

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1959

Fredrick  
County

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## I. PLAN OF WORK

### 1. How Organized

In preparing the plan of work for the year, meetings of the Commodity and Special Committees were held in December and January. These committees included Agronomy, Dairy, Fruit, Livestock, Poultry, 4-H Club and Special Committees. The members of these committees were selected by the County Agricultural Council and the County Agricultural Extension Workers. In addition to the farmer members of the committees, representatives of the County Public Agricultural Agencies were included. These committees also included business men and bankers.

### 2. Type of Agricultural and General Situation

Before taking up each major and minor line of work for the year, some reference should be made to the type of agriculture and the present situation in the county. The agriculture in the county in the past few years has undergone a trend toward more diversified farming. The principle income from agriculture comes from fruit, livestock and poultry operations. There are 1298 farms with an average of approximately 140 acres. The population of the county is approximately 20,000 and the population of the county seat, Winchester, is approximately 16,000. Winchester is located near the center of the county and the population of both the county and city has been growing in the past few years. Many new homes are being built in and around Winchester which has increased the number of urban families, thereby adding to the extension work.

The topography of the county varies a great deal making possible many different types of farming operations. This is shown in evidence in that the poultry industry, which was scarcely a factor even as late as 1940, has now more than 100,000 laying hens, 1,000,000 broilers and approximately 150,000 turkeys. The income from poultry is only exceeded by that of fruit and livestock. There are more than 15,000 beef cattle on Frederick County farms, a sizable increase from the 2,229 listed in 1930. In our county, we have approximately 40 grade A dairy herds and we have had an increase of one this year and this trend we believe will continue. The fruit industry is a dominant factor in the economic life of this area. Apple tree numbers have steadily decreased in the past few years and at the present time, this decrease has been curtailed and almost as many young trees are being set out as old orchards are abandoned.

Of the other types of agriculture, there is still some trend toward more grasses and forage on farms in our county. More alfalfa and improved pastures are being seeded each year because of increased numbers of beef and dairy cattle. We experienced a good early growing season with abundance of early hay. The fall growing season was one of the driest we have experienced with the eastern part of the county suffering most. Grain yields were down this year with barley being exceptionally low due to the severe winter without any snow or very little moisture for protection. The yield of corn was very good in most sections of the county but not as high as last year. Early fall

grazing was decreased due to exceptionally dry weather which began early in August. The late grazing season was very good because we received ample moisture beginning in the middle of September. We experienced a large fruit crop which was damaged from the excessive heat during the ripening season. Growers could not pick the fruit fast enough to prevent this condition. We heard the expression many times that the quality of the fruit crop was considerably lower than usual because of these extreme weather conditions. The prices received by the fruit growers this year was very little higher than last year for both apples and peaches, and many of the fruit growers are facing financial difficulties.

## II. COMMODITY PROJECTS

### 1. Agronomy

The problem of producing ample amounts of feed this year round for livestock was the primary reason for developing an Agronomy Program for the county. The other major problem was controlling insects and diseases in producing this ample feed supply. This program covered pasture improvement, disease and insect control of forage crops and grass ensilage.

### A. Pasture and Forage Improvement

The county Pasture and Improvement Contest was conducted again this year with 36 farms participating. The main object of holding the pasture and forage contest was to conserve forage for a 12 month feed supply through seedings of improved grasses and legume mixtures to be used three fold for ensilage, pasture and hay. The goal was to get as many farmers as possible to use latest recommended management practices. Rotation on pastures were especially emphasized because many of our farmers do not practice this procedure. The pasture committee met early in the year and the pasture contest was set up on a district basis similar to the three previous years. A committee functioned in each district and signed up the participants in the contest. All five of the magisterial districts were represented with four or more participants. A committee visited the farmers and scored them in this contest. Cash awards will be given the winners on a district and county basis at the annual banquet scheduled for December 15. By conducting the contest on a district basis, we have been able to encourage more farmers to participate because they receive recognition by districts and are competing with farmers on the same type soil. Soil types vary over the county and participation in the contest had declined some because farmers on light type shale soil felt that they did not have much chance of participating against farmers living on heavy limestone soil.

The awards for this contest and banquet are secured by a committee of six members including three bankers and three agricultural business men. It is through the fine support of banks and business people that makes this event possible.

Our county entered the pasture program for the Northern Virginia District which is sponsored by the National Plant Food Institute. The county has been recognized in this contest two previous years.

#### B. Alfalfa Result Demonstrations

The agronomy committee at the beginning of the year discussed the average yield of alfalfa for Frederick County and felt that there was need to try to do something to increase the production per acre. Our alfalfa yields are considerably below the average and our committee felt we should strive to increase our yields by  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton per acre. Robert S. Boyd, located in the northern section of the county and Vernon White, located in the southern section of the county, cooperated by marking  $2/10$  of an acre of alfalfa off in their seedings for the demonstration. These two plots of alfalfa were sprayed by specialists from V. P. I. for the control of chickweed using Chlor IPC. Also these plots were treated for alfalfa weevil control by V. P. I. specialists using a granulated heptachlor. One of the fertilizer companies applied fertilizer to these two plots at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton per acre to study reactions of fertilizer to these demonstrations. Several farmers visited these plots and discussed these demonstrations with the farmers cooperatively and the results were very successful in that the chickweed and alfalfa weevil were controlled almost entirely. These demonstrations were publicized over the radio and we think did a lot of good in these sections of the county where they were conducted to encourage these recommended practices for alfalfa. We could not see too much reaction from the fertilizer application, this being the first year. These demonstrations will be in effect for at least three years and we should be able to see some results from the fertilizer next year.

