ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

Caroline
County

ISSUED IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914, IN COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. W. H. DAUGHTREY, DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

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FOREWORD

This is a narrative report covering the Agricultural Extension Activities in Caroline County, Virginia for 1962. This report is made by the Local Farm Agent. Major emphasis was placed on the following Project Areas:

1. 4-H and other Extension Youth Programes.
2. Agricultural Production, Management and Natural Resource Development.

In the plan of work, an attempt was made to involve as many of the local people as possible in the development of these project areas.

The Local Farm Agent acknowledges assistance rendered by the State Agricultural Colleges, United States Department of Agriculture, Experiment Stations and other State and Federal Agencies designed to improve the living conditions among people. The progress reported here is a result of the cooperation of these people with the extension Service and these agencies.

J. M. Johnson
Local Farm Agent

re-enroll more of the older members in 4-H work.

METHODS

Our first step was to stimulate interest, on the part of more leaders, in the problems and to get them involved in the program. This was done by the Local Agent and the individual active leaders in small group meetings and individual contacts. These leaders were provided with information about the purposes and functions of a leader's organization, also, the situation of 4-H member drop-out in the County. This was followed with an organizational meeting of the Adult Leaders Association.

RESULTS

The formal organization was composed of officers and members present at the first meeting. As a result, we see the need of additional leader training and a re-organization of the group. However, the two meetings held have given us a clearer picture of the problems to be undertaken. There are three groups working with the 4-H club enrollments. More interest in planning the 4-H program through committees has been expressed. We plan to place special emphasis on leader training and organization. Improvements have been noticed as the leaders get a better understanding of their duties.

CAROLINE COUNTY
YEAR: 1962

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

SITUATION

The extension agent in Caroline County has been working with approximately 25 organizational and 50 project leaders individually. Some of these leaders have been attending 4-H County Council Meetings, but there was no organization for county-wide planning or training. These leaders would enroll at least 100 new Club Members each year. It was recognized that these members failed to be re-enrolled after about two years, yet they were still residents of the County. There was a lack of cooperation between different clubs in the County in carrying out county-wide activities and events. Several leaders who had attended the State Leaders Conference had expressed a desire to organize a County leaders organization.

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS:

Lack of coordinated effort on the part of leaders, that might provide opportunity for leadership training. The decreasing number of older 4-H boys and girls re-enrolling in 4-H Club work.

PROBLEM OBJECTIVES

To increase the effectiveness of the County 4-H program through adult volunteer leadership development. To

CAROLINE COUNTY
YEAR: 1962

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

AGRONOMY-TOBACCO PRODUCTION

SITUATION

Tobacco is one of the most important cash crops in Caroline County. The average yield in the County is 1382 pounds per acre. Many of the farmers have had a yield of 2000 pounds per acre. Since this is an allotment, yields and quality must be increased in order to increase the farm income.

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

Low yields and poor quality on most of the farms in the County.

OBJECTIVE

TO raise the yield, per acre, and to increase the quality of tobacco on all of the farms in the County.

METHODS

Our first efforts were to assist producers of tobacco to become familiar with and to understand the recommended tobacco production practices and acquire the necessary skills in applying these practices. Emphasis was placed, first, on the source of seeds and plants. Group meetings have been held and circular letters have been sent to all tobacco producers containing this information. Some of the better tobacco producers have volunteered to serve on the committees to plan the

demonstrations to be conducted. One training meeting was held to teach the leaders proper methods of soil sampling.

RESULTS

There has been an increase in the requests for assistance with such problems as plant bed location and preperation, also soil, sampling. This shows that there is an awareness of the problems on the part of the farmers about two-thirds of these producers have been given assistance by local leaders with these practices. We plan to continue these methods into other productions practices.

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AGRONOMY-SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

SITUATION

The production of soybeans is equal, in importance, in the County as corn. Many farmers are double cropping with soybeans. Following small grains, soybeans harvested as grain is the main cash crop on many of the farms.

SPECIFIC PROBLEM

Low soybean yields on most of the farms in the County.

OBJECTIVE

To increase the yields of soybeans, per acre, and thereby produce an economical cash crop.

METHODS

We considered such activities that would assist soybean producers become familiar with and understand recommended soybean practices and develop the skills in applying these practices. Small group meetings were held with leaders who were producers. They were given such information as to varities for this area, fertilizer practices and suitable soils. In these meetings producers shared their experiences. A number of producers have agreed to become demonstrators and to take soil samples of demonstration plots.

RESULTS

Progress can be reported in terms of an increase in the number of producers requesting information on soybean production. The attendance at special group meetings, discussing the problems of soybean production has increased. One group of producers in Sparta community is discussing plans to purchase spraying equipment, cooperatively, for the control of weeds in soybeans and corn.

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AGRONOMY-CORN PRODUCTION

SITUATION

Corn grain is one of the most important feed crops in the County needed for livestock production. The average yield of corn for grain in the County is 46 bushels per acre. It is safe to state that approximately ½ of the farmers have yields below this figure, which is unprofitable according to cost. Many farmers are concerned about the low yields of corn, whether grown for livestock food or for sale, and desire information that will enable them to produce this crop more economically.

THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM

Low corn grain yields on most farms in the county.

OBJECTIVE

To raise the yield, per acre, of corn for grain and thereby produce economical food for livestock or cash grain.

METHODS

Our first efforts were to discuss methods of getting corn producers, with lower yields, to become familiar with and understand the recommended corn production practices. Group meetings were held and local leaders agreed to assist these producers with these problems. They were given information on the methods and values

of soil sampling and testing, varities for this area were discussed, also sources of plant food and crop rotations. A great deal of assistance was given by the Agronomy Committee, since each member produced corn on his farm.

RESULTS

There has been an increase in the number of farmers who have agreed to become a demonstrater. He will conduct a complete production demonstration and train other demonstrators. These farmers have agreed to place orders for their seed corn and fertilizer before time to purchase them, in order to get what is recommended.

SUCCESS STORY

LIVESTOCK PROJECT

Four farmers attended the Feeders Calf Sale in Richmond this year. Mr. C. L. Hardman, Wrightsville Community, purchased 8 choice Angus Steers, averging approximately 400 pounds each. These steers were delivered to his 50 acre farm and placed in an adequate 10 acre pasture of Ladino Clover and Orchard Grass. This was the objective set by Mr. Hardman, more than 8 years ago, when he took possession of his father's farm. Working toward this objective, he first cleaned some additional fields, added lime and fertilizer, and seeded them to permanent pastures about 25 acres in all. This is used for grazing and harvesting. Next, he built an acre pond through the assistance of the county ASC program, and began fencing the pasture into separate lots two years ago. His first purchase was 7 day old dairy calves. These were sold this fall. He stated, "These were used to give me the feel of the thing."

Mr. Hardman is one of the many county farmers who are using projects on the small farms to supplement their income from a permanent job.

GENERAl APPRAISAL OF THE PAST YEAR

I feel that the extension program has made a valuable contribution toward the development of agriculture and the economy of the County, in general, this year. There were many intangible results which are at times overlooked. One example is that persons in production seem more willing to consider changes and new ideas dealing with their problems. As a result, we could get more of the tangible results desired.

There is a need for more time to be spent in leadership training in order to get more people involved in the program.

This revised method of reporting should enable me, as an agent, to better pin point results in the different projects areas as I follow the plan of work with the leaders.