Our methods to accomplish the above goals will be primarily personal contacts, newspaper publicity and meetings. We shall attempt to overcome the poor management practices, such as overgrazing and not clipping and recommend proper fertilizer. This can very well be done through soil sample reports and fertilizer dealers.

Results: Due to ample rainfall and fertilizer, our pastures have not been overgrazed as in previous years. Pasture crops have grown luxuriantly and cattle, hogs, and sheep have been better fed than in many years. Fertilizer of the right analysis was used. This, we think, helped control weeds as did the mowing machine. This fertilizer was applied in late February and early March. We have also gotten some farmers to make an application in August. These fields are providing later grazing and we expect earlier spring grazing. We will get 300 days grazing with a mild winter.

In addition to our Ladino grass mixtures, we got seventy-five acres of Coastal Bermuda grass planted. For cattle and sheep we believe this is our best pasture. When properly fertilized, it will provide more feed under adverse conditions than any other. It can be grazed or harvested for hay. It is easily cured and being fine stemmed, animals eat all of it.

Coastal Bermuda is drought resistant, comes back fast after grazing or mowing, and is palitable and nurishing. It carries a very high protein content.

To interest farmers in this crop, we conducted one meeting. Farmers attended and heard E. Y. Floyd, of the Virginia-Carolina Plant Food Institute, tell of it's virtures. We published three news items and made one radio talk in our promotion campaign.

6. OTHER CROPS

a. Milo

Milo or Grain Sorghum, like soybeans, follows small grain that has replaced corn.

In 1957 some of the milo hybrids produced Johnson grass-like plants. Some of these plant stocks were propogated by the State Department of Agriculture and continued to grow. We know we came near having an infection by this pest, but by constant work we think all these plants have been destroyed. For this reason we did not promote planting Milo this year, though the acreage of 1957 has been matched and much of the crop is open pollinated. We have not seen one hill of the Johnson grass-like plants in the crop this year, therefore, we expect this crop to become more important than the 4,000 acres of this year may indicate.

Birds, corn ear and similiar worms are severe on this crop.

In cooperation with the Tidewater Research Station we planted a hybrid variety test. On September 18th., we took 47 farmers on a tour and they were very interested in the characteristics of the various varieties. Many of them selected a variety they wish to plant in 1959. Next year will see a greater acreage planted. We have 13 varieties in our test.

b. Watermelons

Watermelons, in Southampton County, have been produced on a small acreage for many years. In 1956 and prior years 400 to 600 acres have been planted and sold with varying degrees of success. In 1956, watermelons sold exceptionally well. Anyone with quality melons could sell them and make a very good profit on their operation. In 1957, watermelons were cheap; selling for a small price, but there was a big crop and all of them sold. Any melon weighing 12 pounds and up could be sold and the price was in accordance with the weight of the melon. Every grower made money. The 1957 acreage had increased to 900 acres. Another area had come into the production of melons and they had added 400 acres to the total acreage for the county.

In 1958, we assisted farmers to get seed in quantity. We were surprised at the seed purchased. We made fertilizer recommendations, and talked with farmers about forming an organization in an effort to sell watermelons cooperatively. However, they did not encourage pursuing this idea, so we did not attempt to form an organization, but when the melons were planted, we determined that there were 2,400 to 2,600 acres planted. This, we understand, exceeds the acreage in any other watermelon producing county in the state, and as was the case in 1957, watermelons were not high-priced, but any melon would sell.

With several farmers producing melons in every community, the acreage increased more than was expected. Newsoms community was referred to locally as the "watermelon capitol." Approximately 1,500 acres of watermelons were grown in that immediate area and were shipped to Canada, Mexico, and I understand, to some South American countries. They went away in freight carloads and trucks in great numbers.

The variety of watermelons has changed from Congo to the Charleston Gray to a very great extent. Some people are still producing Congo and they sell exceptionally well on some markets. However, most of the melons now produced are Charleston Gray and are accepted on a majority of the markets. Charleston Gray seems to ship better. They have less inside hollow and are accepted by the trade in preference to Congo, generally.

c. Small Grain

The acreage of small grain in Southampton County is increasing in porportion to that of soybeans and for the same reason.

Corn being taken out of production, small grain has been planted in the early autumn for harvest the following spring, then followed with soybeans or milo. This is true of all of our small grains: rye, oats, barley and particularly wheat. We think these increases are justifiable and that these crops can very economically be used in production of swine, as well as other types of livestock.

Rye has increased the least of any small grain in the county, even though there are some farmers who are harvesting rye for sale, quite a large number harvest rye to plant the following autumn as a winter crop on their own farms. The yield of rye is not outstanding; around 24 bushels is the average yield of rye. We believe this yield can be increased so that rye will possibly become a crop to be grown for sale in the near future, however, for the time being, rye is not grown commercially to any great extent.

The acreage of oats and the yield has increased many fold in the last few years. Acreage is three times what it was five years ago and the yield, while not increasing to any great extent, has held it's own even on land less suited to oats than that planted prior to five years back. The yield of oats runs from 60 to 80 bushels generally, and the crop is ground and prepared to breeding swine and to cattle on the full feed.

Barley is harvested and cracked for cattle and swine, though much barley is left in the field to be hoged-off by the swine or other animals. Generally where this practice is carried on, Lespedeza is seeded in the barley in February or March. By the time the barley is harvested, it has gained a good growth, and provides a very outstanding pasture for swine, beef cattle and sheep.

Even though there is acreage control on wheat, this crop has increased more than any other of the small grain crops planted in Southampton County. Nearly as many people plant wheat as all the other small grain crops put to gether. We find that wheat is not the best grain for livestock, though good yields are obtained and farmers believe that wheat has a future in the county. If acreage controls are removed, we anticipate seeing quite a large acreage on many farms. Until that time 15 acres or the quota for the farm, whichever is greater, will be maintained.

We think that small grain has a place in our farming program in Southampton County. We think that the crop of small grains will continue to grow. It is generally agreed that we have enough moisture to make a grain crop in the winter time, but often this is not true in the summer. Consequently, farmers are discontinuing or curtailing corn acreage and putting in small grain to be followed with soybeans or milo; two crops on the same acreage for about the cost of corn.

B. LIVESTOCK

Southampton County needs more livestock than we have ever produced. This is particularly true of beef cattle and sheep.

Our cattle numbers were increasing satisfactorily until five years ago when extremely dry weather set in. This dry condition has continued each year and livestock numbers have continued to decline. We will reverse this trend, however, when feed, pasture, and grain are available.

1. SWINE

Problem: In Southampton County, the number of swine is generally considered ample, both for 1958 and for 1960.

Our problem in this crop is that:

1. The number of pigs saved per litter is too small.
2. Parasite infestation is severe.
3. Diseases are prevalent.
4. We do not have a planned breeding program.
5. Proper selection of breeding stock is not properly practiced.
6. Need to sell some swine as feeder pigs.

Goals:

1. Improve farrowing facilities and save more pigs per litter.
2. Practice better sanitation.
3. Practice better disease control.
4. Breed so that hogs will be marketed at a desirable period.
5. Select better quality breeding stock.
6. Work toward organizing a feeder pig sale.

Methods: To save more pigs per litter, we will promote constructing pens for farrowing purposes. These pens will be equipped with guard rails and ultra-violet lamps. We will attempt to get farmers to give more attention to sows when farrowing and the pigs immediately after farrowing.

We will recommend that sanitation be accomplished through rotational grazing, cleanse sows and pens before farrowing and change feeding places.

We will recommend that farmers have their herds treated against diseases. We will demonstrate to the farmers how this is done and recommend the better materials for this purpose.

So that we can market hogs when the price is better, it will be necessary to breed at the proper time and feed properly so as to market the hogs when planned.

In selecting better breeding stock, we will look for the long deep-bodied animals.

We will work with Agricultural Committee of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and agents from all adjoining Virginia counties in an effort to sell 6,000 to 8,000 feeder pigs per year from the area.

To accomplish the above, we will contact farmers through demonstrations, hog sales, news articles and letters.

Results: To save more pigs per litter, we have written a letter to our mailing list and letters answering inquiries from individual farmers. We have written five news articles on this subject and made three radio talks. On February 27th., we held a meeting where 79 farmers heard Roie Godsey, Extension Swine Specialist, outline proper swine management. In this talk, with the aid of Lantern slides, Mr. Godsey stressed the advantages of farrowing houses and sanitation.

We have several excellent farrowing houses in the county and have taken several farmers individually to see some of them. On one occasion, we took two car loads of farmers to see houses and on September 18th., we conducted a hog house tour. On this tour, we had 47 interested people. We visited four of the better farrowing houses in the county and two feeding pens. Godsey made this tour with us and led the discussions. He pointed out the good and bad features of each house and much interest was indicated by the farmers present. Sixteen farrowing houses have been built or are in the process of construction in the county.

One farrowing house in the county, owned by J.F.Simmons and Brothers of Sebrell, is so outstanding that we have had Dan Kite, Extension Agricultural Engineer, make blue prints of it. This house has already been duplicated three times in the county, and many farmers from other counties have viewed it with an idea of using it as a guide. We anticipate many more people will use this house as a guide in their own construction.

