

Two Sears pig chains are still being carried on with ten breeding pigs.

We had dairy, poultry, livestock and land appreciation teams in the district contests. The poultry, dairy and land appreciation teams were invited to the Short Course. The poultry judging team consisted of Benny Flora, Roger Flora and Dennis Wood. The dairy team members were Clark Jamison, Jr., Glenn Sink, Donald Barnhart and Henry Lee Laprade. W. D. Spangler, Jr., Jesse Webster and Benton Wray composed the Land Appreciation team.

Mary K. Martin's poultry achievement record won her a trip to National Club Congress. She, Garmon Flora and Leland Flora were invited to the State Poultry Federation because of their records.

One thousand small calendars and fifty large ones are being distributed in November. The Angle Implement Company, Inc. and Bankers Trust Company purchased these for us.

Eighteen news articles were written on club work during the year. A number of reporters had articles in the paper.

The County Council Safety exhibit won first prize of \$60 at the Roanoke Fair.

Forty boys attended the three-day Electric School and a tour of a modern dairy farm and Philpott Dam held in August. Four boys gave individual demonstrations during the school. Glenn Sink was county electric winner and attended the 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond August 24-26.

A \$25 savings bond was won by Glenn Sink as county winner in the Safety Project.

Nine boys were initiated into the county Honor Club at a meeting attended by 59 Honor Club members.

Two boys were taken into Membership in the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars during the 4-H Short Course held in June at VPI. These boys, along with 13 others from Franklin County, attended the District All Star meeting at the Peaks of Otter. One assistant agent attended and assisted with this meeting.

We had thirty-five acts in our Talent Show and this was attended by 400 persons. During the summer, 4-H Club members presented acts at the annual Southern States and Farm Bureau meetings at Rocky Mount.

At the county dairy show in August, 1960, forty-five animals were shown by 38 4-H members. The West Central District Dairy Show attracted 18 junior exhibitors. Seven animals were taken to the Atlantic Rural Exposition. The 4-H members won \$90 in premium at the State Fair. Three of these animals were shown as part of the West Central Herd. Nine 4-H club members showed 13 animals at the Roanoke Fair.

Thirty-four club members attended a demonstration on fitting and showmanship of dairy animals held during the summer.

Eight members showed 9 steers and 2 heifers at the Roanoke Fat Stock Show and Sale. We had from one to four cents sponsored on all our steers. Jesse Webster had the Grand Champion Hereford heifer of the show. Charles Wiseman had the Reserve Champion Hereford steer. Benton Wray's steer was chosen as one of the top ten carcasses.

This year we have nine steers and two heifers on feed for the Fat Stock Show.

Charles Wiseman gave a demonstration fitting and showing of beef animals. This was attended by all the members showing animals at the Fat Stock Show.

The agents had three radio tapes on forestry. They cooperated with the local forester, vocational agriculture teachers, pulp buyers, and others to get more trees planted and promote orderly use of forests.

X. 4-H CLUB WORK.

Older club members, leaders and agents met in August to select a project for the year. The group selected "Looking Your Best." Five meetings were devoted to this project in each club.

The enrollment was 1021 boys. Records were completed by 879 making the project completion 86 percent.

Twenty-one boys attended district 4-H camp at Holiday Lake and two went to the senior 4-H camp at Virginia Beach. One agent attended Virginia Beach Camp and three worked with the Group at Holiday Lake. One junior leader assisted with the camp at Holiday Lake.

The County Council meeting this fall was attended by 90 members and friends of 4-H. Twenty-two pins are being ordered and will be awarded boys on December 10 at our Achievement Day.

One farmer of this group has gotten a carrier job on a mail route and has therefore become a part-time farmer.

IX. FORESTRY.

The Forestry Committee reviewed the situation, recognizing the fact that the median income in 1950 was \$1512 and that the value of all products sold from the county in 1959 was six million dollars while that from forestry amounted to less than one-fourth of a million dollars. The percent coming from forests was less than 4% in 1959 while the area was nearly 50%. At the same time this existed, there were 15,652 idle or abandoned acres. The problems that this committee developed were that there were too many idle acres, undesirable species were growing and that there was a low price for second grade lumber.

The goal for getting farmers to plant 100,000 seedlings in 1960 was three-fourths accomplished. One-half the goal of getting unwanted trees on 20 acres of forest lands poisoned or killed was reached. The third goal of setting up two timber harvesting demonstration plots was not accomplished. One-third of the fourth goal of getting six 4-H boys to plant trees was reached.

by the agents such as pruning and planting. A number of home owners called on the agents for control measures against crabgrass and weed pests and against grubs.

