Farmers can realize more profit from their corn this year by feeding it to livestodk, especially with the hog market as low as it is.

Swine producers in Surry County for the past year have realized very little profit. Farmers are cutting down on their herds by culling out undesirable animals. No farmers are getting entirely out of swine production, they realize that hogs are going through a cycle and that eventually hogs will increase in price.

Farmers in Surry County are not realizing as much net income in 1959 as in the several previous years. This is due to support price being lowered on peanuts which compose approximately 56% of the income of farmers and the low hog prices which compose approximately 34% of the total income. A few of the small farmers will be renting their land to larger farmers in 1960 and will be going into public work.

VII. Extension Accomplishments

Surry County farmers have improved their type of hogs going to market a great deal in the past several years. The main reason for this is the fact that most markets have been buying on the graded system for the past few years, the premium paid for No. 1 hogs means more profit for the farmer. Farmers know that in order to meet competition from other type of meat production, it is necessary that they produce the type of hog for lean cuts that the consumer desires

The Extension Animal Husbandry Department, County Agents and specialists have had a great deal of bearing on the improved swine production. News releases, radio programs, demonstrations and tours have brought to the attention of the farmer that swine cannot be classes as a sideline as a source of income, but must be counted on as a main source of income along with their crops.

The 1958 peanut crop in Surry County was one of the largest yields per acre ever made. The average yield per acre for the county was 2380 pounds. The 1959 yield per acre will not be as large but in the Agent's opinion and in talking with farmers in regards to their yields, it will be a normal crop yield.

The Agent believes the increased yield per acre for the past several years has been due to farmers practicing cultural and fertilization recommendations publicized by the Holland Experiment Station, Extension Service and other professional workers in agriculture.

The 1959 corn crop in Surry County is about normal. The greatest percentage of the corn raised in Surry County is fed to livestock.

The Agent feels that the proper keeping of records is an important phase of the program. The farmers in the program admit that records have helped them a great deal.

In regards to livestock, the Agent has worked with these farmers on practicing good livestock management. The Agent has helped in securing boars and gilts for replacement in their swine herds in cases where needed. Two of the families have sheep and the Agent has worked with these farmers in selecting lambs to be put in sales and getting their sheep sheared.

VI. Cooperating with Other Agencies

A. Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Committee

The Agent has attended several committee meetings with the ASC in regards to soil conservation practices in Surry County. The Agent, with other professional workers, met with the committee in selecting conservation practices suitable and practicable for farmers in the county.

The Agent has attended meetings outside the county. The purpose of these meetings was to pass on to other professional workers and farmers information in regards to the soil bank and other ASC practices.

B. Soil Conservation Service

The Agent has worked with the Soil Conservation directors and technicians. The Agent and County Technician have visited farmers and worked with them on their conservation problems. The technician has cooperated with the Agent in setting up committees to further agriculture in the county.

Wight, Southampton, Nansemond and Surry Counties.

Club members attending this camp by being associated with club members from other counties, seem to get a better over-all picture of the meaning of 4-H Club work.

The County Council set up the following goals for Surry County 4-H Clubs for 1959-60:

1. Make a display during National 4-H Club Week.
2. Work toward 100% project completion.
3. Encourage members to attend District 4-H Camp.
4. Have at least one adult leader for each club.
5. Encourage members to enter an exhibit at the County Fair.

V. Farm and Home Development Program

The Agent is working with seven farmers on the Farm and Home Development Program.

The Agent works with these farmers mostly on advising ways of increasing production of crops and livestock, keeping records and good management.

The Agent, with the farmer, made a map of the farm, locating fields and pasture land. In studying these maps with the farmer, rotations were worked out to the farmer's advantage.

The Agent passed on to these farmers latest information in regards to better crop and livestock production. The farmers in this program have cooperated with the Agent and are responsive to new and better ideas of increasing production.

committee, but all the details such as posters, material and small details were done by the club members.

The members decided on a forestry exhibit and did a very good job of displaying all phases of proper forest management.

The booth placed fifth among competition with eight counties, but the Agent feels that the club members gained experience by learning the value of responsibility.

(4) 4-H Short Course

Two girls and one boy attended the 4-H Short Course held at V. P. I. June 22 - 27. Mac Cofer, who has been an outstanding club member for the past six years, was taken into the All-Stars along with Patricia Lee, one of the girls who attended.

