

VI. EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

I feel that the Extension program during 1960 has not been as strong as the previous year or two. There have been too many personnel changes to have accomplished all goals which were made. I am convinced that a great portion of any success that may have been attained must go to other agencies, organizations, and individuals in the county which have cooperated with the Extension service throughout the year.

Planning has been one of the weakest points of the Extension program, since I have been in Russell County. We do not yet have effective commodity committees to help plan and carry out the work.

In our 4-H program there is a lack of leaders to help carry it out. I realize that a strong leader program will help make a stronger 4-H program.

Russell County joining the overall organization much hope. I was asked to compile and bring before the directors all information available on wool marketing - county, state and national.

After much discussion by the directors and some sound counseling by a director who had been in on the overall organization from the beginning the Russell County Wool Pool agreed to join the Virginia-North Carolina Mountain Wool Marketing Association with one reservation. That was each pool could reject bids ^{if} not suitable.

The Virginia-North Carolina Mountain Wool Marketing Association was formally organized in the early spring of 1960. Pools from Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia make up this organization. This represents one-half million pounds of wool.

The directors of each pool and buyers representing many of the major companies in the United States met on May 18, 1960, in Marion for the wool sale.

Each buyer was given a list of pools and the amount of wool. The buyer bid on any or all pools. The directors of a pool were given the top three bids to consider. All pools sold their wool on May 18, 1960, and were pleased with the prices.

Russell County wool sold for \$59.65 per hundred which was the highest price in the country for 1960 for our type of wool.

EXTENSION PROJECT & ACCOMPLISHMENT

Virginia-North Carolina Mountain Wool Marketing Association

For approximately thirty years wool has been sold through county wool pools in Southwest Virginia. In 1959 several wool producers and Extension workers began to consider a somewhat different wool marketing set up.

The individual wool pools were well organized but each pool was out to beat their neighbor on wool selling day. Very few pools had enough wool to lure buyers to their selling point, consequently much of the wool was sold over the phone. Information generally was not available on current wool prices. These plus many other factors caused farmers and Extension agents to get together and form the Virginia-North Carolina Mountain Wool Marketing Association.

Russell County has the largest one county wool pool in Southwest Virginia. The Russell County Cooperative has always served as the selling agent for the wool pool. Members of the Board of Directors of the Russell County Cooperative serve as wool pool directors also.

Several of these directors attended the first organizational meeting of what was later to become the Virginia-North Carolina Mountain Wool Marketing Association. These men came away from this meeting undecided as to whether Russell County would join the other pools. The overall group had decided that each pool would keep its identity but on selling day an individual pool could not reject its bid without majority consent of the other pools. This was the main point of dissent among the Russell County group.

The manager of the Russell County Coop called a meeting of the directors. At this time I would not have given the chances of

E. Forest Service

The Forest Service personnel out of the district office in Abingdon has been most cooperative in helping set up ACP programs and other forestry related programs and have been called on many times to assist with timber estimation on individual farms.

Forestry personnel as well as the TVA Forester worked with Extension foresters and agents in setting up two forestry demonstration plots in the county.

F. Local Banks, Merchants, and Civic Organizations

The local banks, business firms, and civic organizations have taken an active part in sponsoring the Extension work and particularly 4-H programs. These people sponsor such things as the calendar for 4-H members, baby beef show, and many other things.

Bankers inform us as to the types of farm credit that are available which puts us in a better position to talk credit with farmers.

and engineering practices through meetings, personal contacts, and mass media.

The year's program was planned by supervisors, professional workers and farmers organized by the agent.

The Soil Conservation Service technicians have showed very little interest in the soils program carried on this year but other cooperation has been good.

C. Farmers Home Administration

The local FHA supervisor has been assisted with many farm management and loan situations throughout the year. Numerous farm building and house plans have been furnished this organization for farmers securing loans.

Farmers desiring loans have been given the facts on FHA loans whenever possible through personal contacts and news articles.

D. Vocational Agriculture Program

Extension--Vo-Ag relationship in Russell County is quite a desirable one. We cooperate together on many youth programs and projects as well as public service projects.

We have furnished all the Vo-Ag departments in Russell County with new bulletins and other needed teaching materials from time to time. In turn we use their classroom and shop facilities for farm meetings when needed.