#### C. Diseases, Insect and Weed Control in Forage and Pasture

The major problems which our alfalfa producers faced for the fourth year were alfalfa weevil and chickweed infestations. A number of farm visits were made during the infestation of these two pests and also information for their control was sent out to farmers. Also warnings were publicized in the newspaper and over the radio. The infestation of alfalfa weevil was exceedingly heavy this year and I would say that 95% of the alfalfa was sprayed or treated with granulated heptachlor for control.

Carl and Candiam thistles have become quite a problem in many of our bluegrass pastures and we have received many calls for the past two years on control measures of these pests. Mr. Allen Kates, Extension Weed Specialist, conducted spraying demonstrations on Roland B. Fisher's farm this year using 2-4-D spray. Most farmers in the county have received very poor results using 2-4-D spray because they have used it at the wrong time of year, after the thistle has completed too much growth. The demonstration was very successful and controlled the thistle almost entirely in the demonstration plot. The farmers in the area are convinced now that 2-4-D will control the thistle if applied at the proper time.

Chickweed infestation in alfalfa this year was very troublesome and many fields were sprayed for control but due to the high cost of the spray material, not enough acreage was treated.

#### D. Agronomy Tour

An agronomy tour was held on August 6 at the farms of Elmer Venkkoike and E. W. Adams, Jr. in Galneboro district. The Extension Agronomy, Live-

stock and dairy committees cooperated with the three county ruritans clubs in staging this tour and also sponsored a chécken barbecue following the tour. On the tour, the approximately 80 peéple in attendance had the opportunity to view supplemental summer pastures and forage mixtures of various combinations. The folks also had the opportunity to see some good commercial beef cattle and ask the farmers cooperating questions about the operations. Approximately 150 persons attended the barbecue following the tour which was held at the E. W. Adams, jr. home. We believe that tours such as this encourage better pasture and forage management on any farms.

#### E. Other Agronomy Activities

Other activities in the agronomy field in the county included participation in the annual winter meeting at the Middleburg Pasture Research Station. Agronomy recommendations and activities were publicized through radio, newspaper, circular letter and personal contact to insure results. In addition to the activities mentioned previously, many farm visits were made on crop recommendations, fertilizer, etc.

Much publicity was given the four state farmers meeting held in Hagerstown on January 23. Our county was represented on the planning of this meeting with E. W. Adams, Jr. and E. W. Hockman who cooperated with the local farm representative from the Northern Virginia Power Company. Fourteen folks attended this meeting from our county and two of our farmers attended a luncheon planning meeting to discuss the activities of the four state farmers organization.

#### 2. Livestock

This year, as was true in past years, more time was spent on the marketing of livestock than any other project dealing with the livestock farmers. Beef cattle prices this year were about 7 lower than last year with sheep being about the same and hogs considerably lower than last year. With livestock numbers remaining the same, but with many of our farmers depending on livestock as their main source of income, the Extension Livestock Committee attempted to develop a program to be carried out with the extension workers to help improve the situation in management and marketing of livestock.

#### A. Livestock Sales

Approximately 60 farmers from our county consigned to the spring and fall feeder calf sales which were held and participated in by six Northern Virginia counties. Approximately 1200 calves were consigned to these sales from Frederick County farmers which was the highest number ever consigned. The spring calf sale was held in April with 1900 cattle being sold for an average of \$201.22 per head or an average of \$33.45 per cwt. This was almost \$5.00 per cwt higher than last year's sale.

In the fall feeder calf sale held in October, 3511 feeder calves were sold for an average of \$29.81 per cwt and \$135.21 per head. There was a five cent difference per pound between heifers and steers. This sale averaged \$32.94 per cwt in 1958 so you can see it was about 10% lower in 1959.

For the fifth year, a Shorthorn Feeder Calf Sale was held in Winchester and the agents from Clarke and Frederick counties cooperated with Ed Huff representative from the Livestock Breeder Journal, to put on this sale. At this sale 766 calves were sold for an average of \$26.20 per cwt or \$132.60 per head as compared to \$30.72 per cwt in 1938.

The Annual Yearling Sale was held for the fifth year in which 2204 head sold for an average of \$26.41 per cwt as compared to \$27.89 last year. There were 334 halfers in this year's sale which was the first time we had ever had this large a number and they averaged \$22.83 per cwt. Extension agents spent a good deal of time working with these sales and we consider this time well spent because of the prices received at this sale. They were \$3.00 to \$4.00 per cwt higher than local auction market prices. The quality of our commercial herds of cattle and the sizes kept on farms continues to improve and our farmers are bringing calves to these sales that grade higher each year than they did the year previously. We feel that the farmer has benefited by consigning to the feeder calf sales because it has demonstrated to him the value of producing top grade calves. He has learned that it costs no more to feed and produce top quality calves than it does lower grades.

The annual Ram Sale was held again this year in July and your agents cooperated with this sale. Other sales in which farmers in our county participated are the Suffolk and Staunton Hog Sale, Winchester Registered Hereford Sale held in the spring and fall, annual Registered Shennodoh Valley Polled Shorthorn Sale, all of which were held at the Farmers Livestock Exchange and assisted with by extension agents in our county.