In an effort to improve swine sanitation, we are following Mr. Godsey's suggestion of February 27. We encourage pasture rotation, changing feeding locations and better management generally. We advise keeping pigs in concrete floored farrowing houses from five to ten weeks, then transfer to a feeding pen. We often find it advisable to run animals on pasture, but insist that feeding be done on concrete, which is cleaned at least every two days. The quality and thriftiness of our swine is improving rapidly. After pigs reach 80 to 100 pounds, we urge they be kept on concrete for finishing.

Our disease control program was not followed and probable 4,000 animals died of cholera or similiar diseases. It was the most violent outbreak we have ever observed. Many hogs, which had been treated by competent veterinarians and farmers, died.

Due to the price situation and the continuous demand for feeder pigs, we did not pursue our breeding for better prices goal.

We have assisted with nine purebred swine sales, four in Southampton and five in adjoining counties. Our purpose in this is to get better stock on our farms. As a result, we know of 342 purebred animals being placed in the county. Some of these animals were sold direct from the breeder through a contact made at a sale, or on our recommendations.

Southampton farmers are fortunate in that we have the best bred animals in the state. We have eleven purebred breeders who breed almost entirely for breeding stock. Two of these herds, one Duroc and one Hampshire, have two of the three certified boars in Virginia. The other herds are headed by high quality meat-type boars. We are largely responsible for good boars and sows going into our herds. We have also assisted farmers from other counties to get top quality animals from our local breeders.

In August of 1957 we made a survey, a report of which is in our last year's report, to determine if we could afford a feeder pig sale. We decided we could. After discussing this with our Livestock Committee, we decided to make the effort area-wide, Southampton and adjoining Virginia Counties, rather than Southampton alone. We discussed the idea with the county agents in the adjoining counties and found active interest.

After having an understanding regarding goals; number of pigs in a sale and cost of facilities; we discussed the project with the Southampton County Board of Supervisors. This board leased us land, at no cost for 25 years, on which to build and gave us $1,000.00 to begin construction. A farmer's meeting was conducted in each of the adjoining counties and two meetings in Southampton. We told those present of our survey, the interested indicated by the Southampton Supervisors and business people of the county, and asked if they were interested financially. They were. To represent the business people in this effort, the Franklin Chamber of Commerce arranged for Clifford A. Cutchins, III, to assist us. He attended all the meetings referred to except one in Surry County and one in Sussex County.

We requested and received the very efficient cooperation of Mr. Shirley H. Carter, Associate Agricultural Economist, in writing our by-laws and incorporating a stock company, the "Tidewater Livestock Sales Co., Inc., with permitted capitol stock of $50,000.00. A maximum of seventeen directors is permitted and the corporation is authorized to do business of nearly any legal nature.

Mr. Carter's assistance was ample. He helped to expedite the movement and saved us several hundreds of dollars. He met with the subscribers of stock in Courtland on June 6, 1958, where the formal

organization was perfected. Ten directors and officers were elected. Committees were appointed.

A building committee has rearranged and added to an old 4-H livestock building, new pens and other facilities, making, we think, the most modern and efficient building of its kind in Virginia. We can pen and sell 2,000 feeder pigs per sale.

Our screening committee secured 510 pigs for our first sale held October 22nd. Four hundred of these pigs were consigned from Southampton County. The pigs from 30 to 60 pounds sold for an average of $17.34 per head and those over 60 pounds sold for $29.97 per hundred weight.

Feeder pig sales in 1959 will be conducted in January, April, July, and October. We also expect to have seven sales of breeding stock, lamb sales, 4-H and FFA shows and sales in this pavilion. We think our planning and hard work will result in excellent financial returns to our swine breeders and provide feeder pigs of the highest quality to feeders in Virginia and adjoining states. The building will be a community asset, making possible many activities that before now could not be realized.

2. BEEF CATTLE

Problem: Southampton County has wonderful grazing opportunities. We can graze beef animals eleven months per year. We have cover crops for winter grazing and can have some grazing even during the dry summer months.

Only a few farmers have beef animals. We believe that every farm of twenty acres or more should have from two animals upwards. We feel that steers are our best crop, rather than a cow herd. We think that our farms are too small to support an economical breeding interprise.

We also have in our problem inadequate markets, insufficient fences on the farm. We do not know nor do we practice to the extent of our knowledge, proper feeding. Parasite control must also be given consideration.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 5,000 steers.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 3,600 steers.

Methods: To accomplish the above goal, we must convince farmers that they have an opportunity to produce a few animals at little cost. We must encourage additional pasture, some additional winter cover. We think our feeding problem will be overcome with ample rain to produce pasture and grain.

Our markets will increase with the number of cattle, fencing can be constructed almost for the cost of the materials. We will conduct tours and demonstrate fence construction, proper feeding and parasite control.

Results: We have not tried to increase the number of beef cattle in the county. We have tried to get more feed produced for a cattle increase in the future. From what we can determine, feeder cattle members will be greater next year. We advise feeders to get their feed first. We did not have barn feed or pastures this year.

We attempted to organize a Beef Cattle Improvement Association, though only two herd owners came in. We expect others to become cooperators in 1959, and succeeding years.

We assisted with the Petersburg Feeder Calf Sale where 750 animals were graded and sold.

3. SHEEP

Problem: We need more sheep in Southampton, even though the flock has doubled many times in the last five or six years. We can continue to increase the number and size of flocks, profitably. The problems affecting most flock owners are parasites, dogs, shearing and marketing. See that lambs are properly docked or male lambs castrated.

Goals: Our goals in this livestock project will be:

1. To control parasites.
2. Lessen dog depredations.
3. Get someone to do custom shearing.
4. Proper marketing, of both lambs and wool.

Methods: We propose to conduct demonstrations on parasite control, and inform flock owners the advantage of worming their sheep at least twice a year and keeping phenathyzine salt before them constantly.

To overcome our dog hazard, we know of nothing to do other than to advise farmers concerning the right in protecting their sheep with guns.

We anticipate having custom shearing done and promote with county agents in this area and VPI specialists a sufficient number of lamb pools to dispose of the lambs at a reasonable price. We will also conduct a wool pool.

We will hold one castrating and docking demonstration and assist and advise others when necessary.

Results: In an effort to produce better lambs, we conducted three demonstrations. George Allen, Extension Sheep Specialist, cooperated in each. One was to show proper docking and castrating procedures. We also discussed treating for worms and foot care at this meeting. Twenty-nine people attended and actually participated in the exercises. One told us he learned more about sheep in that two hours than he had learned in two years as a flock owner.

The other two, conducted on July 14th., we demonstrated and told how and why to cull a flock. Again information on worm treatments, foot care, and better management was given the forty-two flock owners attending.

We cooperated with other agents in the area in conducting three lamb sales. We hope that in the future these sales can be held at our new livestock sales barn on days designated for only lambs. This year we had to have our sales at a livestock market on a regular sales date. We had several hundred lambs at each sale and more confusion than lambs.

We brought in men to custom shear our flocks who did a very satisfactory job. We arranged their schedule and notified the flock owner the day before his flock would be sheared. We then visited the flock owner about one hour before shearing to expedite the work. Our efforts enabled the shearers to shear from 80 to 120 sheep daily, often in six to eight flocks.

Our most gratifying activity regarding sheep was in the disposal of the wool. Prior to 1958 our wool sales were inconvenient and disagreeable. Much confusion developed in assigning payments to the cooperative. This year, in cooperation with the Nansemond County Producers, about three-fourths of our wool was sold in the North Carolina pool. The wool was graded and paid for the day it was delivered. The peanut Growers Cooperative of Franklin received the check and three days later each producer had his check. Eighty per cent was clear wool and grossed $47.41 per hundred pounds. Every producer, with the exception of one, was well pleased with the price and method of handling.

We have been instrumental in placing seven new flocks in the county. One of these herds has ten sheep, another sixty-one, and the seven flocks will average thirty-two animals. Five other herds have been increased in number and nine new purebred rams have been placed. We now have fifty-one flocks in the county with 1,400 to 1,500 mature sheep.

4. DAIRYING

On December 3rd. and 4th, 1957, we cooperated with other agents and the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce to conduct a dairy school. Leading men in their respective fields were secured for speakers and much information was given. The principal subjects discussed were feeding, milk testing, legislation, and how to get more milk consumed. Each participating agent presiding one-half day.

We employed a new DHIA tester. He was slow getting started but with patience and constant work, he will be a credit to the work. He inherited records that were in arrears. When this work can be brought up to date, we believe his work will be satisfactory. The actual testing that he is doing is commendable and he is well liked by the herd owners.

C. FORESTRY

Problem: More than one-half of our total acreage is woodland. We are producing about one-third capacity, which is around 200 board feet per acre annually. Forestry is a long-time program and the conversion rate is low of changing a scrubby hardwood condition to fast growing pines. Almost every farm has a surplus of farm labor during the winter months. There are many practices which could be carried out economically if farmers were willing to improve their wood lot. There is a good opportunity for a good educational program to teach the farmers the know-how in solving their forestry problems. Some important forestry needs are as follows:

1. Many farmers have large acreages of woodland and opportunities to promote a sound forestry program. The main problem is to create enough interest with the farmer in our educational program so that he will apply a recommended practice to his wood lot. A scrubby hardwood condition exists on many acres of our land and conversion to pine is a long and costly process.
2. Conversion of scrubby non-merchantable hardwoods to fast growing pines.
3. To create interest among youth groups such as FFA, 4-H and Boy Scouts.
4. Teaching basic forestry management practices to farmers in general.