A. G. Smith, Jr. visited the county several times. H. B. Aroian, Fred Dreiling, Dr. W. P. Judkins, Frank Horsfall, G. M. Shear, H. A. Rollins, M. L. Bobb, E. L. Phillips and S. A. Wingard have assisted with the horticultural program in the county.

Four news articles were written on horticulture.

VIII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT.

There is a need for farm and home development work in the county. The average income per family is about \$1512. The 1959 census indicates that there are 15,652 acres of cropland not harvested or pastured.

Work with five old farm and home development families continued and two new farms are being analyzed by assistant agent, W. F. Teel, who has recently started on this work.

Mrs. John Goodman is continuing her beef enterprise and has a contract hog project. She is participating in the Farm Records Program.

The fruit growers held five meetings plus the tour. The area meeting and the State Horticultural meeting took the place of two of the meetings usually planned during the year.

Objectives for the year were improved handling of fruit. Two meetings were conducted along this line. The second objective was to replace old trees with young ones. A number of orchardists are planting young trees. The third objective was improving packing methods. It is hard to evaluate, but some changes were made during the past year.

In the largest packing house handling half or more of the apple production in the county, A. H. Garst & Sons, changes were made in their packing machine that resulted in a big percent drop in bruises due to grading.

The goal of getting one more acre of strawberries planted is estimated to have been reached. The goal of getting a better control of diseases is hard to evaluate. The goal of 800 young trees is estimated to have been accomplished. The goal to get all growers to sign marketing contracts is estimated to have been 95 percent effective.

A number of people were assisted in ornamental horticulture

other ways. There are two dairy farmers in the county using 100 or more pounds of silage per dairy animal.

Four mechanical feeders have been installed in connection with four silage unloaders.

Dry weather reduced the number of cuttings of alfalfa, but more silage and a later fall grazing period have helped the farmers with their roughage needs.

VII. HORTICULTURE.

Fruit in Franklin County produces over one-half million dollars. There are about forty commercial apple growers. The value of the crop mainly depends upon the season. Trees of bearing age are going out faster than they are being replaced. When they are replaced, orchardists are putting in varieties which keep better and bring better prices.

The agents worked closely with the officers of the Franklin County Fruit Growers Association. A fruit school was held in February with a large attendance. About twenty of the apple growers of the county attended. A tour was conducted in July to the farms of E. E. Bowman & Blaine Halterman, H. J. Spitnott, and R. H. Alley. Twenty-five people attended this tour. Results of fertilization, chemicals, thinning and spray programs were observed.

The agents estimate that the goal of 400 acres of alfalfa and clover seeded by one hundred farmers was doubled.

In attempting to promote these goals, the agents had five radio tapes. Five meetings were held on crop production with 75 estimated in attendance.

The treatment of the alfalfa weevil continued with approximately 98% of the acreage being treated with one material or another. In some instances, too little water was used and Malathion failed to give the desired results.

The weed control program on L. M. Clingenpeel's farm is continued.

At every opportunity, the agents have worked to promote the use of soil testing, the use of lime, and the use of proper kinds of fertilizer. The agents have also assisted with plans for crop rotation and with pest control recommendations to reduce the loss by disease and insects.

A Forage Handling tour was conducted to the TVA demonstration farm in the county.

The agent has discussed the advantages of using silage in four radio tapes. Silage feeding has been encouraged in

Sheep numbers continue low. Occasionally a farmer expresses interest in adding a few sheep.

VI. AGRONOMY.

The Agronomy Committee held its meeting in February. They reviewed the situation in that the number of crop acres had reduced by approximately one-fourth from 1939 to 1954. This was due to reduction in corn, wheat, clover, timothy and some lespedeza. In some crops, the yields have doubled so that the total feed production is better than it was before 1939. In view of this fact, the best information indicates a high equivalent of 18.6 pounds per animal unit where about 25 or more is needed.

The group suggested that ten silos be built or dug; that 1200 soil samples be sent in; and that 400 acres of alfalfa or clover be seeded by one hundred farmers.

When the A.S.C. soil samples are added to the approximately 600 sent in through the county agent's office, the goal of 1200 soil samples from the county would be reached.

The goal for silos was reached.

Neuhoff's. The number of hogs in the county was up 466 in 1959 over 1954.

The number of beef cattle in the county increased from 1959 to 1960 by 1500.

The Beef Cattle Committee, consisting of L. B. Wray, Raymond Bowman, J. Ralph Williams, T. C. Newbill and G. R. Smith, indicated that the most needed things in livestock were improved pasture, an increased hay and feed supply, reduction in disease, improvement of sires, getting some BCIA testing and reduction in parasites.

