

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

Charlotte

County

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM	1
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	3
Corn Production	
PROJECT AREA - EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS	5
Home Management - Laundering	
OTHER FIELDS - EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS	8
Home Grounds Beautification	
Planning The Home For Safety	
4-H & OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS	11
Clothing - "Looking Your Best"	
4-H Community Club Organization	
Related & Associated Projects & Job Opportunities	
SUCCESS STORY	15
Community Improvement Program	
Leadership Training	
GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR	21

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

There are forty-one leaders actively engaged in promoting extension activities in the county.

These leaders have been helpful in assisting with:

1. Planning and executing the over-all extension program.
2. Planning, preparing and displaying exhibits.
3. Conducting meetings with or without the presence of the agents.
4. Planning and participating in county and out-of-county activities.
5. Planning and scheduling workshops.
6. Reporting results of club projects.
7. Increasing membership in clubs.
8. Informing the public of the extension program.

Leaders play an important role by serving on the County Advisory Board, 4-H Leaders' Association, Home Demonstration Committee, 4-H Junior Council and Home Economics Committee.

Twenty-two training meetings were held during the year to prepare leaders for their responsibilities and duties in the Subject Matter field. Thirty meetings were held in youth and adult work without the presence of the agents. This has helped to strengthen the club members as well as the club itself.

Charlette County, 1962

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

The role of the leaders in the county is playing a significant part in promoting the extension program. The duties and responsibilities of leaders are being accepted and practiced more each year, and has done much to strengthen the extension program in the county.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Phase: Corn Production

The Adult Farm Club in Salem Community selected for the year as an over-all objective, an increase in corn yields. Emphasis was put on the development of rotational systems on the farms, from three to four years, based on the ability of the farm from the point of total acreage in the farm. The total cultivated acreage and the possibility of additional acreage based on the need of each farm.

There were other individual projects on various phases of farm and home that would aid in strengthening farm and home program.

The result of corn production, the over-all objective is very encouraging. Following emphasis and efforts during this first year of growing corn in proper rotation with certain other crops, instead of growing corn after corn or other soil depleting crops, bore fruit that I feel will contribute and spread eventually to the surrounding community.

Involved in this improvement also was the testing of soil on some of the farms to determine its possibility and need in plant food and calcium.

With the exception in a few cases, hybrid of the recommended varieties were planted.

Fertilization was low for maximum yield in all cases. However, emphasis was put on reduced land using the same amount of fertilizers

Charlotte County, 1962

Phase: Corn Production

with the idea of decreasing the cost per unit of production. There is interest in developing small livestock herds. It was advised to go gradually into any amount of livestock, aside from dairy needs of the family, until the farm programs can be re-organized and developed to a higher degree of production and efficiency. Included in the re-organization will be sufficient pasture eventually included in the rotational system. At the present time one farmer is making progress in that direction.

PROJECT AREA - EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Phase: Home Management - Laundering

Homemakers were faced with the problem of making decisions in the selection and use of laundry supplies for best results. They also needed assistance in the easiest and best ways to do the family's wash and ironing to save time and energy. These were the desires expressed by homemakers and received major emphasis.

In order to help homemakers improve their knowledge in the buying and use of laundry supplies, doing the family's wash and ironing, these topics were selected to cover a period of four months.

The first month was devoted to assisting homemakers with Stain Removal for Clothing. Members were taught through the use of visual aids, discussions and demonstrations on (a) Steps to Success in Stain Removal, (b) Stain Removal Supplies and (c) Removing Individual Stains.

The second month was devoted to "The Selection and Use of Laundry Supplies". Homemakers were provided with information on the available soap, detergents and bleaches and their correct use in the home laundry in relation to the type of fabric, amount and kind of soil, and hardness of water. Displays of different soap and detergent boxes and charts were used to teach the difference between soaps and detergents, built and unbuilt, high and low sudsing and the use of each for effective laundering.

To reach more people with this information, leaders assembled an exhibit which was displayed at the South Central Fair. The exhibit won

Phase: Home Management - Laundering

first place.

The third month was devoted to "Improving the Family's Wash". Homemakers were taught through discussions on organizing the job. Charts were used to show the kind of equipment needed and how to arrange to save time and energy. The use of water softeners and bleaches, soaps and detergents were further emphasized through this topic.

The fourth month was devoted to "Easy Ironing Methods". Through this topic homemakers were taught (a) organizing the job, (b) making a plan, (c) the selection of equipment, (d) the location of equipment and (e) the easiest way to iron a shirt. This topic was taught through the use of visual aids and demonstrations.

The agent and 18 leaders held 32 different meetings with approximately 420 members attending all meetings. Leaflets were used and given each member to further assist them with the topics.

To help determine accomplishments made, surveys and questionnaires were used to obtain the following results achieved.

1. One hundred twenty-seven homemakers reported having been helped with information on the selection and use of soaps and detergents.
2. Eighty-eight reported as having shared the information with others.
3. Fifty-seven arranged laundry equipment to save time and energy.
4. Forty-six purchased or made a clothes basket lining.