Goal:

1. To create interest enough to give the farmer an incentive to produce good quality timber.
2. Deadening of non-merchantable hardwoods if reproduction is present or planting is to be done. Disking areas before harvesting the timber. Disking to expose mineral soil and destroy scrubby hardwood brush.
3. Contact all 4-H boys and other youth groups in county and set up one acre plots of forestry management.
4. Convince the farmer that forestry is good business, that economical use of farm labor is profitable in applying forestry management practices.

Methods:

1. Technical advice will be given by Extension Service, Virginia Division of Forestry and commercial foresters.
2. Killing demonstrations with 2,4,5-T and ammate on 12" and under and some species over 12."
3. Send out letters to all members of 4-H and other groups offering them assistance, free seedlings and poison to carry out their project. Demonstrations showing how to plant and poison.
4. Contact the local wood-using industry for free seedlings and ammate for educational program.
5. Encourage the farmers to sign up for ACP practices and request timber land examinations from the Division of Forestry.
6. Local tours will be conducted in communities to note the results of different practices.

7. Arrangements will be made with the president of civic organizations in different communities to conduct a forestry program.
8. Encourage farmers to take advantage of conservation reserve acreage of planting trees under contract if cropland should be taken out of cultivation.
9. Hold a meeting with the forest committee to plan a program for the county and report to them on accomplishments.
10. Conduct a contest with youth or adults to award prizes at a banquet.

OR

Have some form of recognition for individuals that have shown enough interest to carry out practices. This will be done by providing a banquet furnished by a local wood-using industry with a speaker on forestry.

Results: Our forestry accomplishments have been curtailed this year because we have not been permitted to work with the county ACP office as we did in prior years. The work in relation to this office was turned completely over to the State Forestry Division, consequently we have not made the progress that we had hoped to. We have, however, done a full-time job in attempting to accomplish our goal. We did this primarily by personal contacts. We also used letters, news articles, and the local radio station to a good advantage. A meeting was held with the County Forestry Committee, where we discussed problems, and methods of solving them for the landowners of the county.

We worked with forty farmers in an effort to instruct them the best methods of harvesting their timber. We were not successful in getting all of these farmers to follow our recommendations, but a good number of them did, where forest thinning and marketing was concerned. This type of work was started in 1957. We have in mind one large timber holding where they continue to sell approximately $350.00 to $450.00 worth of pulpwood per week. This is the Southampton State Farm where the pulpwood is harvested by prison labor and sold to a local paper manufactoring concern.

We gave four demonstrations on marking timber. This was in effect, showing farmers how to thin their timber stands to encourage growth, and to eliminate non-merchantable hardwoods.

We have contacted ten Euritan Clubs in the county and presented them with a program where we could work with the youth of each community. They accepted our recommendations and are sponsoring the program with much success. The younger people are requested to take not less than one acre of their father's land or of a neighbor's land and carry out practices that will encourage the proper growth of merchantable timber most plentiful on each site.

In addition to the Euritan Clubs, we have twenty 4-H club boys who have completed a similar program on their father's land. In each of these we have helped the boys to thin, plant, and encourage the growth of the

merchantable timber and to kill or cut out the trees which are non-merchantable and are in the way of proper growth of the better products. At the end of the year when the twenty boys were graded according to the success of their programs, we had a social hour for these boys and their fathers. On this occasion we provided, through the generosity of the Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp., a barbecue dinner and gave prizes to those who had done sufficient work to justify such consideration.

We have had the pleasure of working with the Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp. This organization gave us 900 pounds of ammate and 10,000 pine seedlings to be distributed among our boys and some of the farmers. Twenty people received some ammate and/or some of the seedlings. The Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp. is cooperative throughout the community. They work with all agencies or individuals who are trying to do a good job in forestry. To assist in this part of the program, we, through the sponsorship of Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp., conducted twelve radio programs where we discussed forestry management, including thinning, harvesting, marking and planting. In planting, we discussed the better methods of planting or seeding. Some of these acres were scarafied so that natural reseeding would be effective. On others, we recommended planting of pine seedlings on cut-over or eroded land.

We have worked with the farmers in the county in every reasonable way toward getting forestry promotion accomplished. We have been instrumental in getting approximately 50 timberland examinations made by the Division of Forestry. We were not given a copy of the timberland report, though we have reason to think that some of the individuals requesting this service will carry out the recommendations and have offered our services in helping them to this end.

We held three meetings on forestry, stressing proper management where sixty-five people attended. This was late in the year so we expect to follow this up and hope to accomplish much in our 1959 program.

We attended a meeting conducted by the Virginia Forestry, Inc. At this meeting we had a dinner furnished by a local paper manufacturing concern and discussed the promotion of "Keep Virginia Green" program. It was decided to continue to promote this effort as in the past, and to work with individual farmers more than to mail out certain literature that is provided by the Virginia Forestry, Inc. We have not 'black-listed' this literature, but we believe that a personal contact would be much more profitable and would obtain more results than to mail printed letters out to farmers generally.

The Virginia Extension Forestors have cooperated in sending out teaching material and offering their services in whatever way we saw fit to use them. We have accepted their cooperation and feel that we have profited by their recommendations. We hope that we can continue to carry out suggestions made by the Extension Forestors and continue to improve the forest situation that exists in Southampton County.

One of the most profitable efforts we have made this year was to teach a course to 85 senior 4-H club boys and girls at Camp Farrar. This program was presented to these boys and girls at the conservation camp. We gave instructions on proper seeding, both natural and by planting seedlings. We discussed the advantages of thinning where the timber should be thinned and taking out trees that were of no value. We also discussed precautions to take in the case of snake or insect bites. We discussed measuring and proper tree growth and under what conditions proper tree growth was best accomplished.

In all of our discussions with farmers, we discussed the advisability of working with the ASC program. We think that we are justified in this because the farmer will receive some remuneration for his work and would very likely be encouraged to do a better job in his various activities because of the restrictions laid down by this organization.

D. COOPERATING WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

We have had a very friendly relationship with other agencies. Most of our work has been with state and county agencies, though we have done some work with the Federal agencies represented in this area.

1. SOCIAL SECURITY

Many farmers who are reaching and have reached the retirement age of 65 years, come to us for information about the Social Security program. We had about 100 visits from farmers asking for information about how this program would effect them. We would determine, first, if they had a social security number, and second, if they had paid social security payments at the end of each year for a period qualifying them for retirement consideration. Then after giving them whatever information we could, we would direct them to the proper place and the proper time to meet a representative of the Social Security Administration, so that they could make application or get information as to why such application would not be practical.

2. INTERNAL REVENUE

We did very little work with the Internal Revenue Service as far as Income Tax work is concerned. We passed out quite a large number of pamphlets, bulletins, and leaflets to people who were interested in their Income Tax obligations. However, this is a field in which we do not feel qualified to give advice. We would give them the information in writing that had been provided us and then suggest that they secure the services of a qualified person to make out their return.

3. CREDIT AGENCIES

Quite a large number of farmers came in asking for information about credit. After talking with them and determining their credit status, we would direct them either to the Farm Credit Administration, The Farmer's Home Administration, or to a local bank, depending on what type of credit they were looking for. We did not recommend one bank over another, but advised them what the regulations were for the federal agencies, and suggested that they contact the proper federal agency or a local bank of their own choice.

4. AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

We have worked very closely with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program Committee in the county. We try to meet with them regularly and discuss local problems as they appear. We conducted seven meetings acquainting farmers with the various aspects of the ASC program, including soil bank and its

qualities. We have taken the lead and the responsibility in doing the educational work with the farmers so far as this program is concerned. The job has been satisfactorily done. Quite a large number of people attended our meetings when this program was discussed and then continued throughout the year to come in to discuss their personal problems, regarding this operation.

We have had a very efficient and cooperative county committee in the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program. They have worked with us very closely. They would give us information when we asked for it and we gave them information and advice we thought would be beneficial in the advancement of their operation.

5. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

We have worked with the Rural Electrification Administration or the REA, as it is locally known. We have a capable manager of our local system and his assistant is exceptionally well-qualified. He comes by our office monthly to discuss local problems and problems that affect the program that he is heading up. We have also worked with the farmers to obtain service from this agency. We have now nearly every farmer we know about receiving service in Southampton County.

The consumption of electric current in Southampton County has increased three hundred-fold over the past six years. We think that this indicates that the people are appreciating and using the service beyond all anticipation when the lines were erected in the county.

6. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

So far as state agencies are concerned, we have worked very closely with those that are represented in our local area. The Health Department is an example. We have meetings where each one explains their operation, what we are attempting to do, and how we anticipate doing it. We exchange ideas as to how the Health Department and the Extension Service can be of benefit to each other.

7. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The same is true with the Highway Department as with other agencies. We have had several meetings and conferences with the resident highway engineer where highway problems, effecting farm operations, have been discussed and some satisfactory arrangement reached. We have in mind a drainage project, which is being carried on by the local Soil Conservation District, where the highway had to be crossed with a ten-foot deep and fifteen-foot wide ditch. We worked this problem out so that it was not burdensome to anyone and we feel that our cooperation with this agency and their cooperation with us, is at an all-time high.

8. STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

So far as the State Department of Agriculture is concerned, our relationship is wonderful. We have worked with the representatives of this department in many fields, particularly that of swine sales. The State Department of Agriculture has a local representative working with swine and we have him come by the office nearly every week and we discuss the problems that effect the farmers. This representative and others from the department have worked with us very closely in promoting a feeder pig sale which is being conducted in the county and in grading the animals of this sale.

We have worked with this department of state in seed analysis and germination beyond any previous years operation. We had approximately 300 samples of seeds germinated to determine whether or not they should be planted. This is particularly true with peanuts. The 1957 crop of peanuts was badly damaged by adverse weather conditions before and during the time of harvest. These seed looked bad and in many instances were of poor quality, but we had these tested to determine whether or not the farmer should plant them. This service was rendered free and at no expense to the individual asking the service and we were very much pleased with the cooperation we received.

We have also worked with the State Department Agriculture in insect control, soil analysis, public appearances, having someone to make a talk at our farmer's meetings, and in the grading of lambs.

9. SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

On the local level, we have given much time to the J. R. Horsley Soil Conservation District. We have acted as one of the supervisors of this district and secretary to this group of administrators. We have conducted monthly meetings, made a number of trips, and visited the local technician's office and the work in the field on numerous occasions. We have given approximately fifteen days to this service in addition to the night meetings after having done a day's work in our regular duties.

In January of this year, we attended the annual meeting of the State Soil Conservation District Supervisors. In August we took annual leave from our duties and attended the area meeting comprising nine states at Durham, North Carolina.

We are very much pleased with the results of the local Soil Conservation District. We do not have the over-all results of this agency, but so far as Southampton County is concerned,

we have put in approximately 230,000 feet of underground drainage. We have built twenty-four local watering ponds or places where livestock could be watered. In many instances, these have also been used or developed as fish ponds, where the family and their neighbors can enjoy recreation beyond all previous realizations.

We have developed surface drainage systems that are locally very much in interest. One system drains 4,100 acres of land, in addition to making it unlikely that highways that have heretofore been at times flooded, to flood again.

All the above, in addition to the work in forestry to a limited extent, v-shaped or grass covered drainage systems across farms, terracing to a limited extent, surveys, information and advice was given where such was requested. We think our local soil conservation district is doing a grand job. We have efficient technicians and they are cooperative to the extent that they work beyond their call of duty.

Our Soil Conservation District was instrumental in getting seven people attend our Natural Resource Conservation school last summer. There were five white people and two negroes. We have entertained the white teachers at a dinner meeting, where one of them, Miss Lizzie I. Story of Capron Elementary School, made a talk on her experiences from the time that she first became interested in enrolling in the school until she was back home teaching. She told of the experiences in the school, what she was taught, by whom she was taught, the visits they made and all the entertainment and other aspects of the school. Then she told about how she could use the information she received in teaching the first grade in school. Miss Story made the presentation very interesting and convincing. We think that much good will come from these scholarships that we arranged to have and anticipate following this up in 1959. In addition to having Miss Story speak to the local supervisors and technicians, we have had her talk to the local Rotary Club and made suggestions that she be invited to some of the other civic clubs of the county and area comprising the district. We know prediction is hazardous, but borrowing any unforseen adverse situation, we believe that by having seven teachers to attend these schools in 1958, we will have twenty-five in 1959.

IV. 4-H CLUB WORK

There are between 750 and 800 white boys between the ages of 10 and 18 in Southampton County. About 500 to 550 of these boys live outside the corporate limits of the town of Franklin. The 140 boys now enrolled in 4-H, represent about 30 per cent of the rural club age population. Over 50 per cent of all white boys between the ages of 10 and 14 are enrolled in 4-H Clubs, but near 90 per cent of the 4-H enrollment falls in this age group.

Four-H Clubs are organized in two community seven grade schools and one high school.

Twelve adult leaders and eight junior leaders, along with school principals, sponsors, and business firms, render a superb influence to 4-H Club work in the county. Five daily newspapers, Richmond Times Dispatch and News Leader, Norfolk Pilot and Dispatch, and Suffolk News Herald, and one weekly newspaper, The Tidewater News, serve the county as well as WSSR radio station in Franklin. The Suffolk and Franklin papers work to publicize 4-H work, and a weekly fifteen minute 4-H radio program is conducted over WSSR of Franklin. Four-H is widely recognized, well thought of and graciously supported in the county.

1. Problem: Many of the older 4-H members did not re-enroll in the 1957-58 club this year and since this is the age group eligible for higher awards, there is a need to hold more than the fifteen members now on roll.

   Goal: To re-enroll by September, 15 additional boys 14 through 18 years of age.

   Methods:
   a. Place greater emphasis on senior 4-H camp, conservation camp, short course and state achievement records.
   b. Work to strengthen the Honor Club.
   c. Try to re-establish the Southampton High School club.

   Results: This was the first year that a senior 4-H camp was held in the Southeastern District. We had one boy from the county to attend this camp this summer. Seven boys from the county attended the State Short Course. Four of them attended as members of the soil judging team.

   Five members submitted records for state achievements awards. Three boys were winners in the field of farmers cooperatives. One of them was a district winner in field crops.

   We believe that we have helped to strengthen the Honor Club by assigning regular duties to each club member and by holding regular

scheduled meeting each calendar quarter. The Honor Club is responsible for planning and seeing that the following events are carried out: The County 4-H Picnic, 4-H Achievement Day, County Talent Show, Rural Life Sunday, and National 4-H Club Week.

We have re-organized the Southampton High School 4-H Club. This has been accomplished by holding the club meeting after school. We have enrolled 10 additional boys, 14 through 18 years of age in this group. We need members in this age group to enter contests that younger members cannot compete in.

2. Problem: We have about 20 adult and junior leaders in 4-H. Our problem is to get more leaders in the program in the areas where leaders are weak.

   Goal: Secure two or more leaders, preferably in the Boykins area.

   Methods: The Extension agent will attempt to train at least two new leaders during the coming year.

   Results: Two new leaders are now very actively serving 4-H in the baby beef project. Largely through their work, we will have 17 entries in the project this year compared to 10 entries last year. We have now back in the county, one 4-H leader who served two years in the U. S. Army. This leader has helped our program by encouraging younger members in their project work.

3. Problem: The parents of 4-H club members need to be given more recognition in the 4-H program.

   Goal: To secure more recognition of parents among 4-H.

   Methods: News articles, radio programs, and meetings will be used to stress the value of parents in 4-H work.

   Results: Several news articles were written and radio programs produced, on the role of parents in the 4-H program with telling effects. The theme of National 4-H Club Week was a "4-H Salute to Parents." Two school chapel programs were held and several parents of 4-H'ers were recognized at these meetings. During National 4-H Club Week, the parents in each community were recognized in a special 15 minute radio program over WTSR.

4. Problem: We need to work hard to have the 4-H club members complete their projects.

   Goals: Have 85 completions and 80 per cent of all projects completed.

   Methods: All members completing records will be taken on a hike or tour related to their projects. Reward those who complete their project with ribbons.

Results: The Courtland 4-H club members who completed their work in electricity were taken on a special tour of W. M. Camps' dairy farm near Franklin. Here, the club members were able to see the many ways electricity is used on the farm. The 4-H'ers were able to see pipe-line milking, hay drying, feed mixing, and many other electrical machines in operation.

5. Problem: There are not as many boys attending camp as we should have from our county.

Goal: To have at least 15 boys attend 4-H camp.

Methods: To use the last regular school club meeting explaining to the boys the value to be attained from attending camp.

Results: We had 15 boys to attend 4-H camp this year. We used the last regular scheduled meeting in May to encourage more boys to attend. All were furnished free transportation to and from the camp by parents and the Extension personnel.

6. Problem: The Sears Pig Chain is in poor condition, because the quality of the hogs in the chain has not kept pace with more recent swine type changes.

Goal: To purchase 5 new gilts of a high meat-type quality.

Methods: Next August select 5 purebred meat-type gilts and place in the hands of 5 capable 4-H'ers.

Results: Five new gilts of meat-type quality were purchased and placed in the hands of five 4-H club members. The boys have not done as good a job of management, as we have lost two of these gilts. Each boy and his parents were instructed on the proper management of gilts before they received their pigs. These two gilts were lost because of improper management on the part of the 4-H boy.

7. Problem: We have a problem each year of locating the proper quality show steers for the club members that want a steer as a project.

Goal: To locate at least 15 show steers of fancy quality for 4-H club members.

Methods: To use the Extension specialist at Blacksburg and feeder calf sales to help locate these show steers and to buy earlier than previous years.