#### B. Bull Grading Demonstration

The livestock committee decided that more emphasis was needed on improving the type of sires being selected by our county farmers. Many of our farmers have been buying bulls through the local auction markets and sacrificing quality with these cheap bulls. We invited all beef cattle producers in our county to attend the bull grading demonstration held in conjunction with the Virginia Hereford bull sale at the Farmers Livestock Exchange in February. Many farmers attended and observed the grading committee and listened to them explain why bulls were placed in different grades. It is hard to measure just how much the farmers received from attending this demonstration but we feel that it will tend to influence them to buy better quality sires. The methods used in making this demonstration known to the farmers were through radio programs, newspaper articles and personal contacts. In addition to these methods, members of the county livestock committee contacted a lot of the beef cattle producers personally. I think this accounted for many of them attending the demonstration.

#### C. Wool Pool

For the second year special interest was put forth to encourage wool producers to consign their wool to the Clarke County Wool Pool. At the beginning of the wool marketing season, no market had been established in Winchester and the directors of the Clarke County Wool Pool invited

Frederick County producers to consign wool to their pool. We had approximately 10 producers consigning their wool to the Clarke County pool and the last of the wool was sold to the Farm Bureau of Frederick County which announced the price after the price was announced in Clarke County. Your extension agents in Frederick County assisted with the pool and helped with the collection of the wool. We expect more wool to be consigned to the Clarke County pool next year.

#### D. Livestock Subject Matter Meeting

The livestock committee felt that a general educational livestock meeting had not been held in the county for several years and that there was a need for such a meeting to have some of the recent developments in the livestock field discussed. The meeting was held at the Lee Jackson Restaurant on March 19 in cooperation with Clarke County agents. Approximately 30 farmers attended which was considered good because the weather was suitable for farm work at home. Topics discussed included:

- a. Use of stilbesterol on feeder calves on grass
- b. Use of stilbesterol on feeder calves on grain
- c. B. C. I. A. Program
- d. Feeder Cattle Sales in Virginia
- e. New developments in swine program
- f. New developments in sheep program

The speakers on these subjects were from V. P. I.

#### E. Other Livestock Activities

Special effort was put forth to cooperate in the better sires program and the assistant county agent was responsible for this report. Many of the farmers were contacted personally and by letters to obtain this information. Your agents met with the local veterinarian along with the Federal Veterinarian and outlined the program for carrying out a county wide brucellosis eradication program. The testing program got under way July 1, 1959 and a circular letter from the county agent and the Federal Veterinarian was sent to every livestock owner in the county. Also a list was secured from the County Commissioner of Revenue's office by the Extension secretary to be used in this program to help the local veterinarians locate the farmers. The testing program is expected to be concluded in 12 months from the date started and thus farm, the work is progressing very nicely.

Topics of current interest were provided from time to time throughout the year such as the use and location of better sires, bangs control through calpood vaccination, fly control, control of internal and external parasites in all types of livestock and the furnishing of building plans for all types of livestock production.

Livestock recommendations and activities were publicized through radio broadcasts, newspaper articles, circular letters and personal contact to help insure results. Periodic letters were written on seasonal, timely livestock subjects.

### 3. Dairy

The greatest problem of the dairy farmer in our county this year was the problem of increasing production through more efficiency in feeding and management practices in order to meet the higher cost of production. Our Dairy Committee centered its attention mainly toward the problem of increasing production through better feeding and management practices. Grade A dairies have steadily increased in the county in the past few years making more dairy problems to deal with in our extension work.

#### A. Dairy Herd Improvement Association

We have 8 DHIA participants in the Frederick-Clarke DHIA Association. W. J. Bieger, the local supervisor since 1955, continued this year to do an outstanding job working with all 22 herds, which comprise the association from Frederick, Clarke and Warren counties.

Three summer meetings of the DHIA were held on dairy farms in each of the three counties just mentioned. The attendance at these meetings this year were better than previous years. The DHIA Board of Directors, along with the County Agents involved, selected the type of program they wished presented at each of these twilight meetings. These programs included talks on pasture and forage, seedings and management, showing and fitting demonstrations and a tour of the three farms on which the meetings were held. Also a talk was given on the new IBM system of calculating the DHIA records. We find that our dairymen like to meet on fellow dairymen's farms and inspect their own herds and discuss various problems and activities with them concerning their dairy operation. At each of these twilight meetings, the other Grade A dairymen in the county were invited and usually some of them attended. We are hopeful that we can get other dairymen in the county to join the DHIA because we feel that they need this service to improve their dairy operations. We have had much difficulty in getting new members but we will strive to get them to join.

An annual DHIA Analysis Meeting was held jointly with Clarke and Warren counties on February 10 at the Lee Jackson Restaurant in Winchester with lunch with the group provided by the Shenandoah Valley National Bank in Winchester. We invited other Grade A dairymen to this meeting and I think it was the best attended of any dairy meeting ever held in our county. The program included topics of pertinent interest by William Griffith and Dan Kite from V. P. I. Mr. Griffith spoke on the subject of major savings on dairy operations and Dan Kite spoke on the importance of good buildings and equipment. After each of these talks, there was a discussion period and the discussion was well participated in by the dairymen present. The afternoon session was devoted to the analysis of individual membership records and the Shenandoah Valley Bank has informed us that they will be glad to cooperate with us again in this activity next year.

