

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

BUCKINGHAM

County

I INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT
THE EXTENSION PROGRAM:

The activities of this county during the past few years have been the results of the continued work of the Advisory Board's Planning Committee. Meeting regular with the Agent, this carefully selected group set out to survey the needs of the county and chart methods of accomplishing these needs.

Members of the planning committee included individuals from all walks of life and youth groups. The work of these individuals has been of great value to the agent in an effort to keep the work of the Extension Service before the people of this county.

Contributions made by local leaders to date have not been many but to the writer of this report, any progress marks a step foward in leadership in Buckingham County.

Cooperating with the Extension Service, the leaders are sponsoring several delegates to the State Short Course and Wildlife Conference in 1963. They have been instrumental in the celebration of Achievement Day in the county and for the first time, many of the 4-H Clubs have adult leaders meeting with them regularly. The leaders were also responsible for the success of the Annual 4-H Picnic this year. They furnished transportation to the Lake for the 4-H ers and assisted in preparing the food and recreation while there.

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In general the work of Adult Leadership during the past few years has been very poor. This has been attributed to many factors, however, much work has been done in this area and great improvements were seen during the last year.

Adult leadership during the past year has influenced the work of the Extension Service in Buckingham considerably. For the first time during the past five years, the Leaders are taking an active part in the affairs of 4-H Club work and the community in general.

An active 4-H Leaders Association has been established and greater participation on the State and Local level has been shown. An increase in the number of volunteer leaders is reflected at each meeting of the 4-H Leaders Association.

It is felt that there is room for improvement among the Leaders of this county in many areas, however, I feel that some progress has been made and continued success of the Extension Service in Buckingham County will depend greatly on the cooperation of the Adult Leaders.

II REPORT ON PROJECT AREASA- PHASE: FORESTRY MANAGEMENT - "Timber Stand Improvement"

Buckingham County is a timber producing county and one in which a large portion of farm income is derived. Our forests, however, are not in very good growing condition. Many of our forest areas that are being cut are growing back to poor quality trees. Farmers are cutting their most valuable pine much faster than it is growing. Our hardwood forests have too many cull trees and species of trees that have little value for marketing purposes.

B- PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

To teach farmers the importance of developing and maintaining a forest of healthy high quality trees and ways by which it can be done.

C- PROGRESS:

Work along the line of Forestry Management began several years ago in Buckingham County. During this time an one acre plot on the farm of Mr. Joe Spencer, Gladstone, Va. was set up as a demonstration plot. With the assistance of the Local Forester, this densely grown area of shortleaf pine was examined and marked.

During the past year, all saleable timber was removed and the balance harvested for fuel wood. Plans for the year included a pest treating demonstration, however, the death of

the owner prevented this for the present time.

This plot has been the scene of two thinning demonstrations this year with a total of 32 persons including some 4-H ers attending. The history of this plot was explained to each group and a test of the past three years of growth was made to show the advantages of thinning. A report of the income received from the sale of timber on the plot was also given. A continued record will be kept to determine the advantages, if any, at a later date.

The Forestry Committee has also encouraged farmers to "Plant More Trees" during 1962. During the year Mr. Allen Gooden, Buckingham, Va. planted 6,500 seedlings, Mr. G. F. Harris, Dillwyn, Va. planted 5,000, Mr. J. C. Henderson, New Canton, Va. planted 1,000, and Mr. Joseph Anderson, Dillwyn, Va. planted 500 seedlings. The 4-Hers during the year planted a total of 2,500 seedlings. Many other seedlings were planted, however, since these were secured from other companies, they could not accurately be accounted for at this time.

Many of the farmers are beginning to realize the value of their forest land and to emphasize this - Mr. G. F. Harris with the assistance of the Local Forester and the Agent proceeded to examine an 87 acre track on his property. This heavily cut over area was carefully gone over and recommendations were given by the Forester.

These included removing all saleable trees, bulldozing where necessary and the rest be disked with a heavy bush and bog disk. Loblolly pine seedlings were planted at the rate of 800 per acre wherever possible until the entire area had been covered. Mr. Harris has complied with the recommendations of the Forester to date and during the year planted 5,000 seedlings. Assistance was received from the A.C.P. office on this project.

A similar project was carried out on the farm of Mr. Allen Gooden, Buckingham, Va., however, the extent of his activities were centered on spot planting idle land and cut over areas.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

- A- PHASE: AGRONOMY - "Dark Tobacco"
- B- SITUATION: Tobacco still the most important cash crop in Buckingham County, yet most farmers are below the average in production. During the past year, many farmers produced good crops, however, the quality of tobacco at the market is not up to the average.
- C- PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: To curtail the practice of wetting down of tobacco to gain proper order, and encourage greater use of natural order through bulking.
- D- PROGRESS: Two tobacco grading demonstrations were held during the year conducted by Mr. Paul L. Haws, Marketing Specialist, Danville, Va. These demonstrations were held on the farms of Mr. Joseph Anderson, Dillwyn, Va. and Mr. Lynn Johnson, Rt. 2, Dillwyn, Va. A total of 62 persons attended these demonstrations which represents an increase over the previous year by 28 persons.