Patricia and Mac were presented certificates at the annual All-Star Week-End Conference held at Camp Farrar July 18 - 19. The families of the two club members attend week-end affair as guests of Cities Service, Inc. who sponsored the awards for new members taken in to the All-Stars for 1959.

D. Camps and Achievements

The Agent, with two 4-H Club girls, attended the Senior Camp held for Senior Club members at Camp Farrar June 29 - July 4. This camp trains older club boys and girls to become Junior leaders to work with Agents and leaders back in the county.

There were 14 boys from Surry County attending 4-H Camp Farrar in July. Charles N. Hunter, County Game Warden, attended as a leader from the county. This camp is composed of club members from Isle of

Mr. Richard Trice, Rural Engineer for the VEPCO, has worked with the Agents on this project for the past two years.

C. Shows and Fairs

(1) Market Hog Show

The annual Market Hog Show was held in Smithfield in March. Three 4-H Club boys from Surry County entered a pen of three hogs in this show.

The counties in the southeast section of the state participate in this show and the boys taking part learn showmanship as well as seeing the type of hogs packers like. This show is well attended by parents of the clubs members, so it is also a teaching method for parents as well as the boys participating.

(2) County Fair

Club members take a great deal of interest in exhibiting crops at the annual Surry County Fair. There were approximately forty exhibits on display by 4-H Club members in the Junior department of the Fair this year.

Mac Cofer, an outstanding 4-H Club members, was in charge of the 4-H exhibits and did an excellent job of getting club members to participate.

(3) Petersburg Fair

The Senior 4-H Club took the responsibility of putting a booth in the Petersburg Fair. A committee consisting of two club boys and three club girls worked out details as to the kind of exhibit they would like to display. The Agent and Home Agent worked with this

dividing the clubs into grades, enrollment has increased, and also by having members in the same age group, the members take a more active part in the meetings.

The Agents meet with the principal and teachers of the grades having clubs, and work out a schedule suitable for all. The meetings are set up on a yearly basis, and come on the same day each month.

B. Project Work

(1) Livestock - There are 18 livestock projects carried on by 4-H Club boys. These boys carry projects consisting of breeding pigs, sow and litter and market pigs.

(2) Home Gardens - There are 20 garden projects in the county. These projects are carried mostly by club members living in urban areas and new members.

(3) Crops - There are nine crop projects carried by club members in the county, five carry peanuts, three carry corn, and one soybeans.

(4) Poultry - There are seven poultry projects carried by club boys in the county.

(5) Rabbits - The five rabbit projects are carried by boys living in town and urban communities.

(6) Electric - This project was carried by the entire seventh grade. There are 16 boys taking this project. The members taking this project toured the Virginia Electric and Power Company Plant located in Chesterfield in May. Two club members, Carol Bowers and Robert Garris, won a trip to the 4-H Electric Congress held in Richmond in August.

C. Forestry

Surry County consists of approximately 68% woodland. Farmers in the county do not have the interest they should have in regard to thinning, killing of hardwood and planting of seedlings.

The Agent met with representatives of the Southern Pulpwood Association in selecting a farm to demonstrate the proper use of woodland.

The Agent, with representatives from this Association, visited several farms and selected a site on the main highway on the farm of Miss Hallie Seward. The Pulpwood Association thinned, cut pulpwood, killed hardwood and planted seedlings on a twelve acre tract and furnished a sign for the location.

The Agent has talked with a number of farmers who have stopped by and looked at the different things conducted on this tract of land. The Agent, with the cooperation of the Extension forester and pulpwood companies, is planning a tour of these demonstrations in the spring.

The Agent believes that by continued publicity and demonstrations, farmers will realize there are benefits and additional income to be had from their timberland.

IV. 4-H Club Work

A. Organization

There are five organized 4-H Clubs in Surry County. The County and Home Agent meet with these clubs jointly each month. The clubs are divided into grades, starting with the fourth and through the seventh in the grade school. There is one club in the high school. We find that by

to fit in with our type of agriculture than herds.

Beef production has increased approximately 90% in Surry County over the past ten years. The Agent has stressed the importance of having pastures to go along with the increased number of feeders.

The Agent in working with farmers having beef cattle, passes on to them all information from Extension specialists in regards to management and feeding.