Results: This year, with the help of leaders in the 4-H baby beef project, we have 17 steers on full-feed as of October 1st. We started in August locating these animals. First, we had a meeting of our beef committee. The rules and regulations for the 1939 baby beef show were set up, and we went out into the various communities to locate boys interested in the project. In the project this year, we have 8 boys and girls who showed steers last year, plus nine new ones.

Our steers were purchased from three breeders and one feeder calf sale. Four boys' fathers had an acceptable steer. This prevented a purchase in each case. The quality of our steers is as good this year as they have been in previous years.

8. Problem: There is a problem of having enough buyers for competitive bidding in the baby beef show. This is needed, due to the higher feeding costs for this type project.

Goal: To have sufficient buyers at the baby beef show so that every member selling in the show will receive at least 2¢ above the market price for their steer.

Methods: We will contact as many buyers as possible and try to get them to purchase 4-H club steers. In addition, we will raise prize money for those members whose steers place in the show.

Results: There were only nine steers sold at our baby beef show and sale last spring. These steers sold for an average price of $44.00 per C.W.T. The steers were purchased by four different buyers. There were several other individuals bidding on the calves and we believe this was the reason for the high price. This average price per C,W.T. was the highest price paid at any of the Spring Junior Fat Stock Shows.

Prize money was raised for the show by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Each 4-H member who exhibited animals in the show received prize money on the basis of the way the animal graded and placed in the show. No member received less than $20.00 in prize money, and one member received $120.00 in addition to the price of his animal. This extra money was, $55.00 prize money, $50.00 from the breeder of the animal and $15.00 from the breed association. The price the animal sold for was $603.75, or 75¢ per pound. The nine steers in the sale sold for a total price of $3,146.21, and the total prize money awarded to 4-H'ers was $406.00.

9. Problem: Southampton County is the largest swine producing county in the state and we have not had as many swine producing projects proportionally.

Goal: To secure 5 boys to compete in the Smithfield Junior Hog Show.

Methods: To contact the boys at the first club meeting in September and follow through by locating good meat-type hogs for the boys to purchase and to place greater emphasis on this show.

Results: Southampton County had two entries in the Smithfield Junior Fat Pig Show and sale this year. However, Johnny Butler had his hog judged Grand Champion of the show and Walter Young, Jr., placed fourth in the second single class. The competition in this show is very

severe and we believe more members do not participate because they feel their animals are not good enough. This year the show had a new sponsor, The Tri-County Bankers Association, and we think the hogs sold better than previously. This should encourage new members to enter the show. The Extension workers in Southampton County solicited the sponsor for this show and have been requested to make the contact again.

The quality of the hogs in the county is improving and I believe that there are several purebred breeders who are interested in seeing that our boys get good hogs to enter the competition.

10. Problem: Not every boy in every club is able to carry a tractor project, so some method outside of the club needs to be found whereby some system of transportation is provided to the meeting place.

Goal: To get three tractor dealers in different areas of the county to provide training for the 4-H club members in their area.

Methods: To contact the boys in the first club meeting in September and follow through by contacting the dealers in their community so training on the tractor project can be provided for those club members who desire it.

Results: We had five boys in ten to fourteen year age group and five boys in the fourteen years or older group to participate in the county tractor driving contest this year. One boy drove in the district tractor contest and finished in fifth place. The tractor dealers in the county cooperated by furnishing tractors for the contest. They also helped train the boys who were participating.

One new leader, Andrew Kuns, of Courtland, has done an excellent job helping our tractor project and contestants. Tractor meetings are held in different communities in the county and boys who are interested in the project are able to attend.

11. Problem: The Eastern District Dairy Show is decreasing in size due to a decreasing number of dairy animals in the four counties that make up the show.

Goal: To have 15 animals in 1958.

Methods: We will try to get at least two additional counties to show animals in the Eastern District Dairy Show.

Results: The Eastern District Junior Dairy Show was not held in 1958 due to an insufficient number of entries. The show is made up of Norfolk, Princess Anne, Isle of Wight, and Southampton Counties. Southampton was the only county in this group to make entries in this show. We had four entries, but did not think these sufficient to justify conducting a show. Consequently, the show was cancelled

just a week before it was scheduled.

The four animals were shown by 4-H owners in the Atlantic Rural Show in Richmond, Virginia. Gail Beauvais, of Franklin, had her cow judged Grand Champion female of the Junior Guernsey Division.

V. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Not enough work has been done on the Farm and Home Development Program as it is generally thought about, to justify reporting. We found in previous years that farmers who we contacted became "cool" toward the efforts that we made in connection with this program. They seemingly resented telling us about their yields, their monetary income, how they spent their money, and why.

We have worked with ten families in identifying and analyzing or solving problems on their farms that would have been considered "Farm and Home Development" had we gone all the way with all the crops and home part of the program to the same extent we did with the actual problems we worked with. In these ten or twelve cases,, we found that the farmers wanted to know something about a specific problem. They came to us with that problem and we were able to help them analyze the situation. In some instances they discarded such an operation as might have been contemplated and in most every instance, the plan that they had decided to carry out was adjusted or changed, we think, for the betterment of the farm operator.

In no case have we tried to follow up on these problems with the express purpose of determining how much money was made on the specific operation. Some of the farmers have voluntarily told us that they worked out satisfactorily and they appreciated our help, but we agree with the farmers that it is not our priviledge to know how much money he makes from a specific operation and how that money will be spent.

VI. EVALUATION

Everything that we have touched this year has not turned to gold, though speaking in general terms, we are very much pleased with the results of our 1958 endeavor. Weather has been excellent and fertilizer plentiful and farmers have used fertilizer in accordance with good farming practices and management in general has been highly commendable.

Ninety-one days have been used in our work where crops were concerned. In corn an excellent crop has been made. Cultivation has not been a problem, and weed control has been used to a satisfactory degree, and with excellent results; 2-4-D is the material generally used. Corn this year, we are confident, has reached our 1960 goal of 60 bushels per acre yield.

Yield of peanuts is average or better from the reports we have received to date. Our 1960 goal is 2,200 pounds per acre yield. We think we have exceeded our 1958 goal of 2,000 pounds, but may not have reached our 1960 goal of 2,200 pounds.

Peanut diseases and insects have been controlled to a very satisfactory extent. We have had some stem rot, but less than in prior years.

Cotton yield this year has been good. We have not had boll weevil to any great extent. In fact, we have had very few of these insects to plague our producers this year. We have had some boll worm trouble, but this was easily brought under control as soon as we were contacted about proper treatment.

We have assisted the Southampton County Cotton Producers Association in making it possible for cotton producers in the county to receive grading and stapling services from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A number of farmers are taking advantage of this service and profiting thereby. Proper fertilising our cotton crop has practically eliminated rust. We are recommending more potash than is generally recommended, but we feel that we are getting the desired results.

In 1958, we had nearly 5,500 acres of corn put in the acreage reserve of the Soil Bank Program. Then on other acres on the farms, farmers have planted small grain and followed with soybeans or milo. As a result, soybeans have increased considerably in acreage and the yield is more than equaling our 1960 goal of 35 bushels per acre.

Nearly all of our soybeans are of the Lee variety. We like this and have recommended it above any other variety that is being planted at the present time. However, we had seventy acres of Hood soybeans planted in the county this year and the reports on these beans are excellent. If they will stay in the hull as well as Lee, we

believe that they will possibly take the place of Lee in a few years.

Our fertilizer recommendations have been carried out reasonably well for soybeans. We were not bothered with insects as in previous years.

Just as is the case with soybeans, small grain acreages have increased many times in the last four or five years. Due to dry weather many Southampton Farmers are planting small grain in the autumn, knowing that they will have sufficient moisture to make a crop of grain in the winter time. Whereas, for the past eight years, only three have been good corn producing years, because of rain failure in the summertime. About 20% of our corn acreage has been diverted from corn to small grain followed with milo and soybeans. We feel that this is a healthy change. Many farmers are profiting thereby and the small grain produced can be fed to about the same type livestock in about the same degree that corn can be fed. The additional crop of Milo or Soybeans cost very little. We therefore, get two crops on the same acreage and about the price of corn production.

Pasture for 1958 has been very good. With proper rainfall our grazing methods have been improved. Consequently, very few acres have been over-grazed. Fertilization has been carried on properly and good management generally, has resulted.

Swine has taken more of our time than any other crop being produced in Southampton County. We gave 173 days to livestock in the county for 1958 and possibly 150 of these days were given to swine.

The reason for this unbalanced time has been because we have assisted in the organization of the Tidewater Livestock Sales Company, Inc., an organization which has as it's primary aim the selling of feeder pigs. We think that this will be an excellent outlet for many of our small farmers who can farrow more pigs than they can feed out. We believe it will have the same effect with those people as an entirely new crop would have. For the larger farmer, we have found that they are also participating where they have a surplus quantity of pigs at any season of the year. At some seasons they sell and at some they buy. We find that good feeders look for good hogs to feed. We are attempting to provide this type of animal for them.

We have assisted the Tidewater Livestock Sales Company, Inc., in remodeling and adding to an old 4-H Club building which we built in 1952. We believe that we have the best market building of it's kind in the state and expect to make good use of it in future years.