The Castlewood Farmers Club, which is under the sponsorship of the Vo-Ag instructor is frequently visited and assistance with programs is afforded.

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. ASC County Office

The county agent, serving as ex-officer member of the County ASC Committee, attended practically all monthly meetings and many special meetings. Several of the district meetings were also attended. The portion of the program which was assisted most with was the ACP program. The agents did considerable education and promotion work on the ACP program as well as other programs throughout the year in meetings, personal contacts and through mass media.

Much of the success of the county agronomy program must be attributed to the ACP program which was very effective and far-reaching.

The demand for ACP was even greater than in 1959. The \$86,000 allocation was not nearly sufficient to cover the requests. About 750 practices were applied for. This is a significant increase over last year.

Working relations with this agency on all programs have always been excellent.

B. Soil Conservation Service

The agent has served as secretary on the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation board of supervisors during the year 1960 and has attended practically all monthly and special meetings.

The agent has served on the county group in making the conservation needs estimate for Russell County.

The agents have done considerable education work on soil conservation

tree orders and encouraging farmers to carry out improved forestry practices.

F. Cooperatives

The cooperative organization we work closely with is the Russell County Cooperative which is a buying and selling coop and is owned and run by county farmers.

The agents work closely with management of the Coop in marketing lambs and wool.

Approximately 98% of the wool and 60 to 70% of the lambs in the county are marketed cooperatively through this set-up. Russell County wool sold for \$59.65 per hundred this year which was the highest price in Virginia. Lambs consistently net the farmer more money because of less selling cost.

The agent keeps in close contact with the Virginia Burley Tobacco Association and endeavors to keep farmers informed on actions which will affect the marketing of their tobacco crops.

few farms are producing eggs for local sale.

There are only two producers in the egg business on a commercial scale. They have a total of about 4,000 hens. Both of these producers as well as farm flock owners receive some help from Extension on management and marketing problems.

D. Russell County Fair

The Russell County Fair is a county-wide project to which the Extension staff devotes much time and planning. The Russell County Fair Association is made up of farmers and businessmen and has been a successful governing body. A local civic club also participates in the sponsorship of the fair.

The county agent serves as secretary and advisor to the board of directors. The Fair is certainly one of our good educational tools.

Some of the highlights of our successful fair this year were a 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest, a sixty-five animal Dairy Show, and strong beef cattle, sheep and swine shows.

The \$900 net to the Fair Association will be invested in permanent type improvements to the grounds.

E. Forestry

More forest establishment and better forest management are two distinct needs in our county forestry program. Much of our existing forest land needs to be fenced off from livestock and much of our steeper land need to be set in trees.

4-H members set out 20,500 seedlings this past year. We feel that this is a good way to acquaint farmers with good forestry practices.

The ASC Committee and state foresters were worked with in taking

IV. MINOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. TVA - Extension

There are nineteen TVA test demonstration farms in Russell County which are very effectively used as result demonstrations. These farmers have been worked with in some detail on recommended practices and farm records. Three new demonstrators have been added this year. There will be six demonstrators who will go off in 1961. There is being an effort made to locate demonstrators in all sections of the county so as to better facilitate the benefits of the program to all farmers.

The demonstrators have been worked with on farm management problems and on record keeping.

B. Farm Buildings

We feel that this phase of our Extension program is a minor one but a very important one.

A complete set of farm building plans are kept on file.

Many farmers were worked with on three particular phases of farm buildings: (1) bunker silos. Fifteen to twenty new ones were built this year. (2) milking parlors. Twelve dairy farmers requested help on either remodeling or building milking parlors. (3) pole barns. Assistance was given to several farmers getting ready to build new pole type barns for either hay storage, cattle, or machinery.

All ag-engineering requests relating to soil and water conservation were transferred to the Soil Conservation Service technicians.

C. Poultry

Most poultry in the county is for farm use. However, a

C. General 4-H

1. Civic organizations, county banks and numerous business organizations have been most cooperative in financing 4-H activities during the year.

One of the local banks sponsors and pays for calendars for each 4-H member.

Appalachian Power Company representatives help organize and carry out many of our 4-H activities.