This demonstration was designed to give the farmers first hand information on the proper method of preparing tobacco for market. Included also, were hints on mistakes made by farmers, thereby, causing them loss of money at the market. Interest was high among all that attended.

PROJECT AREA: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A- PHASE: COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CLUBS

B- SITUATION: In most communities of this county, there are no active groups working to better the conditions in and around their community. Much work along this line is needed since there has been an increase in the number of persons building new homes in the area. The older places are not keeping pace with the addition of new homes in the community and such items as landscaping, painting, and up-keep of property is lagging behind.

C- PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: To increase the effectiveness of Community Improvement Clubs through the organization of a County-Wide Improvement Group.

D- PROGRESS: The Second Liberty Improvement Club continues to show progress as time moves on. This year they received from the State Agricultural Advisory Board Awards Program a check for \$40.00. This represented their reward for winning second place in the Community Improvement Contest sponsored by the State Advisory Board.

The many improvements around the Church and cemetery plot, along with the home improvements, repairs, new homes built, rooms added, painting, equipment bought, lawns seeded and/or improved, and shrubbery added contributed to the success of this club. The cooperation of the families in this community

has brought many into the improvement club that otherwise may not have been contacted.

The success of this organization and others throughout the county is due largely to the cooperation and assistance received from the Buckingham County Improvement League. This organization is designed to assist the local Community Improvement Clubs with the activities and projects that they are attempting to accomplish.

The award money received by the Second Liberty Improvement Club is being used to secure Shrubbery for the landscaping of the Church grounds. A plan for this was drawn up some time ago by Dr. W. L. Watsor, Horticulturist, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia.

III SUCCESS STORY:

After many months of talk among the leaders of Buckingham County, the idea of trying to do something about the existing conditions of the county, especially the lack of adult leader participation was evident. Meeting weekly for nearly three months with leaders from every field of activity throughout the county; it was decided that we should survey the entire county. Each individual would be responsible for surveying their respective areas to determine the cause and/or problems surrounding the lack of adult participation in the county.

The results of this survey were fantastic and are too numerous to mention here in its entirety, however, we divided them into sections for work purposes. They are: (1) Health (2) Education and (3) Civic Participation - with the entire program being based on Community Improvements. In other words, our effort would be to utilize these findings to improve the living conditions and encourage greater participation of individuals through the Community Improvement Club.

To devise a method of presenting this information to the public in a manner that would not offend, yet bring out the true meaning was not as easy task. Since all of the originators were of professional caliber who understood these problems and needs, would draw resentment from non-professional as well as other professional people not at this time involved was very evident. The group decided to organize a separate organization consisting of representatives of all groups, clubs, organizations, and youth groups. (It was recommended that the Chairman of each group would attend the meeting.)

Our first meeting was held in March of this year and 67 persons attended representing every organize group in the county including all youth groups. The original group presented the findings of their surveys from their respective areas and allowed time for discussion by the group. The reception was wonderful and it was felt by the Agent that the long hours put in during the planning stage was not done in vain and results would come from this organization.

During our next meeting, the communities were divided into Church groups or communities for identification purposed only. Each Community was asked to organize their own Community Improvement Club, elect their officers for the purpose of carrying out the work of the larger organization (known as the Buckingham County Improvement League). At present there are five clubs working which cover practically every nook and corner of the county with an enrollment of more than 200 members.

The ultimate efforts of this group is being shown already throughout the county. Many families that previously were not concerned with the activities of the county have been reached. Recently, working in conjunction with the Mass X-Ray movement in the county, all clubs simultaneously proceeded to make house to house visits in an effort to persuade all individuals of the county over 14 years of age to have a X-Ray made. The results were reflected both on the number of persons being X-Rayed, and the manner and effectiveness of the groups working simultaneously over the entire county to achieve its objective.

This represents the type of activity being conducted by the Buckingham County Improvement League, its Community Improvement Clubs, and other organizations throughout the county and the method we are using to accomplish the objectives set up for the year.

IV GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR:

The Extension Service in Buckingham County has been given a big boost in the past year through the efforts of the Improvement Clubs and the contacts made by the agent through these groups. Because of the lack of other forms of communications (such as radio, T. V., and local newspaper) the agent finds that this is a valuable method of presenting information to people that could not be reached before. The amount of cooperation and participation is expected to be reflected next year and the years to come.

The weak spot in the Extension program in Buckingham County lies in the 4-H Club of the county. This is due largely to the lack of volunteer leaders that are able and willing to assist with the activities on this group. Many of the pupils that desire to join 4-H clubs are not able to do so because of the lack of leaders sufficiently interested to assist the agent. This, however, is expected to be somewhat relieved next year through the action of the 4-H Leaders Assn. recently organized in the county.

In general, the agent thinks that progress is in view and that greater cooperation and participation will be seen during the next year.