We think that our feeder pig operation is going to be quite beneficial in the improvement of the quality of pigs in the county. Many people are trying to be qualified to sell pigs in the feeder pig sale. They cannot qualify unless they have top-quality animals.

We have for several years attempted to get the people to practice sanitation, without satisfactory results. Today, they are practicing sanitation so that they can sell feeder pigs.

We have not given a great deal of time to beef cattle or to dairying in Southampton County during 1958. However, the number of beef cattle has increased so far as feeders are concerned over two years past. This we think, is because the pastures are better and not because of our efforts.

We have given considerable time to sheep production and feel that much benefit has come from our efforts. We have conducted parasite control demonstrations, put on a custom shearing program, a program to properly market wool, and assisted several farmers in getting started in the production of sheep.

Our forestry efforts have been curtailed somewhat this year, because of a change made in the ASC program. However, we have conducted several demonstrations, assisted individuals with their forestry problems and worked primarily with 4-H clubs and FFA members and Boy Scouts in an attempt to teach them basic forestry management.

We also attended a conservation Short Course at Camp Farrar where we attempted to instruct those present in proper forestry management and related subjects, such as insect or snake bite treatment.

We also did rewarding work with our 4-H clubs. We have a reasonably high percentage of 10 - 14 year old boys enrolled in our club work and they are doing an excellent job. We have had members attending all the Short Courses from the State down to County-wide operations. We believe that these children attending these courses profit considerably more than they themselves even realize when they are in camp. We hear them occasionally refer to what they had heard at camp or some demonstration being put on at camp and which they had not been able to use until sometime later.

We have carried demonstrations or club members who have given demonstrations in forestry, electricity, dairying, crop production, beef animal production, swine production and poultry.

We can have nothing except the highest respect for other public agencies with whom we have cooperated in 1958.

To carry out our year's work, we have driven 40,320 miles.

Over,all, we think our work has been profitable, though in many instances, we anticipate having a better job done in 1959 than we have done in 1958.

PLAN OF WORK

Southampton County

1958

E. A. Davis, County Agent

A. C. Manson, Jr., Assistant County Agent

G. W. Nichols, Assistant County Agent

PLAN OF WORK

For Southampton County

1958

1. Brief Description of County

Southampton County, Virginia, joins North Carolina on the south and southeast, Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties on the east and northeast, Surry on the north, Sussex on the northwest and Greensville on the west. It is in the upper Tidewater area and the elevation ranges from sea level to 300 feet.

Ninety-nine percent of the soils in Southampton County are of a deep phase nature. Very few of our soils have clay near the surface. The other soils are of a deep phase and generally of a sandy loam. These soils leech badly. It is necessary that we add nitrogen and potash to get the best crop yields. We can not use any great quantities of lime because of the soils being light and not having as much organic matter as might be desired. Our soils do respond to applications of fertilizer. The soils are of a light warm nature and immediately after fertilizer is applied to a crop, results can be observed. Our better types of soil are in a rotation that includes peanuts, corn and soybeans. A small acreage of cotton might be included in this rotation in some sections of the county; however, this is not a county-wide situation. The heavier type soils such as bladen and some others are generally planted to pasture or to corn and soybeans.

Sixty-one percent of Southampton's land area is woodland. Good forestry is not practiced on all the woodland but forest propagation is improving rapidly. Twenty-eight percent of the land area is in cultivation. Approximately 30 percent of the cultivated land is devoted to the production of peanuts, which is the county's leading money crop. Thirty-eight percent is devoted to the production of corn, nearly all of which is fed to livestock; 5 percent to the production of cotton, 10 percent to pasture and the other 15 percent to the production of soybeans, grain sorghum, watermelons and garden crops for home use. The other 11 percent of the total land area is devoted to highways, railroads, rivers and small streams.

Southampton is predominately rural, though only about 30 percent of the total population is engaged in farming. The other 70 percent is employed by forest products industries, peanut milling and other industries.

The size of our farms varies from a very small acreage up to 600 or 700 acres. The smaller farms are often worked by people engaged in other lines of employment.

2. Changes in the Situation

Farming conditions in 1957 were the worst that we have ever observed in the county. First, we had a severe drought on a county-wide basis which cut our corn production from a normal average yield of 50 bushels per acre to about 12 bushels per acre. Rains came after it was too late to help the corn and peanuts grew satisfactorily and a very good crop was produced and dug. However, the last of October, just as the digging operation was completed, rainy weather came with severe results. Only a few farmers got their peanuts harvested before the wet weather damaged them to an extent that it was often impossible to dispose of them through the regular channels of trade. Several peanut dryers were installed and farmers picked their peanuts at every opportunity and sold them at a loss due to high moisture content and weather damage. Severe freezes came and further damaged peanuts and the crop was not completely harvested until the 15th of February of 1958.

Due to the severe drought during the summer of 1957 and in previous years, most of our pastures have been destroyed and feed crops so greatly reduced that we have disposed of many of our livestock. Consequently, our livestock numbers are not as great as they should be or normally would be. Hogs are our most important livestock crop, followed by beef cattle, dairying and sheep, in order named.

Southampton County has been declared an emergence county for credit purposes by the government. Credit is available to farmers that can prove dire need through the Farmer's Home Administration to a greater extent than has ever been the case before. For many farmers, credit to produce a crop in 1958 will be a problem. However, we do not anticipate anyone not being able to farm because of short credit.

Even though our livestock numbers have been decreased severely, a number of pig parlors have been built and we anticipate building up our herds to an approximate average number of animals provided weather conditions in 1958 are at all favorable.

For many years, Southampton County has taken full advantage of the various government farm programs under Agricultural Stabilization Act and Agricultural Conservation Program, also the Soil Conservation Service has come in for very hardy participation.

In 1957, many farmers took advantage of the soil bank program particularly the acreage reserve feature of this program. In 1958, the same is true. From all indications, desired participation will be double what the funds available will permit. It has been anticipated that farmers of Southampton County would participate to the extent of about 140 thousand dollars excluding wheat participation. It has developed that several farmers participated in the wheat program and $150,000 was signed up the first week that participation was available to the farmers in corn alone.

We feel that the reason for this participation has been due to severe weather conditions for five years out of seven. We are sure that the monetary returns are not sufficiently greater than crop returns to justify the participation that we are experiencing. However, due to the money that comes in by little effort on the farmer's part and due to the weather that we have had, farmers are very much interested in participating in this program that is offered by the soil bank.

3. How Extension Program Was Developed

To develop this plan of work, we called in leading farmers and business men on agronomy, livestock and forestry. We explained the situation existing concerning these crops and explained what we had attempted to do in the past and the success obtained. After thorough discussion, problems were outlined, goals for the year were set and methods to be used in obtaining the goals were suggested.

4. County Problems, Needs and Opportunities

Farm management in Southampton County has been greatly improved though most of our managerial problems have not been the lack of interest but due to severe weather that has destroyed pastures and other feed crops though normally all the farmers do not use proper analysis fertilizer. Some of them do not use a sufficient quantity of the fertilizer that they do use and it is often put down in the wrong manner. Pastures have not been reseeded to the extent that we would like though with sufficient encouragement from educational agencies and good weather, many pastures will be reseeded and our livestock population increased in 1958. We need more cattle feeders and better sanitation of hogs. We need to continue our forestry efforts and advise farmers not to cut their timber too close when they are thinning for pulpwood production.

We need more underground drainage. Southampton County leads in the footage tile drainage in Virginia. However, we believe that we can profitably install an additional 7,500,000 feet of this type drainage.

The agricultural agencies in Southampton County work together as well as members in one family. ACP, Soil Conservation Service personnel and the Extension personnel confer regularly and each understands and knows what the other is doing and why they are doing it. We have meetings of the personnel in the various agencies where we discuss our problems and each promotes the other's problem to an extent where we all feel we have one large program in the county and we feel that this is the right way to get greater results and extend a greater service to the farmers in the county.

AGRONOMY

CORN

Problem: Some of the problems to overcome to reach our goals are:

1. Need for better and adequate fertilizer.
2. The number of plants per acre must be given more consideration.
3. We must improve our methods of cultivation and weed control.
4. Land adaptation must be considered and land more adapted to the production of corn planted.
5. Insect control must be practiced to a greater extent.
6. Rotation of crop and the use of cover crops should receive more consideration.

Goal: By 1960, we anticipate having a production of 62 bushels per acre and for 1958, 60 bushels per acre. For 1958, we expect to emphasize:

1. Adequate fertilizer; 1200 pounds high analysis fertilizer when preceding peanuts and a total of 100 pounds of nitrogen. When preceding a crop other than peanuts, 800 pounds of high analysis fertilizer with a total of 100 pounds of nitrogen.
2. Proper cultivation.
3. 10,000 plants per acre of full season corn, 14,000 to 16,000 plants for early corn.
4. Weed control.
5. Discontinue planting soybeans in corn to be harvested for grain and especially where peanuts will be planted the following year.

Methods: To accomplish our 1958 goals, we anticipate stressing:

1. Getting more soil samples and getting them properly.
2. Proper number of plants per acre.
3. Insect control.
4. Conduct a tour in August.