The Lebanon Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Russell County Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor the County Baby Beef Show. Many business concerns help sponsor this project.

2. The vo-ag teachers are always most cooperative. They work along with Extension on Baby Beef Projects, market hog projects, and on the Russell County Fair.

3. Public school officials are most cooperative in working with the 4-H program. Again this year more pressure is being felt with senior groups because of ever tightening school schedules.

Generally time is limited for senior meetings. In some high schools students can only belong to one club. Some of these problems are going to have to be met by having more out-of-school groups.

In the grades, most of the teachers are interested in the 4-H program and serve as leaders.

members attended camp because of the larger number, eleven, boys who attended short course from the county.

One boy from the county attended Forestry Camp. This was the first year that a 4-H member attended Forestry Camp.

One boy from the county attended TVA Resource Development Camp, Conservation Camp, and State Electric Short Course.

7. County Fair

About forty livestock projects and sixty crop projects were entered in the county fair. In addition 4-H members had a concession stand on which about \$150 was cleared. This went into the County 4-H Council treasury.

8. National 4-H Club Week

The local weekly printed a full page during National 4-H Week. Pictures and local articles were used on the page.

9. Achievement Day

The 4-H Achievement Day was held in conjunction with a tour to the new Appalachian Power Plant at Carbo. Between 550-600 4-H members and their parents attended the program. This was thought by many to be the largest Achievement Day program ever held in the county.

10. Tractor Maintenance School

Thirteen members were enrolled in a Tractor Maintenance School sponsored by the Extension service and a local machinery dealer. This special interest group met once each week during February and March. A tractor driving contest was held in conjunction with the project in April.

boys to try out for these teams so as to gain valuable experience.

Contests of this sort give boys a chance to compete and learn.

4. Continue participating in the Baby Beef Project

Fourteen steers were fed by county 4-H members this past year. The annual 4-H and FFA Baby Beef tour was held during the Christmas Holidays. This tour provides the youngsters a chance to see what the others are doing with their project.

The county Baby Beef Show was held in early April. It is sponsored by the Jaycees and the Russell County Chamber of Commerce.

Twelve of our fourteen steers graded choice or prime at the Bristol Show. Two of our 4-H'ers placed first and second in the lightweight Hereford class. The business people from the county support this project and help to encourage it by buying most of our steers 2 to 3 cents higher than the sale average.

5. Hog Projects

The Sears 4-H Pig Chain was moved to the Honaker area of the county this year. The chain is meaning much in improving hog quality throughout the county. There is about as much interest in the pig chain as any project in the county. As the result of the pig chain Russell County 4-H'ers had the champion and reserve champion pens of three fat hogs at the Bristol Junior Market Hog Show. Thirty hogs were shown and because of the good showing Russell County won a \$200 pig chain given by Valleydale Packers.

6. Camps

Twenty-six junior members and six senior members attended 4-H camp at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. Fewer senior

All Stars and the County Council are active in planning and carrying out the over-all program. Plans are being made to start an honor club in 1961.

B. Results of Goals and Objectives

1. Have a planned program with members participating at each meeting.

The vice-presidents are in charge of the programs. Generally they plan a ten to fifteen minute program at each meeting which includes a devotion, a report on a 4-H event, a song and a game. Training was given at the county council meeting on conducting a meeting.

2. Have at least 90% project Completion

There were 1,252 projects carried by 362 members under the supervision of the assistant county agent. 434 members completed one or more projects. 206 completed all projects they were carrying

A total of 726 projects or 58 % of the projects were completed.

This completion percentage is lower than last year. The change in Extension personnel has made it harder to get project completion.

3. Train Judging Teams

Livestock judging, dairy judging, and land appreciation teams were trained by the assistant county agent and the county agent. The livestock and land appreciation teams placed second in the District contest. The dairy team placed third. All teams were eligible to go to Short Course. There is a need for more

E. 4-H Club Program

A. Situation

There were twenty-seven boys' 4-H clubs in the county with a total of 562 members. Twenty-four of these clubs are combination clubs with both boys and girls enrolled. The home demonstration agent gives project instruction to the girls and the assistant county agent instructs the boys. Three of the clubs were conducted by the assistant county agent and included both boys and girls. There were forty-two girls enrolled in these clubs.