Phase: Home Management - Laundering

5. Sixteen installed a good clothes line.
6. Thirty-five learned to hang clothes on the line correctly.
7. Eight purchased adjustable ironing boards.
8. Thirty-six began sitting while ironing.
9. Thirty-two practiced the easiest way to iron a shirt.
10. Thirty-seven padded and covered ironing boards.
11. Eighty-four planned a flexible ironing schedule.

OTHER FIELDS - EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Home Grounds Beautification

This year a long-time goal was selected by women of the county to improve their home grounds.

This came about as a result of work done on home grounds in the community participating in the Community Improvement Program. The women decided that it would be a good idea to have each community improve its home grounds. They were given information on lawn seeding and management, arranging plants and flowers, and arranging driveways and walks as the need arose. "Landscape Notes", prepared by Extension Horticulturist, were used as sources of information.

During the Annual Farm & Home Tour held in June, five home grounds in different communities were selected to be observed. These families had made improvements in grading and seeding lawns, arrangement of shrubbery and flowers, and maintenance of the home grounds.

Checks have been made and to date the following accomplishments have been reported:

- 51 made flower beds
- 20 re-seeded lawns
- 46 pruned shrubbery and limbs of trees
- 20 fixed driveways
- 28 set out new shrubbery
- 7 erected or repaired fences

Charlotte County, 1962

Home Grounds Beautification

4 leveled yards and 4 filled in low places

10 cleaned weeds along fence

2 added gutter pipes

OTHER FIELDS - EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Planning The Home For Safety

Homemakers have become aware of the need for removing danger spots in the home. For this reason, "Planning The Home For Safety" was selected. The information was presented through visual aids showing causes of home accidents and preventive measures were discussed in each case. Circular 722, "Safe at Home", was also used and discussed.

The following points were stressed:

1. The cause and preventive measures for accidents on stairs and steps.
2. Floors and bathroom accidents.
3. The necessity for checking flues and chimneys to prevent fires.
4. The importance of keeping wiring in good shape to prevent fires.

Through the use of check sheets the following improvements have been reported:

- Twenty-seven repaired stairs and steps.
- Eight removed clutter from stairs.
- Eighteen anchored scatter rugs in place.
- Fourteen removed rug from head and foot of stairs.
- Ten secured flashlights for unlighted closets.
- Eighteen began using step stools or a step ladder instead of chairs for reaching high places.
- Four secured metal floor covering to place under wood stoves.
- Seven relocated clothes lines.
- Fourteen stopped using kerosene to start fires.

Charlette County, 1962

4-H & OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

Phase: Clothing - Looking Your Best

Two hundred sixty-five girls were enrolled in this project. They wanted information on how to improve themselves and their clothing.

Members were given information on how to care for themselves and their clothing through demonstrations, discussions and visual aids.

They were taught how to put in a hem, make quick repairs, wash sweaters, plan their wardrobe according to what they already had and what they needed and how to care for their teeth and hair.

Leaflets and other written material were distributed among them.

Much interest was manifested, which resulted in definite improvement, through more careful selection of all wearing apparel in keeping with one's physique.

4-H & OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

Phase: 4-H Community Club Organization

In order to reach girls in high school and those enrolled in elementary school, four clubs were organized during the summer with an enrollment of 43. The clubs selected "Meal Preparation" and "Bread" as projects. They wanted to improve their knowledge on making bread and planning and preparing meals.

They were given demonstrations on homemade mixes, simple refreshments and planning and preparing meals. Discussions and home visits were also made.

As a result of these projects, members were given an opportunity to participate in the Piedmont Youth Exposition, which was held in Lynchburg, Virginia. Of the number exhibiting, fourteen won prizes. They won first, second and third places on "Bread Making" and first and second in "Meal Preparation".

4-H & OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Phase: Related and Associated Projects & Job Opportunities

The project enrollment and record keeping has surpassed any year of the past. Emphasis on study and learning as much as possible, where ever and whenever there is an opportunity from the point of one's location, relationship and possibilities. One's relationship and responsibilities to his fellowman was stressed. One's value in any society depends upon his ability to serve. That satisfaction to a great extent and to a large degree comes through knowledge. Knowledge not only of what one's vocation is or what he may be doing, but a general knowledge of the possibilities in vocations aside from his own.

Evidence of interest are discussions growing out of question of certain jobs and vocation and phases of vocations; particularly those as a result of agricultural products that processed after leaving the farm. There is an increased realization that opportunities for growth among small farmers are diminishing due to competition from the larger farmer. That the programs of the average small farm can not justify the machinery and equipment cost. The production does not have sufficient influence on bargaining.

As a result of these situations, there is a greater interest among both the pupil and parent to increase the level of formal training, that the society in which we live may not degenerate, not stand still, but continue to improve.

Phase: Related and Associated Projects & Job Opportunities

The project program is the underlying source through and by which those virtues may be acquired.