#### B. Artificial Breeding

We know that many more of our farmers could improve the quality of their dairy cows through artificial breeding. Some farm visits were made to farms where artificial breeding was not being practiced and the goal was to encourage more people to use the service. There are three artificial breeding

associations operating in our county and we feel that more farmers should be using one of these breeding services. We will continue to promote artificial breeding anyway we can during 1960 because we feel that we have a lot more dairymen to convince in using the service.

The Extension Agents from Clarke and Frederick Counties cooperated with the Board of Directors of the Frederick-Clarke Artificial Breeding Association to hold a barbecue for the members and other dairymen. This barbecue was held on Ft. Collier dairy farm and was attended by about 125 people and we feel did encourage some farmers to use the artificial breeding service. This is indicated by the fact that the number of cows in this association has increased this year.

Three of our Holstein Dairymen exhibited dairy cattle at several fairs in our locality. The herds did very well in the competition and several newspaper articles appeared in the local papers in regard to the Frederick County winners in these dairy events. Bill Patterson, Extension Dairymen, was requested to put on a showing and fitting demonstration prior to the fair season. All dairymen in the county were invited and we feel that this helped greatly in training 4-H club members and farmers to ready their animals for showing. It also brought attention to the dairymen the type of animals we should be looking for in the way of replacements in our herds. Several radio programs were devoted to dairy discussions regarding feeding and management.

In addition to the dairy work outlined above, radio programs were devoted to timely dairy topics and some farmers were visited who expressed interest in going into the dairy business. Also some requests were filed regarding purchasing of dairy cattle.

#### 4. Poultry

Price was the greatest problem to poultrymen in our county including prices received for live poultry and eggs. Our poultry extension committee met early in the year and discussed definite plans on how to improve this situation. Many meetings were held throughout the year on various problems relating to government legislature affecting the poultry industry.

##### A. Poultry Educational Meeting

The Poultry Committee, at the beginning of the year, decided that there was a need for holding a general educational meeting covering topics of the latest production and management recommendations. The meeting was held at the Lee Jackson Restaurant and a Dutch lunch was served with 25 people in attendance. Dr. Arthur T. Ringrose, Dr. C. H. Howes and Denver D. Bragg, discussed various poultry topics dealing with management, housing, diseases etc. It was brought out at this meeting that the poultry industry in general in our county is in trouble because of the low markets and many of the people present felt that the future of the poultry business in the county will be very uncertain.

Many of the growers in the county complained that they had no protection regarding the buyers of the poultry and that many of them had purchased their poultry without ever paying for it. Your agent met with Senator H. F. Byrd Jr. along with two poultry growers to discuss the possibility of what might be done to protect poultry growers from buyers who can not pay for their obligations. Several growers have gotten into financial difficulties because buyers have purchased their poultry and before the fact is known by the growers, the buyer has declared bankruptcy. The county extension poultry committee suggested discussing this problem with Senator Byrd, making these facts known to him, hoping that he might help find a possible solution. The county poultry committee thought it possible in solving this problem, that it might be well for the state legislature to pass a law requiring the buyers to be bonded to cover any obligations which they might make. Senator Byrd was very sympathetic and told the committee that he would look into the matter and see what might be done but he could not insure that the legislature could do anything.

#### C. Poultry Conference With Congressman

Upon the request of several poultry growers the county agent was asked to schedule a conference with Burr F. Harrison to discuss the general poultry marketing situation. Nine poultry members along with the extension agents met with Mr. Harrison in July and discussed the various problems of the growers at length with Mr. Harrison and he decided that he would make some contacts and do anything that he might to help the situation. Mr. Harrison contacted Paul Williams, executive secretary of the Virginia Poultry Federation, regarding the problem because he wanted to become familiar with the stand the State Poultry Federation was taking to help solve the poultrymen's problem. Many suggestions have been made as an outcome of these conferences and much correspondence has been written between the extension service and congressman Harrison regarding the overall poultry situation.

#### D. Other Poultry Activities

In addition to the above outlined meetings and conferences, several others were held during the year working primarily on ways and means of improving the poultry marketing situation in general. Also several days were spent visiting poultry growers with poultry specialists from V. F. I.

Also the extension agents cooperated in helping three growers establish egg laying flocks by furnishing them with desired information and securing poultry specialists help in many instances. Various other poultry problems were taken care of through the year regarding housing and management.

We feel that our main effort in poultry work for the coming year will deal with the marketing situation and ways and means to improve it.

#### 5. Fruit

The production of apples, peaches and cherries is the major type of agriculture in our county. This past year we experienced low prices for our fruit crop. Another serious problem which has confronted a number of our growers this year has been the control of leaf roller. We have had a number of growers who have had trouble with the keeping of staymen apples in storage.

Fruit production is a very specialized field and fruit growers must keep up to date on the latest growing and management recommendations. With fruit being the leading agricultural enterprise in our county, our Fruit Committee outlined a well rounded program, we think, to meet the needs of fruit growers from an Extension Program standpoint. The fruit committee has considered these factors plus the many precautions to be considered when making new plantings. Fruit growing is expensive because of the many insect and disease measures which must be used in order to produce quality fruit.