These efforts will be promoted by news articles, personal contacts and meetings.

COTTON

Problem: Some of our problems in cotton production are unique; possibly the greatest problem is the small acreage allotment. However, we do not always:

1. Use the right amount of properly balanced fertilizer.
2. Often we do not space the plants properly.
3. Our insect control methods are not as efficient as they should be.

4. Our harvesting and selling methods are unusual and not in accordance with the better practices. The crop is generally sold "in the seed" and not ginned as it should be.

Goal:

1. One bale per acre in 1960. For 1958, our goal is one bale per acre.
2. 600 pounds of a high analysis fertilizer plus 200 pounds of a 14-0-14 or its equivalent side-dresser.
3. Endeavor to control boll weevils by dusting or spraying with recommended insecticides, toxaphene or aldrin-DDT.
4. Plants should be left 4 inches in row.

Methods: To accomplish these goals, we will use our usual publicity channels, soil sampling, proper fertilizer recommendations and work with supply dealers such as fertilizer and seed men.

PEANUTS

Problems: Southampton County is the largest peanut producing county in Virginia and in the United States. However, our yeild per acre is not the highest in the state.

1. We are not, in every instance, using the best varieties for the particular soil.
2. We are not using proper crop rotation.
3. We do not always use the right analysis or the right amount of fertilizer.
4. We do not use cover crops to the extent we should!
5. Our insect control is not as effective as it should be.
6. Our disease control efforts should be improved upon.
7. Harvesting methods in some respects are the same they were many years ago.
8. Cultivating and weed control cam be improved upon.
9. Spacing in both row width and in the drill often differs from that recommended by the experiment station.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 2,200 pounds per acre.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 2,000 pounds per acre.

Methods: To accomplish our 1958 goals, we will recommend the

1. Right analysis and right amount of fertilizer on soil sample reports.
2. The proper use of cover crops.
3. Proper insect control.
4. Proper disease control.
5. Proper spacing in both row and drill, 4 inches on 34 to 36 inch rows.
6. Send peanut letter to mailing list.
7. Apply fertilizer and plaster at right time. Broadcast plaster in June.

8. Work with those requesting help in mechanical harvesting and artificial curing of peanuts.
9. Advise in stem rot control by breaking and cultivating.
10. Improve stacking methods.

SOYBEANS

Southampton County is fast becoming an important commercial soybean producing county.

Problem: The problems in the production of soybeans are that we do not often use:

1. The best variety, Lee.
2. The right analysis and right quantity of fertilizer.
3. Our insect control methods are not reliable.
4. Our seeding rate per acre and spacing are not according to experiment station recommendations.
5. We do not plant the majority of our crops at the right time.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 35 bushels per acre.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 25 bushels per acre.

Methods:

1. We shall recommend and arrange for seedsmen to have available the proper varieties of soybeans or the variety recommended. by the experiment station for this area.
2. We will recommend proper fertilizer using the right quantity.
3. We will endeavor to get soybeans planted earlier than has been practiced in the past.

To put these methods into effect, we will use meetings, news articles and personal contacts, particularly with seed and fertilizer dealers.

PASTURE

Problem: Southampton County needs more pastures. Our livestock is increasing when available feed justifies and for this trend to continue, we must overcomd the following problems:

1. Overgrazing and proper clipping.
2. We do not always use the right amount of the proper analysis fertilizer and do not make the applications of fertilizer at the right time.
3. The seed mixture is often not the mixture suited to the land where it is used.

4. Insect control is not properly practiced.
5. Time of seeding should be in the early autumn, preferably to spring.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is an adequate amount of pasture for the livestock on hand.
2. Our goal for 1958 is also an adequate amount of pasture for the livestock on hand.

Methods: Our methods to accomplish the above goals will be primarily personal contacts, newspaper publicity and meetings. We shall attempt to overcome the poor management practices, such as overgrazing and not clipping and recommend proper fertilizer. This can very well be done through soil sample reports and fertilizer dealers.

NEW CROPS

Encourage increased acreage and push for a sales organization for watermelons.

Encourage more farmers to plant sweet potatoes for commercial use.

LIVESTOCK

Southampton County needs more livestock than we have ever produced. This is particularly true of beef cattle and sheep.

Our cattle numbers were increasing satisfactorily until five years ago when extremely dry weather set in. This dry condition has continued each year and livestock numbers have continued to decline. We will reverse this trend, however, when feed, pasture and grain are available.

SWINE

Problem: In Southampton County, the number of swine is generally considered ample, both for 1958 and for 1960.

Our problem in this crop is that:

1. The number of pigs saved per litter is too small.
2. Parasite infestation is severe.
3. Diseases are prevalent.
4. We do not have a planned breeding program.
5. Proper selection of breeding stock is not properly practiced.
6. Need to sell some swine as feeder pigs.

Goals:

1. Improve farrowing facilities and save more pigs per litter.
2. Practice better sanitation.
3. Practice better disease control.
4. Breed so that hogs will be marketed at a desirable period.
5. Select better quality breeding stock.
6. Work toward organizing a feeder pig sale.

Methods: To save more pigs per litter, we will promote constructing pens for farrowing purposes. These pens will be equipped with guard rails and ultra-violet lamps. We will attempt to get farmers to give more attention to sows when farrowing and the pigs immediately after farrowing.

We will recommend that sanitation be accomplished through rotational grazing, cleanse sows and pens before farrowing and change feeding places.

We will recommend that farmers have their herds treated against diseases. We will demonstrate to the farmers how this is done and recommend the better materials for this purpose.

So that we can market hogs when the price is better, it will be necessary to breed at the proper time and feed properly so as to market the hogs when planned.

In selecting better breeding stock, we will look for the long deep-bodied animals.

We will work with Agricultural Committee of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and agents from all adjoining Virginia counties in an effort to sell 6000 to 8000 feeder pigs per year from the area.

To accomplish the above, we will contact farmers through demonstrations, hogs sales, news articles and letters.

BEEF CATTLE

Problem: Southampton County has wonderful grazing opportunities. We can graze beef animals eleven months per year. We have cover crops for winter grazing and can have some grazing even during the dry summer months.

Only a few farmers have beef animals. We believe that every farm of twenty acres or more should have from two animals upwards. We feel that steers are our best crop, rather than a cow herd. We think that our farms are too small to support an economical breeding interprise.

We also have in our problem inadequate markets, insufficient fences on the farm. We do not know now do we practice to the extent of our knowledge, proper feeding. Parasite control most also be given consideration.

Goal:

1. Our goal for 1960 is 5000 steers.
2. Our goal for 1958 is 3600 steers.

Methods: To accomplish the above goal, we must convince farmers that they have an opportunity to produce a few animals at little cost. We must encourage additional pasture, some additional winter cover. We think our feedingproblem will be overcome with ample rain to produce pasture and grain.

Our markets will increase with the number of cattle, fencing can be constructed almost for the cost of the materials. We will conduct tours and demonstrate fence construction, proper feeding and parasite control.

SHEEP

Problem: We need more sheep in Southampton, even though the flock has doubled many times in the last five or six years. We can continue to increase the number and size of flocks, profitably. The problems affecting most flock owners are parasites, dogs, shearing and marketing. See that lambs are properly docked or male lambs castrated.

Goals: Our goals in this livestock project will be:

1. To control parasites.
2. Lessen dog depredations.
3. Get someone to do custom shearing.
4. Proper marketing, of both lambs and wool.

Methods: We propose to conduct demonstrations on parasite control, and inform flock owners the advantage of worming their sheep at least twice a year and keeping phenathyzine salt before them constantly.

To overcome our dog hazard, we know of nothing to do other than to advise farmers concerning the right in protecting their sheep with guns.

We anticipate having custom shearing done and promote with county agents in this area and V.P.I. specialists a sufficient number of lamb pools to dispose of the lambs at a reasonable price. We will also conduct a wool pool.

We will hold one castrating and docking demonstration and assist and advise others when necessary.

FORESTRY

Forestry should be given every opportunity for proper growth and development. From available statistics and observation, it appears that our farm forest is depreciating.

The county has 263,300 acres of forest land of which few are producing more than one-third to one-half of their capacity. Conversion of hardwood areas to stands of fast growing pines is a slow process. It is unlikely that we can develop a planting program that would replant more than a small percentage of the area annually. An increase in the quantity of seed stocks is necessary before a complete job can be done.

At present, we have stands of loblolly pine, oak, hickory, yellow popular, cypress, maple and gum. Unless the hardwoods are controlled and a more desirable species planted, hardwoods will most likely take over.

Many farm people are under-employed and there is a great reservoir of farm labor during the winter months that can be used for improvement of forestry.

There is need for an overall educational program to help the farmer understand his forestry problems and to do something in solving these problems on wood lot management.

1960 FORESTRY

Problem: Most of our forestry problems come from the "lack of know-how" or the lack of knowledge concerning proper forestry care. We believe that if woodland owners realize the value of the forestry with proper care over the value without such care, that the 61 percent of the land in Southampton County devoted to forestry production would be producing more than one-third of its potential.