All clubs are met in the schools. Special interest groups such as Tractor Maintenance and Horse and Pony Members are met out of school. Forestry was selected as a county-wide group project for 1959-60. This project was taught as a forestry appreciation and forestry identification project.

In addition to the group project each member was required to take at least one other project to be conducted at home. Members were encouraged to take a livestock or crop project when possible. About one-half of the county 4-H members live on farms. The remainder live in small towns and villages and carry projects such as electricity, garden, and entomology. The addition of non-farm boys adds more depth to the program. Many of the outstanding leaders which develop are non-farm boys.

There were 618 boys enrolled in Forestry projects, 134 in Garden, 125 in Electricity, 112 in Livestock projects followed by Wildlife, Dairy, and the numerous other projects available.

whereby all soil samples received through his office would be sent for analysis by the county agent. This has resulted in more complete recommendations on all soil samples. We felt that many farmers did not realize what complete benefits could be gotten from their soil sample report. Many farmers were only getting lime recommendations when soil samples were sent through the ASC Office.

The number of soil samples increased from 624 in 1959 to 706 in 1960. This is not a large increase but an increase which looks promising. No special emphasis has been placed on sampling this year except writing news articles and making sampling equipment available wherever possible.

3. Burley Tobacco

Tobacco is always a major agronomic project because of its importance as a crop and as an income producer.

Information on varieties and fertilization was made available to all farmers. Some TVA demonstrators were given samples of new varieties to grow as demonstrators.

Approximately 15% of the soil samples taken in the county were for Burley tobacco recommendations.

Two tobacco grading demonstrations were held in October. Much of the tobacco emphasis has been placed on handling of tobacco from the time it is cut through marketing. Four news articles and many farm visits have been made stressing grading and marketing.

Alfalfa acreage has increased from 2,198 in 1954 to 5,363 in 1959 or an average of 633 per year. This I feel was a good increase. Yields, however, have increased only .1 tons per acre and now stand at 2.1 tons per acre. Many farmers feel that alfalfa only needs topdressing when assistance can be gotten through the ACP Program which is every four years. During the past year explicit recommendations have been made on every soil sample from alfalfa pointing out the need for topdressing each year. I feel that by 1961 there will be an increased awareness of topdressing. This should come about through the alfalfa weevil. If present recommendations on using Heptachlor in the fall are continued more farmers will be topdressing. There is an increasing segment of farmers asking about the comparative cost of making alfalfa as compared to orchard grass plus nitrogen. The alfalfa weevil promises to cause more problems to producers in 1961.

Silage tonage is slowly increasing in the county. More beef cattle producers are realizing the value of corn silage in their feeding program. Bunker silos have provided many farmers with a low cost means of storing silage.

An average of one and one-half news articles per month were written on the agronomy program.

2. Soils Program

Soil sampling has been stressed in the soils program again this year. A program was set up with the ASC Office manager

The eradication program will be gotten underway on December 1, 1960. The agent is preparing road lists.

Fewer heifers have been vaccinated with Strain 19 mainly because it was not free until November 1, 1960. The local veterinarian has reported that there has been a considerable increase in vaccinations since November 1.

D. Agronomy

Adequate feed supply is the most important phase of agronomy in Russell County since livestock is the big income producer. The main needs are more silage, more alfalfa, more and better pasture, and an increase in the use of lime and fertilizer.

Objectives set up this year are as follows:

- (1). To increase alfalfa acreage and yield.
- (2). To increase the use of silage particularly corn silage.
- (3). To encourage farmers to seed more permanent type forage crops and to fertilize all crops and pasture more heavily.

In obtaining what we term a fairly successful year in terms of results, we have worked closely with the ACP Program and the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District in getting farmers to make full use of government assistance, and technical aid available.

An agronomy letter giving recommended varieties of seed and analysis and rates of fertilizers to use was mailed to all farmers in later winter. This is probably the most important circular letter sent out during the year.

Two alfalfa fertilization demonstration plots were set up in 1959 with the help of the Agronomy Department. These plots were continued and are showing results.

a 7½% increase. The Artificial Breeding Association holds an annual meeting and has been presenting trophies to dairy winners at the county fair. Artificially bred heifers in the barn are doing more to spread the use of artificial insemination than any other thing.