3. Dairying

There are only three grade A dairies in Surry County, and the Agent works with these dairymen mostly on herd replacements and management. The Agent has worked with the Extension Dairy Department in getting information from these dairymen for survey use by the department.

4. Sheep

There are approximately twenty flock of sheep in Surry County. These flock run in size from ten to forty-five. The Agent worked with these farmers in securing a sheep shearer to shear their sheep in the spring.

Three lamb sales are held each spring at the Smithfield Livestock Market. These sales have been a good outlet for sheep producers in this section of the state. The Agent has worked with producers in educating them to dock and castrate lambs going in the sale and urging them to enter lambs in the sale of desirable weights for the best grading.

A demonstration on castrating, docking and worming was held on the farm of J. A. Threewitts and was well attended by sheep producers of the county. The Agent has worked with several producers in securing replacements for their flock.

The Agent has stressed to farmers the value of good pasture for efficient swine production. In news articles and farm meetings the Agent, with the help of Extension Husbandmen has emphasized the feeding of a balanced ration for best results in swine production.

The Agent is beginning to see improvement in swine management and feeding and believes that publicity by various means has caused this trent to better swine production.

(d) Farrowing Houses and Pig Parlors

The Agent has worked with a number of farmers this year on construction of farrowing houses. The Agent tries to impress upon the farmer that he can save an average of two pigs per litter by using some type of farrowing house. Plans have been sent to approximately fifteen farmers this year on farrowing houses, and the Agent follows up by visiting these farmers.

There are approximately eighteen farmers in the county feeding hogs on concrete. The Agent has worked with these farmers on renovating old buildings for feeding out hogs and furnishing plans for building hog parlors.

Confined feeding of hogs on concrete is comparatively new in this section, but the Agent feels that in the next several years one third of the large swine producers will be feeding hogs on concrete.

2. Beef Cattle

The trend in Surry County for the past several years in regard to beef cattle has been increased buying of feeders and decreased number of herds. This trend is favorable as feeders are better suited

The importance of disease and parasite control is stressed at all livestock meetings and additional information is passed on to farmers through news articles and personal visits.

The Agent encourages farmers to use the Diagnostic Laboratory located in Ivor to determine the kind of sickness their animals have before administering treatment.

(b) Selection of Breeding Stock

The grading system of buying hogs has educated farmers a great deal of the benefits they can receive by having good type boars and gilts.

Demonstrations by packers and the Extension Service specialist for farmers has also educated farmers of their need for better selection of their breeding stock.

The Agent has noticed by personal contacts and meetings that the quality of hogs has increased in Surry County. The Agent has worked with a number of farmers in getting better quality boars and gilts as replacements in their breeding stock.

Continued publicity will be carried on in urging farmers to select good type breeding stock. This publicity will be by means of demonstrations, news articles and farm meetings.

(c) Feeding and Management

The Agent, in visiting farmers in regards to their swine, has found that there are too many farmers not carrying out a feeding and management program that is sound. This will determine to a large extent the amount of profit the farmer realizes.

4. Soybeans

Soybeans have increased in Surry County for the past several years. The reason for this has been allotments on peanuts and wheat and quotas on corn. Farmers who have cleared additional land for crop production usually plant that land in soybeans.

The varieties of soybeans recommended for our type soils are publicized at farm meetings, and through news articles and news letters. The Agent furnishes the seed dealers in the county with a list of the latest recommended varieties put out by the Experiment Station.

A number of farmers interplant soybeans with their corn mainly for livestock turned in the fields after the corn has been harvested.

5. Small Grain

Small grain has increased in Surry County for the same reason as soybeans and that is allotments on peanuts and wheat.

The principal small grain in the county as a cash crop is wheat, but some farmers have put that in the soil bank as they have corn.

Small grain such as barley, oats and rye have increased in acreage due to the shortage of grain for livestock, mostly corn, due to extreme dry weather during July and August.

B. Livestock

1. Swine

(a) Controlling Diseases and Parasites

Surry County farmers lose thousands of dollars annually on swine caused by diseases and parasites. Many farmers do not realize that approximately one-third of their income comes from the sale of hogs. They still consider their hogs a side line to crop production.

The Agent is working toward a long time goal of 10,000 acres of permanent pasture.