To promote livestock in the county, the agents worked with the feeder calf and yearling sales. This year more calves and yearlings were sold in the sales than before. Calves from two farms were turned back because of horns and quality.

The agents had eight radio tapes on which beef cattle production and marketing were discussed.

Eight boys showed beef animals in the Fat Stock Show and Sale in Roanoke.

The agents had in mind getting to farmers on Beef Cattle Improvement Association program. None were signed up.

of \$340,060 in 1949. Some of this increase is due to price but mostly due to production since broilers were low all of the year. No expansion has taken place in broiler production, but there has been some increase in layer flocks. Farmers find that a large business is necessary to make expenses.

The Poultry Committee, consisting of C. A. Martin, Posey Ross and E. S. Saunders, felt like this was not the time for increase in poultry, especially broilers, in view of the prices.

They did not have an official meeting, but the consensus of opinion was that efficiency in management was the main goal to be prescribed for this year.

The agents attended three broiler meetings and two poultry meetings in other counties connected with the promotion of poultry production in the Roanoke area.

FEED and MOO was sent to 112 farmers, about one-half of which were poultryman.

V. LIVESTOCK.

Livestock continues to increase in importance in the county. Two farmers continued hogs under contract with

The methods which the agents used in encouraging farmers to improve their dairying were writing fifteen news articles, conducting 20 radio programs on dairying, and holding a Dairy School in December with 21 farmers present; also holding a tour on feed handling March 18 with 23 farmers attending.

The agents have cooperated with the Artificial Breeding Association and the Dairy Herd Improvement Association in their meetings. Also with the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Corporation, and milk companies.

Sixteen dairyman planned to meet with Extension dairyman, W. S. Griffith, to analyze their herds. Drifts of snow made it impossible for Griffith to attend the second day's meeting so about eight men had their herds analyzed.

FEED and MOO is being sent to 112 farmers, about one-half to dairymen, to improve the dairy operations, 18 news articles were written, 13 tapes for radio made and monthly circulars on Mastitis Control were sent out to 800 dairymen.

IV. POULTRY.

The poultry income of over \$900,000 in the past year shows the interest in poultry when it is compared with the income

The group set a two hundred pound increase in milk per cow in DHIA as one goal to bring us up to the state average in five years. The increase in 1960 was 210 pounds over the previous year.

Getting two more dairymen on Grade A sales was one goal. One dairyman began selling on A Grade milk market.

Getting six additional dairymen to seed supplemental pasture was one of the goals. The agents estimate that this was reached.

The number of dairy herds being tested in 1960 was 57. This was a reduction of three over the previous year. The number of cows tested last year was 2089 which is a reduction of 79 animals.

A fifth goal was to get dairymen to dig or build ten additional silos. The agents estimate that this goal was reached.

One of the goals set up was to get five dairymen on EDM. Ten dairymen are on this program and others are thinking of entering the program.

The officers of the Franklin County Milk Producers Association: C. Nelson Payne, president, and Edward Goode, secretary; and the Franklin County Dairymen's Association with W. W. Haff, Jr., president, J. S. Burwell, vice-president, and Goggin Jamison, secretary, cooperate with the agents in planning things to do to assist the dairymen.

A Dairy School was held in December with 21 in attendance. Speakers at this school were Dr. S. L. Kalison, Allan Kates and W. W. Lewis.

For two successive years, the agents have worked with others in the district to put on an area dairy show. Forty-one animals were exhibited in the West Central District Dairy Show this year.

The goals set up this year by the dairy committee consisted of Shelby Green, William Kingery and Willard Bowman, and accomplishments on them were as follows:

To get 400 more cows bred artificially. An estimate is that 54 more Franklin County dairy cows were bred artificially in 1960 than that in 1959.

community meetings were held during the winter months to inform farmers on problems that exist and means of combatting them. All these meetings were well attended.

News letters on timely subjects were mailed to the growers at various times during the different phases of production. News articles were published in the county paper. These articles were written on the different tobacco problems that face growers.

County Extension personnel cooperated with the Virginia Experiment Station and the tobacco companies on the company evaluation tobacco project.

The coordinated effort of all professional agricultural agencies cooperating definitely strengthened the 1960 tobacco program.

Aromatic Tobacco. There were no producers of aromatic tobacco in Franklin County in 1960. Complete plant failures forced the growers to abandon this crop for 1960.

III. DAIRY.

Dairying is the second largest source of agricultural income in Franklin County. More farmers would like to be in dairying if they could get on Grade A markets. Dairying brought in over two million dollars in 1959.

Through the large number of calls for identification in 1960, it is anticipated that these farmers will use proper control measures for 1961.

Cultural Practices. Strong emphasis has been placed to discourage farmers from using cultural practices such as excessive fertilization, close spacing, high topping and excessive irrigation. This will continue to be a long-time undertaking.