#### A. Fruit Growers Short Course

The Annual Fruit Growers Short Course was held in March at the War Memorial with approximately 175 in attendance. We considered the Short Course this year very successful and we plan to hold another one in 1960. The topics covered at the meeting included discussions of the 1959 fruit spray program for both apples and peaches and two panels made up of growers participated on the program. At the end of each of these discussions, the audience was offered the opportunity to ask any specific questions regarding these grower's orchard operations. Also a talk was included on the program covering a discussion of the latest recommended varieties of fruit for both apples and peaches. The machine dealers of Winchester exhibited various types of orchard equipment and staged demonstrations on the use of the various pieces of equipment. Machinery and fertilizer dealers provided funds which covered lunch and other expenses for the meeting. Most of the fruit growers in the county look forward to the Short Course each year because it affords them an opportunity to hear the latest recommendations and problems concerning the fruit industry. Fruit growing management practices change from season to season and it is a business which the fruit growers must keep up to date on the latest management practices in order to be successful. It also affords our growers an opportunity to hear reports on the annual State Horticultural Society Meeting for those not able to attend.

#### B. Twi-Light Orchard Meetings

At the beginning of the year, the fruit planning meeting decided to hold three summer twi-light meetings in orchards because three were held last year and were well attended. Many growers requested that these meetings be continued in 1959.

The first in a series of three twi-light fruit meetings was held in June at Grover Taet's orchard. Approximately 100 fruit growers attended the meeting and the program consisted of the following:

Disease Situation by A. B. Groves, from the Winchester Fruit Lab. Dr. C. H. Hill discussed the insect situation. Dr. H. A. Rollins discussed the fruit prospects for 1959. A representative from the State Apple Commission discussed the advertising program. Refreshments were furnished for the event by the Commercial and Savings Bank of Winchester. Two more twi-light meetings were scheduled for July and August.

The second in a series of summer twi-light meetings was held on July 9 at the orchard of James Richards and J. H. McDonald and Sons. The attendance at this meeting was the best this summer with over 100 fruit growers attending. Refreshments for the meeting were served with the compliments of the

Middletown State Bank. The program consisted of timely information regarding spray schedules for both apples and peaches. Members of the Horticultural Department at V. P. I. and workers from the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory appeared at the program.

The third twilight fruit growers meeting was held on September 10 at the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory with over 100 fruit growers in attendance. Dr. H. N. Young, Director of the Virginia Experimental Station, was principal speaker on this occasion. The flag pole, which was presented to the Winchester Research Laboratory by the Frederick County Fruit Growers Association, in memory of their two past Presidents, Walter McC. Bond and Phil Gold, was dedicated. Dr. Young made an acceptance speech. The Shenandoah Valley National Bank furnished refreshments for the occasion.

#### C. Monthly Meetings

Periodic meetings were held throughout the year for Frederick County fruit growers. The Extension Service cooperated with the Frederick County Fruit Growers Association in all their meetings and at each of the meetings, some educational topics were presented. The topics at these meetings for this year included discussions pertaining to disease and insect control, marketing and general management and production problems. Leading authorities were secured to discuss these different topics.

Several of our growers, professional workers and bankers, and others interested, attended the annual Horticulture Society Meeting held in Roanoke. It seems each year more growers attend the annual meetings and the County Agent has attended three times.

The Annual Meeting of the fruit growers was held on April 10 at which time the Farmers and Merchants National Bank entertained the growers at the Winchester Country Club for dinner. The meeting was very well attended with approximately 200 people attending. The annual reports for the association were presented and your agent reported on the educational activities carried on during the past year dealing with the fruit program.

#### D. Quality Apple Production Contest

The Frederick County Quality Apple Production Contest was conducted again this year to stimulate more interest in the improvement, marketing and production of apples. We consider this year's contest to be the most successful one we have held thus far. Participation remained about the same as last year with approximately 65 growers participating. The contest included three different sections, apple production, processing and apple show. Banks and various business firms contributed money to be used for awards for the winners in each of the three sections. Prized totaling more than \$700 will be awarded the winners in the different classes at the annual banquet scheduled for Dec. 15. This is held in conjunction with the pasture club. The Apple show was held during National Apple Week and was one of the main attractions locally to call attention to our fruit industry by the public. Several radio broadcasts were devoted to discussions of various fruit topics during the year and George Williams, Association Extension Horticulturist at the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory, has been most cooperatively and helpful in the county fruit program this year.

## E. Farm Labor

For the past several years, our county has been short of apple pickers during the harvest season and the situation looks about the same for the future. Almost 900 migratory and Bahamian workers housed at the Frederick County Fruit Growers Labor Camp to pick apples, peaches and cherries in Frederick and Clarke counties. The Extension Agent cooperated with the Frederick County Fruit Growers in many ways in the operation of this camp. Over three million bushels of fruit was harvested by these workers housed at the camp.

## III OTHER ADULT ACTIVITIES

### A. Farmers Income Tax & Social Security Meeting

Due to some changes in the Income Tax and Social Security Laws pertaining to farmers, we held a meeting on January 9 at which time we invited all farmers in the county to attend. The meeting was publicized not only by personal letters to the farmers, but also through newspaper articles and radio publicity. W. J. Nuckolls, Jr., Extension Economist from V. P. I., discussed the new laws and answered questions arising from the audience. The meeting was very successful with a wide discussion and over 50 farmers attending.

### B. Farm Credit Conference

Your agent attended the Farm Credit Conference held at Natural Bridge, March 1-4. This meeting was attended also by three of our county bankers and your agent has been attending this conference for several years. I would like to state that the program is most informative and is very helpful to me in my extension work because it offers a lot of information concerning outlook subject matter and farmer banking problems. We had many requests regarding land value during the year and some of the information received from the conference was most helpful.