The Agent has stressed the value of good permanent pastures at farm meetings, news articles and by individual contacts. Continued publicity by the Agent is planned, to bring before the farmers the fact that for efficient livestock production, it is necessary to have good pastures.

(b) Supplementary Pastures

Surry County farmers have done a good job on maintaining some type of supplementary pastures in case of dry weather their permanent pastures go back on them. Farmers realize that some type of supplementary pasture is needed when their permanent pasture start to go back due to dry weather.

Publicity was given on the value of having some type of supplementary pastures at Agronomy-Livestock meetings for farmers, news letters and newspaper articles.

(c) Seeding, Fertilization and Management of Pastures

The Agent feels that most farmers realize that in order to have a good permanent pasture, proper seeding, fertilization and management are necessary. Publicity given by the V. P. I. Agronomy Department, news articles, radio and TV programs has educated the farmers to a great extent on the value of proper pasture management.

Farmers are taking more soil samples of their pasture land than in previous years and are beginning to treat their pastures as a crop for better and more efficient means of raising livestock.

past several years at farmers meetings, through news articles, news letters and demonstrations.

The Agent feels that 80% or more of the farmers in Surry County are using adequate amounts of fertilizer. Continued publicity and educational means are planned by the Agent.

(c) Insect Control

Surry County farmers are getting better stands of corn than a few years ago. The Agent believes the reason for this is partly due to farmers using Aldrin in their rotation on peanuts. This material is relatively toxic to insects in the soil for a period of two years or more.

A few farmers had trouble with the shatter worm attacking corn in the bud before tasselling. The damage was rather slight and only seven or eight farms in the county had damage heavy enough to warrant spraying or dusting.

3. Pastures

(a) Importance of Pastures for Efficient Livestock Production

The pasture land in Surry County has not increased in proportion with the number of livestock for the past several years. Livestock increases are up approximately 70%, with most of this increase in hogs, and the other in beef cattle. The acres of pasture has only increased about 50%.

There are approximately 8,000 acres of pasture land in Surry County, of this amount there is approximately 6,000 acres of a permanent pasture type.

Surry County farmers follow closely the recommendations of the Holland Experiment Station in regards to spacing and fertilization.

A varietal test has been conducted in the county by the Station for the past four years. The results of these tests are publicized each year for the benefit of farmers.

2. Corn

(a) Adapted Varieties

The use of hybrid seed corn adapted for soil and climatic conditions is important to farmers. The Agent has noticed in cases that some farmers do not plant recommended hybrids suitable for Surry County.

Seed and fertilizer dealers in the county are invited to meetings regarding latest information regarding recommended varieties from the Experiment Station. A list of these varieties are sent to all seed dealers in the county.

Two seed companies cooperated with the Agent and set up two varietal test demonstrations in Surry County this year.

Recommended varieties are publicized in farm meetings, news letters and news articles during the winter and spring of each year.

(b) Spacing and Fertilization

Surry County farmers follow rather closely the recommendations of the Holland Experiment Station in regards to fertilization and spacing.

Proper spacing and fertilization has been emphasized for the

The benefits farmers receive from the use of sulfur and DDT was stressed at our annual Agronomy meeting held for farmers. In the Agent's letter to all farmers in the county regarding crops and livestock, the use of sulfur and proper amounts to use was emphasized in regards to better peanut production. News articles were published during June and July emphasizing damages caused by leafspot and leaf hopper. The Agent was well pleased with the number of applications.

(d) Recommended Varieties

The Agent distributed sixty-two bags of 56-R peanuts to Surry County farmers in 1957 to plant mostly for seed for distribution to other farmers in the county. These runner type peanuts are very adaptable to our type soil and according to information I have received over 200 farmers in the county have part of their peanut acreage in the 56-R variety.

In many cases farmers have seed of their own of the runner type peanut and yield as good and grade out as good as the 56-R, these farmers sell seed peanuts to farmers in Surry County as well as adjoining counties.

There are very few bunch peanuts planted in Surry County. The Agent recommends the Virginia Bunch 46-2 to farmers having heavy type peanut soil. A Georgia bunch peanut was distributed to two farmers this year for seed purposes, and to date the Georgia bunch is yielding and grading better than the Virginia bunch. It is a possibility that it will replace the Virginia bunch in a few years.

(e) Spacing and Fertilization of Peanuts

acres on one farm as a control for stem rot, but no appreciable difference could be noticed.