Goals:

1. Improve harvesting methods by proper cutting.
2. To properly educate woodland owners by consulting with the Division of Forestry, Extension foresters, industrial foresters and other sources where reliable education can be obtained.
3. Create incentive to produce more and better forestry products.
4. Prevent forest fires.
5. Prove to the farmer that even though forestry is a long-time investment, that returns will be realized by intermediate harvestings of the crop.
6. Promote growth of merchantible timber by controlling excessive hardwood growth.
7. Create more interest by pointing out the profits obtained over investment cost from farm land.
8. Proper marketing.

1958 FORESTRY

Problem: More than one-half of our total acreage is woodland. We are producing about one-third capacity, which is around 200 board feet per acre annually.

Forestry is a long-time program and the conversion rate is low of changing a scrubby hardwood condition to fast growing pines.

Almost every farm has a surplus of farm labor during the winter months. There are many practices that could be carried out economically if farmers were willing to improve their wood lot.

There is a good opportunity for a good educational program to teach the farmers the know-how in solving their forestry problems.

Some important forestry needs are as follows:

a. Many farmers have large acreages of woodland and opportunities to promote a sound forestry program. The main problem is to create enough interest with the farmer in our educational program so that he will apply a recommended practice to his wood lot. A scrubby hardwood condition exist on many acres of our land and conversion to pine is a long and costly process.

b. Conversion of scrubby non-merchantable hardwoods to fast growing pines.

c. To create interest among youth groups such as FFA, 4-H and Boy Scouts.

d. Teaching basic forestry management practices to farmers in general.

Methods:

a. Technical advice will be given by Extension Service, Virginia Division of Forestry and commercial foresters.

b. Killing demonstrations with 2,4,5-T and ammate on 12" and under and some species over 12".

c. Send out letters to all members of 4-H and other groups offering them assistance, free seedlings and poison to carry out their project. Demonstration how to plant and poison.

d. Contact the local wood-using industry for free seedlings and ammate for educational program.

e. Encourage the farmers to sign up for ACP practices and request timber land examinations from the Division of Forestry.

f. Local tours will be conducted in communities to note the results of different practices.

g. Arrangements will be made with the president of civic organizations in different communities to conduct a forestry program.

h. Encourage farmers to take advantage of conservation reserve acreage of planting trees under contract if cropland should be taken out of cultivation.

i. Hold a meeting with the forest committee to plan a program for the county and report to them on accomplishments.

j. Conduct a contest with youth or adults to award prizes at a banquet.

OR

Have some form of recognition for individuals that have shown enough interest to carry out practices. This will be done by providing a banquet furnished by a local wood-using industry with a speaker on forestry.

Goals:

a. To create interest enough to give the farmer an incentive to produce good quality timber.

b. Deadening of non-merchantable hardwoods if reproduction is present or planting is to be done. Disking areas before harvesting the timber. Disking to expose mineral soil and destroy scrubby hardwood brush.

c. Contact all 4-H boys and other youth groups in county and set up one acre plots of forestry management.

d. Convince the farmer that forestry is good business, that economical use of farm labor is profitable in applying forestry management practices.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

As we have in the past, we anticipate working with all agencies related to agriculture. Some of these agencies can be designated as follows:

1. Farm Credit Administration
2. Farmers Home Administration
3. Forest Service
4. Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Program Committee
5. Rural Electrification Administration
6. Soil Conservation Service
7. State Highway Department
8. State Department of Agriculture and Forestry
9. State Employment Service
10. J. R. Horsley Soil Conservation District.
11. Vocational Agriculture
12. Various civic organizations represented in Southampton County, including the Franklin Chamber of Commerce

We will work with the above agencies by attending their meetings, advising in an ex officio capacity and cooperate generally in every way possible through personal contacts and publicity.

4-H CLUB WORK

There are between 750 and 800 white boys between the ages of 10 and 18 in Southampton County. About 500 to 550 of these boys live outside the corporate limits of the town of Franklin. The 140 boys now enrolled in 4-H represent about 30 percent of the rural club age population. Over 50 percent of all white boys between the ages of 10 and 14 are enrolled in 4-H clubs, but near 90 percent of the 4-H enrollment falls in this age group.

Four-H clubs are organized in one community and seven grade schools. There are no clubs in the Franklin elementary, Franklin high or Southampton high schools.

For a number of years, Southampton 4-H members have observed Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Club Week and Achievement Day along with holding a talent show, county picnic and have attended district 4-H camp, electric congress and short course. Members have entered soil, dairy and livestock judging; tractor driving, livestock conservation and public speaking contests at the district, state and national levels. Achievement records have also been submitted for state competition. Available for farm exhibits are State Fair at Richmond, Eastern District Junior Dairy Show at Courtland, Packers Junior Hog Show at Smithfield and Franklin J. C. Spring Festival, all of which have been patronized by Southampton 4-H members in preceeding years.

In addition to the above, these three organizations, i.e., County Council, Honor Club and All-Star Chapter, serve the administrative needs for specific age groups; the County Council is now made up of all officers from the one community club and the seven elementary school clubs, the Honor Club serves those 14 through 21 years of age and the All-Star Chapter helps hold together some of the 4-H alumni.

Twelve adult leaders and eight junior leaders, along with school principals, sponsors and business firms, render a supreme value to 4-H club work in this county. Five daily newspapers, Richmond Dispatch and Leader, Norfolk Pilot and Dispatch and Suffolk News Herald, and one weekly newspaper, Tidewater News, serve the county as well as WXEX-TV in Petersburg and WYSR-radio in Franklin. The Suffolk and Franklin papers seek to publicize 4-H and a weekly fifteen minute 4-H radio program is conducted over WYSR. Four-H is widely recognized, well thought of and graciously supported in this county.

1. Problem: Many of the older 4-H members did not re-enroll in the 1957-58 club year and since this is the age group eligible for higher awards, there is a need to hold more than the fifteen members now on roll.

   Goal: To re-enroll by September 15 additional boys 14 through 18 years of age.

   Methods: a. Place greater emphasis on senior 4-H camp, conservation camp, short course and state achievement records.
   b. Work to strengthen the Honor Club.
   c. Try to re-establish the Southampton High School club.

2. Problem: We have about 20 adult and junior leaders in 4-H. Our problem is to get more leaders in the program in the areas where leaders are weak.

   Goal: Secure two or more leaders, preferably in the Boykins area.

   Methods: The Extension agent will attempt to train at least two new leaders during the coming year.

3. Problem: The parents of 4-H club members need to be given more recognition in the 4-H program.

   Goals: To secure more recognition of parents among 4-H.

   Methods: News articles, radio programs and meetings will be used to stress the value of parents in 4-H work.

4. Problem: We need to work hard to have the 4-H club members complete their projects.

   Goals: Have 85 completions and 80 percent of all projects completed.

   Methods: All members completing records will be taken on a hike or tour related to their projects. Reward those who complete their project with ribbons.

5. Problem: There are not as many boys attending camp as we should have from our county.

   Goal: To have at least 15 boys attend 4-H camp.

   Methods: To use the last regular school club meeting explaining to the boys the value to be attained from attending camp.

6. Problem: The Sears Pig Chain is in poor condition, because the quality of the hogs in the chain has not kept pace with more recent swine type changes.

   Goal: To purchase 5 new gilts of a high meat-type quality.

   Methods: Next August select 5 purebred meat-type gilts and place in the hands of 5 capable 4-H'ers.

7. Problem: We have a problem each year of locating the proper quality show steers for the club members that want a steer as a project.

   Goals: To locate at least 15 show steers of fancy quality for 4-H club members.

   Methods: To use the Extension specialist at Blacksburg and feeder calf sales to help locate these show steers and to buy earlier than previous years.

8. Problem: There is a problem of having enough buyers for competitive bidding in the baby beef show. This is needed due to the higher feeding costs for this type project.

   Goal: To have sufficient buyers at the baby beef show so that every member selling in the show will receive at least 2¢ above the market price for their steer.

   Methods: We will contact as many buyers as possible and try to get them to purchase 4-H club steers. In addition, we will raise prize money for those members whose steers place in the show.

9. Problem: Southampton County is the largest swine producing county in the state and we have not had as many swine producing projects proportionally.

   Goal: To secure 5 boys to compete in the Smithfield Junior Hog Show.

   Methods: To contact the boys at the first club meeting in September and follow through by locating good meat-type hogs for the boys to purchase and to place greater emphasis on this show.

10. Problem: Not every boy in every club is able to carry a tractor project, so some method outside of the club needs to be found whereby some system of transportation is provided to the meeting place.

Goal: To get three tractor dealers in different areas of the county to provide training for the 4-H club members in their area.

Methods: To contact the boys in the first club meeting in September and follow through by contacting the dealers in their community so training on the tractor project can be provided for those club members who desire it.

11. Problem: The Eastern District Dairy Show is decreasing in size due to a decreasing number of dairy animals in the four counties that make up the show.

Goal: To have 15 animals in 1958.

Methods: We will try to get at least two additional counties to show animals in the Eastern District Dairy Show.

In solving all these problems, it is assumed that the use of press, radio, television, visits, meetings, letters and Extension specialists will be used extensively.