The dairy industry and the dairy committee realize that forage consumption is the weakest part of the present dairy program in the county. Much work has been done through news articles and personal contact to increase the amount of silage used and the acres of alfalfa hay.

The mastitis control program has had results, although immeasurable. It has brought mastitis management to the attention of dairymen. The monthly letter has been sent each month. Several mastitis barn charts have been put up in Grade A and Grade C barns.

The dairy testing program has been at a virtual stand still in the county. Most of the interested dairymen are now enrolled. Six new milk-o-meters were purchased by the D.H.I.A. this year. Each member of the D.H.I.A.'s record is analyzed and evaluated by the Extension Agent once each year. This seemed to mean a lot to the members in increased interest and knowledge of their own records.

C. Livestock Health

This project is aimed mostly at brucellosis eradication. The two objectives were to begin the brucellosis testing program in the county and to get more replacement heifers vaccinated with Strain 19.

4. Swine

There are relatively few hogs produced in Russell County other than for home use. Many farmers, however, produce feeder pigs. A feeder pig sale was organized at Abingdon on November 15, 1960. This was the first sale of this type in Southwest Virginia. 165 pigs from Russell County were sold in this sale. The directors are going to meet in December to plan for such a sale in 1961. There are many more producers interested in such a sale now since the first one was successful. An estimated 500 pigs will be sold in 1961 in such a sale from Russell County.

Quality of hogs are one of our main problems. The Sears 4-H Pig Chain is doing more for quality than any other one thing. Quality pigs from the pig chain are widely distributed over the county and their quality are farmers that short, fat hogs are going out in style.

B. Dairying

There are 23 Grade A dairies and some 600 Grade C producers in the county. Dairying has become more important and provides a considerable part of the agricultural income for the county.

Objectives set up were as follows:

- (1). Increase the use of artificial breeding especially among manufacturing producers.
- (2). Encourage quality and quantity feeding of forages.
- (3). To decrease the incidence mastitis through management.
- (4). To increase the use of testing programs.

The artificial breeding program is slowly growing. There have been 582 first services compared to 540 in 1959. This is

- (5). To strive for better management.
- (6). To bring in better quality replacement ewes.

The Russell County Cooperative completed and used for the first year a new lamb market. The coop was assisted in planning the market and was given assistance throughout the marketing season with marketing problems. 9,767 lambs grossing \$159,914 were sold through the Coop Market. A smaller percentage of buck lambs was noted. There are still too many bucks sold.

The agent assisted in organizing the new wool marketing organization which will market most of the wool from Southwest Virginia and Western North Carolina. Russell County's wool sold highest of any in the pool. This could be accounted for in our volume and one point pickup.

We marketed 98,743 pounds which netted to the farmer \$57,293.

A new portable sheep dipping vat was built with aid from the Board of Supervisors, the Coop, and the TVA Association. Plans were made to dip from 5,000 to 7,000 sheep during the summer. For some reason farmers were not interested in the dipping program and only 1,700 sheep were dipped. Most farmers commented that lamb prices were down and couldn't afford to dip. There seems to be a trend that when cattle prices are good farmers don't work with their sheep as much as when cattle prices are low.

Some 350 Western replacement ewes were brought into the county.

No herds were started on B.C.I.A. during the year. There is some interest but farmers are hesitant on starting any new program that involves costs of extra labor.

Extension agents did not push the use of stilbestrol implants after the Department of Agriculture cut out the use of them last year. Even after their release, implants were hard to get. Only two producers used implants on 60 cattle this year. Results were good.

News articles and personal contacts were used to acquaint farmers with need to control external parasites. More farmers own sprays and are spraying cattle than ever before.

Many farmers were assisted in selection of quality bulls both at sales and privately.

Four timely news articles were written on feeding and management.

3. Sheep

Sheep are a major livestock enterprise in Russell County and for that reason have received considerable attention.

Recognized problem areas in the production of sheep are lack of top quality replacement ewes, the presence of footrot and external and internal parasites. Dogs are also a problem which is hard to control.