The Agent plans to continue publicity on methods of controlling stem rot through news articles, demonstrations, news letters and farm meetings.

(b) Controlling Subterranean Insects

The Agent is sure that Surry County farmers could increase their peanut yields and quality as well by using Aldrin or Heptachlor to control subterranean insects attacking the peanut pod.

The means of controlling these insects was publicized at farm meetings, fertilizer meetings of County Agents and fertilizer dealers, news articles and news letters. Fertilizer dealers and insecticide companies have worked closely with the Agent in urging farmers to use materials for controlling these insects.

The Agent, in talking with farmers, finds that the insect problem is not as bad as it has been in the past, and hopes that through continued publicity and educational methods it will cease to be a problem at all in peanut production.

(c) Use of Sulfur and DDT to Control Leafspot and Leaf Hopper

The Agent feels that a majority of the farmers in the county realize the value of using sulfur and DDT for controlling leafspot and leaf hopper, but more education is needed on the amounts needed for proper control. The Agent also feels that more work is needed to educate the farmer that sulfur also prolongs the growing season, giving the peanut pods longer to grow and mature.

At the present time there are approximately 8,500 acres in pasture of one type or another in Surry County. Pastures have increased in the county due to the increased number of livestock, allotments and land clearing.

The largest income from livestock in the county comes from the sale of hogs. Approximately 38% of the total farmers income comes from the sale of hogs. Swine production fits in well with the crops grown in the county.

III. Project Activities

A. Agronomy

1. Peanuts

(a) Stem Rot Control in Peanuts

Stem rot has cut the yields of peanuts in Surry County a great deal in the past several years. It seems to have been worse this year than in previous years and in many cases farmers had to dig early to keep it from spreading.

The use of chemicals for weed control has been a large factor in controlling stem rot in the past few years. The Agent has talked with farmers using materials for weed control and found that these farmers have had very little stem rot.

The Agent also has publicized shallow cultivation, non-dirting of peanuts and the plowing under deep the organic matter on the land before planting to control stem rot.

Terrachlor, a chemical in land plaster, was used on a few

meets with the Directors of the Farm Bureau when possible, and gives them full cooperation in his capacity as County Agent.

D. Farmers Union

The Farmers Union was organized in Surry County the first of 1953. The Agent has received full cooperation from this organization and has met with the Directors several times and asked their opinion on different things pertaining to his over-all farm program. This organization has been most cooperative in all things asked of them.

II. Type of Agriculture

Surry County consists of approximately 306 square miles. There are about 38,000 acres in cropland and pastures and approximately 68,000 in woodland. Surry County is located within the coastal plains of the Tidewater section of Virginia. The winters are rather mild, giving larger grazing periods of livestock.

The soil type is sandy to sandy loam, the county from both soil and climatic conditions, is well suited for pastures, corn, soybeans, peanuts and small grain.

The chief money crop in Surry County is peanuts. There were approximately 9,000 acres planted in 1958. Peanuts represent 58% of the income of Surry County farmers.

Corn is second to peanuts as a money crop in the county. The corn is sold mostly through livestock, mainly hogs.

Soybeans have increased in acreage in the past few years. This is due to quotas and allotments on peanuts, corn and wheat.

I. Brief Description of County Organization

A. Agronomy Committee

The Surry County Agronomy Committee was organized in 1952 with the cooperation of the District Agent and the VPI Extension Agronomy Department.

The Committee consists of the County Agent, professional workers in the county, six farmers and a representative from the local bank. This Committee meets in January of each year and with the assistance of an Extension Agronomist, plans demonstrations, tours and field days.

B. Livestock Committee

The Livestock Committee was organized in the spring of 1957. This Committee met in March with the County Agent and Extension Animal Husbandman and made plans for improving livestock in the county.

C. Forestry Committee

The Forestry Committee was organized in 1955. This Committee, with the aid of the Extension Forestrymen has planned demonstrations on thinning, killing of hardwood and seedling planting.

The Forestry Committee has also helped the Agent in publicizing the Intensified Forestry Program in the county.

D. County Farm Bureau

The Surry County Farm Bureau is one of two farm membership organizations in the county. This organization has cooperated to the fullest extent in working with the County Agent in his work. The Agent

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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County **Agent**
Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

1959

Surry
County