Handling and Marketing. Growers are realizing the importance of harvesting ripe mature tobacco and consequently practically all are carrying out this practice.

Improvement in preparation for marketing is needed, but progress will not be made until an incentive is established by the buying industry.

Chemicals Used on Tobacco. An educational program on hazards of chemicals was emphasized throughout the year. No reports of injuries were received.

Methods. All means of communication were employed in carrying out the tobacco program of Franklin County. County-wide and

Acceptable Varieties. All growers planted varieties in 1960 that produce tobacco suitable for all channels of trade.

Soil Testing. Testing tobacco soils at least once during the rotation has been highly stressed. Many farmers are now using this procedure. Progress has been made in the number of samples submitted. More representative soil samples are being taken and submitted.

Fertilizer Placement. More cases of fertilizer injury to tobacco seedlings in the field were noted in 1960 than in past years. Dry weather conditions at the time of transplanting aggravated and caused this condition to show up in many instances. Tobacco farmers still do not realize the benefits from using either deep placement or band placement to prevent injury to transplants.

This cultural practice definitely needs attention for the coming year.

Tobacco Diseases. Practically all known tobacco diseases were present in 1960. However, the disease of most economic importance was blackshank. Numerous cases were reported and identified. On many farms, this was the first time the disease had appeared.

Progress has been made in 1960 on the long-time goal of producing high quality tobacco. Present trends show farmers placing somewhat more emphasis on quality rather than yields.

Progress made on the objectives and goals for tobacco are outlined as follows.

Fertilizer. Through the unified effort of all agencies concerned, most farmers are using at least 30% of total nitrogen in the nitrate form for better quality tobacco. An estimate of 75% to 80% of the farmers are using the recommended analysis of fertilizers. The increase in use of the soil testing service indicates that most farmers are using correct analysis fertilizer.

Farmers are still using more than the recommended amounts of fertilizer. The present tobacco situation actually encourages this problem rather than discouraging it.

Insects and Diseases on Plantbeds. The reduction in loss of tobacco from insects and diseases in plantbeds so growers can realize more profit from their crops is being achieved. Recommended prevention and control measures are being used.

who have taken work in towns. This contributes to the change which is taking place in the increase in rural non-farm families.

The median income of families in 1950 was \$1512. This is low.

II. TOBACCO.

The economic welfare of Franklin County farmers is largely dependent on the success of the tobacco crop. For a number of years, tobacco has produced almost 30% of the cash income that is derived from farm products. Franklin County produced 2,587.43 acres of tobacco in 1960. The problem of only a small percent of the land area being responsible for about one-half of the farm income has existed for several years. No immediate solution is foreseen to this difficult situation.

Tobacco yields in 1960 will be very close to the record 1958 yield of 1774 pounds per acre. Except for small areas of the county, the season has been favorable. One small area of the county was hit by hail that caused serious damage. These small areas probably will not be reflected in the overall production. Estimates of income are higher than past years because of strong demands from the buying industry.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY.

The population of Franklin County was listed as 23,817 in the 1960 census. Eighty-five and four-tenths percent or 22,047 of these were white. There are 10,000 rural non-farm people. The county is considered entirely rural since the town of Rocky Mount has only about 1,500 in the corporate limites. There are 697 square miles making 459,520 acres of land; 60.8% of which was in farmland according to the last census.

The size of farms is increasing now averaging 133.6 acres, and the number is decreasing. There were 850 fewer farms in 1959 than in 1954. We now have a total of 2,091 farms.

The county is divided into two sections, roughly east and west. On the west side of the county the soils are heavy, well drained, and adapted to dairy and livestock farming. On the east side and south side there is heavy soil, but some lighter soils and the topography is flatter. This area is adapted to some livestock with flue-cured tobacco.

The 20% reduction in tobacco acreage coupled with the high cost of equipment, supplies and labor have made it hard for a number of farmers to make satisfactory income compare with those

Table of Contents

	Page
I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY - - - - -	2
II. TOBACCO - - - - -	3
III. DAIRY - - - - -	7
IV. POULTRY - - - - -	10
V. LIVESTOCK - - - - -	11
VI. AGRONOMY - - - - -	13
VII. HORTICULTURE - - - - -	15
VIII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT - - - - -	17
IX. FORESTRY - - - - -	18
X. 4-H CLUB WORK - - - - -	19

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

C. C. Tucker

Name

County

Title

Agent

William F. Teel

Assistant Agent

James E. Holdren (6 months)

Assistant Agent

John S. White, Jr. (1 month)

H. S. Reynolds (1/3 time)

Assistant Agent



1960

Franklin

County