Objectives set up were as follows:

- (1). To get higher percentage of lambs in top grades.
- (2). To work closely with marketing organizations to obtain a top price for lambs and wool.
- (3). To eradicate a larger percentage of footrot.
- (4). To organize a parasite eradication program.

A copy of the sale Rules & Regulations was sent to all feeder calf producers.

At least half of the producers were visited and calves inspected.

Consignments were handled through the County Agents' Office.

An attempt was made to organize an Angus Feeder Sale. All Russell County producers were visited by the agent and consignments were made through the County Agents' Office. There were not enough consignments made to hold a sale. Angus calf producers are evidently satisfied with prices obtained from field buyers.

Three Abingdon steer sales were worked with closely although they are not under State Committee sponsorship. Russell County farmers marketed about 2,500 steers through these sales.

An up to date list of Russell steer producers was compiled after the last marketing season. A letter was sent to each producer giving him management and marketing ideas.

The agent and two producers attended the state Feeder Cattle Sales meeting at Natural Bridge in February.

2. Increase Beef Cattle Efficiency

Efficiency of production must be increased if the beef cattle industry is to prosper. The following goals and objectives set up to work toward increased efficiency were:

- (1). To get at least two herds on B.C.I.A.
- (2). To educate steer producers on value of stilbestrol implants.
- (3). To carry out a parasite eradication program.
- (4). To help farmers improve breeding and feeding practices.

wool for the farmers of Russell County. A new lamb marketing facility has been built during the past year and marketed 9767 lambs during the summer.

III. Major Project Activities

A. Livestock

1. Feeder Calf & Yearling Sales

Producers, especially the small ones, need a means of marketing their cattle. This is accomplished through organized sales. Many producers do not take part in organized sales. The cost of having cows tested in the case of cow-calf producers and the actual sale expense and drift of hauling can account for one to one and one-half cents per pound.

Russell producers sell about one-third of the calves in the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale and about one-fourth to one-third of the yearling steers in three Abingdon steer sales. Marketing receives a large portion of Extension time because of the number of cattle and the number of sales.

Objectives set up were as follows.

- (1). To educate farmers on the value of marketing through organized sales.
- (2). To assist in planning an Angus calf sale.
- (3). To get Abingdon steer sales reinstated under the state Feeder Cattle Sales program.
- (4). To inform steer producers on aspects of production.
- (5). To carry on established Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale work.

There were 560 calves sold in the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale. This was a decrease of 200 from 1959. More active field buying and the cost of marketing were two of the primary causes of lower numbers.

Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale Association. One producer from Russell County serves as a member of the four-county Abingdon Calf Sale Committee.

About 660 calves were consigned through this organization this year. There has been an increase in field buying this year. Many producers are reluctant to test their cows and vaccinate calves. Also many farmers are complaining about the high cost of marketing through the organized sale.

F. Russell County Dairy Herd Improvement Association

The association has been in operation since May, 1957. It has met a definite need of the dairymen. At present there are two manufacturing producers which are on owner-sampler test. This program is being carried on in conjunction with D.H.I.A.

The county agent serves as advisor and secretary to this group.

G. Russell County T.V.A. Test Demonstration Association

This organization is made up of present and past T.V.A. unit test demonstration farmers. Five directors are elected each year at the annual meeting of the demonstrators. They serve as a guiding body and aid in the selection and approval of new demonstrators. This group aids the agents in the planning and operation of the year's test demonstration program. The directors also administrate the expenditure of T.V.A. funds.

H. Russell County cooperative

This cooperative is owned and operated by Russell County farmers and serves as a buying and selling cooperative. Two retail farm supply stores are maintained, one in Lebanon and one in Honaker. The marketing phase consists of marketing lambs and

organization composed of farmers and homemakers from throughout the county who are interested in public affairs and the betterment of agriculture and home economics. The county fair is an annual event.

The county agent serves as secretary and advisor to the Fair Association Board of Directors. All members of the Extension staff serve as advisors and coordinators.

C. Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District

The Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District formed in 1952 through the efforts of the Extension agents and interested farmers, covers Russell County only. The district has a full time technician and assistant to assist farmers with their conservation problems. The agents work closely with these Soil Conservation Service employees and the District Board on the increasing work load.