### C. National Farm City Week

Joseph E. Butler, local fruit grower who served as area chairman for 18 northern Virginia counties for the observance of Farm-City Week, requested that your agent offer some assistance to him in this job. Some correspondence was sent out to the counties and radio and newspaper publicity was taken care of also by the county agent. The County Agent also helped Mr. Butler in staging a Rural-Urban Dinner with the Winchester Kiwanis Club at which time Mr. G. H. Clark, District Extension Agent, was principle speaker. We feel that this effort has been well spent in bringing about better understanding between our county and city people.

## IV. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-eight farm families are now participating in the Farm and Home Development phase of extension work. This was an increase of seven from last year on the present goal of 30 participants. Twenty-five of the participants are full time farm operators and three are part time farmers. These were re-classified as follows: Fifteen are general farmers, four are fruit growers with livestock and poultry providing supplemental income, seven are dairy farmers, of which three have fruit and/or livestock as major supplemental enterprises. Two are primarily beef producers.

Of the dairy farmers, five are grade A producers, one completed requirements during the year for grade A production, and two others have in their lone terms, plans to produce grade A milk. All are encouraged to use DHIA.

With the help of an advisory committee, seven goals developed for 1958 are being continued and slightly revised. One other was added.

1. To increase number of participants to 30 families. Number present participants increased from 21 to 28 with six additional farm families ready for enrollment.

2. To keep participants informed about new and improved farm and home making data. Where applicable, each family was encouraged to attend and participate in extension meetings. Information was also supplied via bulletins plans, demonstrations and personal contact.

3. To aid the family as much as possible on plans, projects and problems that might occur. It was with continued satisfaction that this agent was contacted several times during the year by many of the participants on such matters. Specialists were used on occasions.

4. To encourage the participating families to take advantage of and participate in the various extension programs already in the county. This goal was tied with number 2. Additionally, each family had children in the 4-H program where applicable. Eight families were associated with home demonstration work, one added during the year.

5. To encourage the feeder calf producers to take advantage of the special sales. Most of the producers marketed livestock through the early sales, but a good season helped to encourage them to finish the cattle on their farms.

6. To encourage the use of recommended seed varieties and fertilizer programs. Each family was provided with this data.

7. To aid participating families in selecting replacement livestock and to encourage dairy participants in the use of artificial breeding. Purebred Hereford and Shorthorn Sales were conducted in the county. Several dairy sales were conducted mostly in neighboring counties. Many participants attended these sales through extension encouragement. Most emphasis was put on selecting replacement stock as a result of a personal survey. Specialists in agronomy, poultry, agricultural engineering, and wildlife, assisted various participants during the year. An alfalfa production test was made on one farm. Three demonstrations in the control of chickweed in alfalfa, the control of alfalfa weevil, and the control of brush, were conducted on two participants farms.

8. To encourage participants to utilize and improve marketing situations.

Additionally, as mentioned in other sections in the report, participants were encouraged to attend extension sponsored tax meetings, fruit growers meetings, poultry conferences, DHIA meetings, pasture tours, and the like held in the county. Some of these events were held on participant's farms.

More people were acquainted with the Farm and Home Development phase through talks to home demonstration clubs, individual contacts, and limited radio programs. This public relations phase needs more emphasis during the year.

More emphasis continues to be needed on developing a well planned farm and home program, with alternatives, by each participant, together with improvement in keeping farm records.

#### V. 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

The 4-H club program was planned by a committee consisting of J. H. McDonald, W. B. Storer, Nelson Carpenter, Malcolm Brumback, and A. E. Belford. The most immediate problem discussed by the committee was the securing of more adult and junior leaders. Several more men have been obtained this year and it is expected that some of the older 4-H members that have grown too old to continue in the junior program will become leaders. A serious problem was encountered during the past year in our school 4-H club program. The school board, before consulting any of the county staff or 4-H leaders, decided to discontinue 4-H clubs in this county schools. A meeting of the 4-H committee and officers of the school clubs was called and it was decided that practice of 4-H club members who thought that the program was a worthwhile project, should contact members of the board and urge them to change their ruling on the issue. The county staff also met with the school board and discussed the problem and it was decided that they would change their ruling and continue to have 4-H clubs in the county schools.

#### A. Enrollment

Frederick County has a total of 17 4-H clubs, 7 of which are community clubs and 10 school clubs. The total enrollment of the boys is 292 members.

#### B. Beef

The 4-H baby beef show and sale which is held jointly with Clarke County and is sponsored by the Winchester Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, was held on April 27. A total of 20 baby beefs were shown and sold for an average of \$34.12 per cwt. The average weight of these steers was 921 pounds. The quality of these steers was excellent and both the graders and state specialists that attended the show commented that they were the best group of steers, taken as a whole, that they had seen in the state.

Individual attention was given to the boys as to the fitting and showing for several months previous to the show and sale. The steers were vatted at least once every two weeks. In some cases where the club members expressed difficulties as to fitting or feeding of their steer, he was visited more often.

The Annual Short Horn Show and Sale was held at which time a 4-H livestock judging contest was held with a majority of the clubs in the county having a team participating in this event.

#### C. Swine

The Sears Roebuck Pig Chain again continued to be the high point of the 4-H swine program. Five boys in the county received pigs this year. The program was altered slightly this year by the fact that all of the pigs were not assigned to 4-H club members in one particular area of the county. It was decided that boys who are outstanding young 4-H club members interested in livestock, would receive these pigs regardless of where they lived in the county. I think this will tend to create more interest and result in a much better job being done in raising the pigs.