The county agent serves as an appointed member of the District Board of Supervisors and also as Secretary.

D. Russell County Artificial Breeders Association

This organization of dairymen is increasing greatly in size and strength and is set up to aid farmers in increasing quality in dairy cattle through artificial insemination. The Russell County Association is a part of the Virginia Artificial Breeding Association which is located at Rocky Mount.

One technician, who operates a small Grade A herd of his own, has been able to handle the entire work load. Interest among Grade A and Grade C producers has increased during the past year.

E. Russell County Feeder Calf Association

This organization of beef calf producers is part of the

are 400 more allotments than farms according to the 1959 census report.

Russell County soils are generally of a limestone origin and are for the most part heavy textured. Most of these soils respond well to good management and great improvement is noted where farmers are following correct fertilizer and lime recommendations.

The topography, being rather rugged, makes cropland scarce. There are approximately three acres of pasture per acre of cropland. Most of the cropland is in the production of hay and other forage. Less grain is produced each year. Therefore much grain must be purchased for dairy cows, sheep, hogs, and poultry.

II. County Agricultural Organizations

A. Extension Staff

The Russell County Extension Staff has seen several changes during the year. A. L. Eller, Jr. left to become assistant professor of animal husbandry at V.P.I. and to work toward a masters degree. Michael G. Altizer, was promoted to county agent. N. Neel Rich became assistant county agent in March and was promoted to county agent of Scott County on November 1. At the present time there is no assistant county agent. Mary Virginia Fletcher, home agent, has worked the entire year. Peggy Warren became assistant home agent September 1. Aline Breeding, extension secretary, has worked the entire year.

The organization has worked smoothly even with the interruptions of personnel change.

B. Russell County Fair Association

The Russell County Fair Association is an incorporated

I. Russell County and Its Agriculture

Russell County has always been one of the most completely agricultural counties in Southwest Virginia. The building of an electric power plant and a garment factory has helped to change the complexion of the county working force. More men and women are working off the farm. There has been a general improvement in the standard of living. Whether it be good or bad, there is a trend to more part-time farmers. There is every indication of a continuing trend especially if more industry is introduced into the county. Farm labor has become scarce.

A preliminary report of the 1959 Census of Agriculture shows many changes in Russell County's agriculture. No doubt many of these changes will be attributable to the change in the definition of a farm.

Land in farms totals 236,854 which is 76.6% of the county's total area. The total number of farms is 1,772 compared to 2355 in 1954. The average farm is composed of 133 acres. The trend seems to be toward fewer and larger farms.

The county is largely a livestock producing county due to the topography of the land and the soils. Cattle numbers total 26,348 of which 6,015 are dairy cows. Sheep total 19,727 of which 16,257 are ewes. Swine totals are up from 5,894 in 1954 to 6,053 in 1959.

Next to livestock, Burley tobacco brings in more farm income than any other farm commodity. Russell County ranks forth in Southwest Virginia in Burley production. We have a total allotment of 1,583 acres and a total of 2,172 allotments. This indicates that there

Page No.

V. Cooperation with Other Agencies	
A. ASC County Office	22
B. Soil Conservation Service	22--23
C. Farmers Home Administration	23
D. Vocational Agricultural Program	23
E. Forest Service	24
F. Local Banks, Merchants, & Civic Organizations.	24
Extension Project & Accomplishment	25--26
VI. Evaluation of the Year's Work	27

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

Cover and Title Page	
Table of Contents	
I. Russell County & Its Agriculture	1--2
II. County Agricultural Organization	2--4
III. Major Project Activities	
A. Livestock	
1. Feeder Calf & Yearling Sales	5--6
2. Increase Beef Cattle Efficiency	6--7
3. Sheep	7--8
4. Swine	9
B. Dairying	9--10
C. Livestock Health	10--11
D. Agronomy	
1. Feed Supply	11--12
2. Soils Program	12--13
3. Burley Tobacco	13
E. 4-H Club Program	
1. Situation	14--15
2. Results of Goals & Objectives	15--17
3. General 4-H	18
IV. Minor Project Activities	
A. TVA -- Extension	19
B. Farm Buildings	19
C. Poultry	20
D. Russell County Fair	20
E. Forestry	20
F. Cooperatives	21