The Sears Roebuck Pig Chain Banquet was held at the Lee Jackson Restaurant on the evening of June 8. Roy Godsey, swine specialist from V. P. I. made a short talk about swine, and then awards were presented by Mr. John Carr, manager of the Winchester Sears Store.

#### D. Sheep

Despite emphasis on sheep projects, both the number and the interest shown by 4-H club members in the past year has been low. Two fat lamb shows and sales were held in Winchester again this year, and members who were carrying sheep as a project were visited and urged to attend this show. However, participation was low and there seems to be a very definite lack of interest. Even though sheep have not made a good showing this year, I think they are an excellent project and a profitable one. I will continue to urge more 4-H club members to take them as a project.

#### E. Poultry

The following members made up the Frederick County Poultry Judging Team: Tommy Crabill, Richard Anderson, Paul Green, and Freddy Grim. This team judged in the district contest which was held at Timberville and placed third and then judged in the contest held in Blacksburg,

The economic depression of the poultry industry has also carried into the 4-H members of the county who have in the past been interested in poultry. Several outstanding boys have discontinued their poultry project and there are only a very small number now carrying poultry, with broiler or laying flocks of etiquette size. One bright spot of the poultry project in the county, was Tommy Crabill, who submitted the achievement record for the first time this year and received a red award and a trip to the poultry convention in Richmond.

#### F. Dairy

Older 4-H club members who in the past had given an excellent account of themselves in both the dairy shows and judging contests, have become too old to continue in the junior 4-H club program. Several promising young members are beginning to take hold and in several years dairy projects in the county should be of a larger number and of much higher quality. Several 4-H club members were in the Northern Virginia Dairy Show and there was an excellent representation of 4-H dairy projects at the Frederick County Fair.

#### G. Forestry

One of the most unique and worthwhile programs that I have been associated with since being in the county, has been entered into with the cooperation of the Soil Conservation Department and the Home Demonstration Clubs in the county. Through their cooperation approximately 300 4-H club members, both boys and girls received 900 "blight resistant" chestnut trees. The members were given instructions as to planting them and in most cases they were started successfully. Several youngsters in the 4-H program were starting a grove of nut trees consisting of chinese chestnuts, black walnuts, and other nut trees.

### Other Activities

The county livestock judging team consisting of Leon Strosnider, Willis Belford, Robert Belford, and Ronnie Green judged in the district contest this past year. A good number of livestock judging workouts were held and special emphasis was placed upon the training of younger 4-H club members in livestock judging.

The 100 bushel corn contest was conducted for 4-H and FFA members and the awards will be made in this contest at the Annual Pasture and Fruit Banquet scheduled for December 15. Several 4-H boys participated in this contest and three of them will receive certificates for their yields of 100 bushels per acre or better.

Two 4-H club members attended the State 4-H Conservation Camp held at Virginia Beach in August. They were Leon Strosnider and Peggy Franklin.

Four 4-H club members from the county consisting of Leon Strosnider, Freddy Grim, Willis Belford and Robert Belford attended the A. I. C. convention in Urban, Illinois in August.

Lester Foster received the county award in electricity for the past year and attended the State 4-H Electric Congress held in Richmond. This is the second year in a row that a member of the Armaul 4-H club has received this award. This is due mainly to the efforts of Mr. J. V. Sumption, their adult leader, who has given the boys of his club much excellent training in electricity.

The Share The Fun Program and The Achievement Program is scheduled to be held in December. Our program is held at this late date in order to give Buddy Adams and Harriet Goode, winners of state trips to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, a chance to give a brief report of the trip to other members in the county.

The Frederick County Agricultural Fair was held in September with 4-H members participating and was considered a success. Over 600 4-H exhibits were on hand due to the participation of our boys 4-H clubs in the county with a very large representation of livestock. In addition to livestock, apples, field crops, garden vegetables and other farm produce were exhibited.

County Camp which was held in Powell's Fort Valley was attended by 65 4-H club members from the county. Frederick, Page and Warren Counties attended camp at the same time, with Ben Weddle, County Agent of Warren County, acting as camp director. The campers received instructions in letter craft, copper tooling, song and game leadership and soils. The week of camping was enjoyed by both the club members and adults attending and was considered a success.

A tractor school was held in the county with the cooperation of the local implement dealers. Five meetings were held; one meeting at each of these dealers. The school was attended by approximately 14 club members, with ten of them completed. However, due to the age differences, it was exceptionally hard to give an interesting and educational program.

The two 4-H County Council meetings were held in the past year and attendance was excellent. At our last meeting held in November, approximately sixty 4-H club members throughout the county attended.

A County-wide party was held during the summer and approximately 120 4-H club members and parents attended. Members attending played games and had an out-door picnic.

On October 24, 140 4-H club members, both boys and girls, embarked for Washington for a tour of various places of interest and the National 4-H Club Center. The trip was enjoyed by all the members who went and it is planned to make this trip an annual county 4-H club event.

On November 14, an Officer's Workshop for officers of various 4-H clubs in the county was held at Robinson Memorial School, with approximately 80 4-H club members attending. Jack Tyree assisted with the day's program and members received much valuable training in their particular club duties.

4-H Short Course in Blacksburg was attended by a full quota of both boys and girls.

#### VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES, FARMS AND BUSINESS GROUPS

The splendid cooperation of all the agricultural agencies, and the financial support given by the banks and business people in general, has been a great help for the Extension Program. There has been no problem in our working relations because everyone is interested in building a sound program for agricultural in the county. A brief statement covering the cooperation of each group will illustrate how effective this mutual cooperation has been.

##### A. Agricultural Stabilization Committee

Since the County Agent is a member of the County ASC Committee, he met with this committee at their monthly meetings and participated in setting up the Agricultural Conservation Program for Frederick County. The County Agent served this year as Chairman of the ASC Electoral Board. He took the responsibility of calling a meeting of the board at which time nominees were selected for the Community Electoral Board. A meeting was held at the beginning of the sign-up period in the Agricultural Conservation Program, at which time the County Agent explained some phases of the program along with the Soil Conservation Technician and the District Forester.

##### B. Soil Conservation Service

As has been customary for many years, we cooperated with the soil technicians and others from the soil conservation service in preparing and working out recommendations for conservation plans for farmers. This proved to be very helpful because in working together, we were able to do a much better job in providing farmers with good sound plans for their farm operations. Our greatest contribution was with livestock and farm management in general.

### C. Soil Conservation District

The County Agent Attended meetings of Lord Fairfax Soil Conservation District. The district made many school accomplishments during the year, a few of which were: Sponsored three school essay contests, school poster contest, entered the Goodyear Nation-Wide Soil Conservation Awards Program and gave two radio broadcasts and publicized news articles alerting the public of the importance of conserving the soil. This was particularly highlighted during Natural Resources Week.

### D. Farm Credit Administration

During the year, we had more calls on matters of farm credit, and therefore many farmers were referred to the Farm Credit Administration for their credit needs. The representatives of the local Farm Credit Office have been exceedingly cooperative in the various programs of the Extension Service. They rendered considerable help with the feeder calf sales. J. A. Everly, Secretary-Treasurer of our local Farm Credit Administration has served on the program at our Annual Pasture and Fruit Banquet.

### E. Farmers Home Administration

Work with the Farmers Home Administration was more this year due to the fact that David Headley, a local farmer in our county, served as supervisor for the area which included Frederick County. The supervisor's office was moved from the Clerk's office to the County Agent's Office where he meets the borrowers to discuss various problems. During the course of these meetings, the extension agents are called on at various times for consultation where they were not before. Also the supervisor has asked that the extension agents in the county help him on various problems which have been more this year than in the past. The supervisor and the agent in charge of the Farm and Home Development Program, worked together to help this farmer. Also the supervisor cooperated by serving on the County ASC Electoral Board.

### F. Vocational Agriculture

Of all the agencies we have worked with in the county, we have worked more with vocational agriculture. This is largely due to the fact that we come in contact with each other because of the 4-H club program. Many of the clubs are located in the schools and we have participated in a number of joint activities, such as the agricultural fair, livestock judging contest, Baby Beef Show and Sale, Pasture Contest and others. The three agricultural teachers served on the district pasture committee this year and helped with obtaining participants and also helped judge the pasture in three of the magisterial districts. It is because of this understanding that the program for each agency has met with this success.

### G. Banks and Business Groups

The banks and business people in the community have been very generous in the financial support of projects and programs for both adult and youth work. The amount of money made available for these different projects and activities amounted to approximately \$1500. In addition to this financial support, both banks and business representatives served on committees for adult and 4-H club work. In return for this cooperation and assistance, your extension workers have assisted in many of the activities carried on by the banks and business groups. The Rural-Urban Meeting, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, was another activity in which we assisted.

The three local banks sponsored the trip of the County Agent to the State Farm Credit Conference held at Natural Bridge in March.

#### H. Town and Country Institute

At the requests of a committee of County Ministers, a Town and Country Institute was held on May 20 at the Lee Jackson Restaurant. This meeting was held to inform the ministers of some of the work done by the agencies in the county. Twenty-one persons attended the meeting and The Farmers and Merchants National Bank furnished lunch. Two ministers appeared on the program and discussed "The Church's Responsibility For Recreational Activities Of It's Young People", and "The Church's Concern For The Economic Well-being Of It's Members". In addition to hearing these two ministers, Mr. Roberts A James, Superintendent of the Winchester-Frederick County Department of Welfare, discussed the welfare program in Frederick County.

#### I. Evaluation and Significance of the Year's Work

In reviewing the past year's work, I will attempt to itemize two or three items which we feel were most important. The meetings with the fruit growers during the summer months was the most outstanding accomplishment as far as our fruit program was concerned. The average attendance at these three meetings was over 80 and the enthusiasm of the growers at these meetings has steadily increased. The Pasture program was the outstanding accomplishment in our agronomy program and it was successful with good participation and we enjoyed a good season.

Our work with the Feeder Calf Sales was our most important contribution to the livestock farmers in our county this year. The outstanding event in our dairy program this year was a general dairy meeting in cooperation with the Clarke-Frederick DMLA. The attendance and enthusiasm at this meeting was the best in our dairy work which we have experienced in the past ten years.

We are very proud of the accomplishments made in our 4-H club this year, and particularly proud that Frederick County was represented in the District Contest with a dairy, poultry, livestock, and egg grading team. We are also proud that we had several state and district winners in the 4-H achievement contest. It is very hard to single out any one accomplishment as the greatest because we feel that there were many, but we mentioned these few because we feel that they were most outstanding in our year's work.