There are 241 boys carrying a total of 360 projects including Agronomy, Horticulture, Conservation, Poultry, Dairy Calves, Swine, Engineering, Marketing and Business and Safety.

They participated in Rural Life Sunday, State 4-H Short Course, Wildlife Conference, District Tractor Driving Contest, Piedmont Youth Exposition and South Central Fair winning prizes on commodities and 3rd prize of \$25.00 on 4-H Council Booth.

SUCCESS STORY

Community Improvement Program

This program was organized in 1958 and today is composed of 27 families. Interest among the members has increased each year covering practically all phases of farm and home. Since organizing and the introduction of this program in this community, the weakest area during its inception has been and is now, in regular attendance of the total membership. However, there are those who are always present. In spite of the absenteeism of their fellow members, there has been diligence, conscientious efforts and industry on the part of those regular attendants.

Many accomplishments have been realized and improvements made in all phases of activity as individuals and as a group. Those negligent in attendance are making some improvements as a result of their observation, of results obtained from those practices that are carried on and developed as a result of individual efforts and group activity through extension teaching.

Monthly meetings are held at an abandon school building, used as a community center, purchased by two members of the community program. At these meetings discussions and/or demonstrations were used to teach improved practices and the latest recommendations that are constantly carried to them. Club members often gave talks on club projects or

Community Improvement Program

subjects of general interest. At times, outsiders were brought in to discuss various phases of the program and those subjects of special interest.

Year books are distributed to members each year which is used as a guide and to assist in carrying out their short time goals.

The group has reached the point now that they meet only six times a year. The community scored 8th in its achievement for the year. The money from this award was used to beautify their church yard.

Due to the government's program, there has been some reduction in acreage of certain crops.

Some of the major improvements and activities carried out this year are as follows:

Farm Development

No. of acres seeded to winter crops -----	112
No. of acres of permanent pasture seeded -----	13
No. of acres of permanent pasture re-established	7
No. of acres on which soil tests were made -----	33
No. tons of lime used on land -----	26
No. tons of fertilizer used on crops -----	64
No. of farms having soil-water plans -----	2
No. of farm ponds built -----	1
Amount of financial assistance from ASC Program	\$418

Community Improvement Program

Farm Building and Machinery

No. of farm buildings built this year ---- 1
 No. of pieces of major equipment purchased 5

Home Development

No. of homes painted ----- 2
 No. of porches added ----- 1
 No. of screen windows added ----- 18
 No. of screen doors added ----- 12
 No. of lawns established ----- 1
 No. of pieces of shrubbery added ----- 30
 No. of driveways improved ----- 2
 No. of mailboxes painted ----- 4
 No. of family names added to mailboxes --- 4

Inside Improvement

No. of homes with running water installed 1
 No. of bathrooms installed ----- 1
 No. of storage space added ----- 6
 No. of floors painted 5, refinished 1,
 covered 8 ----- 14
 No. of rooms painted or covered ----- 19
 No. of pieces of major appliances purchased 4
 2 home freezers, 1 refrigerator and 1 stove 4

Community Improvement Program

Family Food Supply

No. different vegetables in summer garden ---	20
No. different vegetables in fall-winter garden	16
No. quarts of food canned -----	1,162
No. quarts of food frozen -----	916
No. lbs. of food frozen -----	472
No. of hens kept for home use -----	381
No. of veal or beef animals killed for home use	2

Family Life Development

No. of families making family budget -----	16
No. of families keeping family records of expenditures and income -----	10

Health - Family Participation

No. of persons having thorough physical examinations -----	16
No. of families having chest X-Ray -----	20
Total number persons X-Rayed -----	41
No. of children taking polio shots -----	8

Extension Organization

No. of members in Community Club -----	27
No. of members in H. D. Club -----	19
No. of 4-H members -----	21

Charlotte County, 1962

Community Improvement Program

Other Organizations Members Participated In

Organization	Offices Held
Parent-Teachers' Association	President - Treasurer
4-H Leaders' Association	President
Missionary Circle	Secretary

SUCCESS STORY

Leadership Training

Leadership training and activity has been somewhat discouraging. There is a limited number in so far as the total county program is concerned. The activity on the part of those has not been what it should have been to obtain the maximum results and reach many of the objectives of the program.

There are reasons, legitimate ones, in many cases. Particularly the labor situation is the predominating factor, certainly among the men. On many of the farms the father is the only male living there. This exist among those farmers who realize the value of the program - those who recognize their relationship and responsibility to the work.

Among the younger farmers, 20 to 40 years of age, many of them are doing part-time farming working both day and night at home and in industry. Their schedules and responsibilities are of such that they are not able to make any effective contribution to this end. It is desirable to have a leader to work with each group or groups in the same phase or project area. Material is given to both parents and leaders. The material is often sent direct to parents with the sanction of the leader. To do this, it saves the leader's precious time and effort. They meet, study and analyze this material and work together on setting up programs with the varied members according to their need, possibilities and interests.

GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR

Extension in Charlotte County for the past year made progress in spite of some of the weak points. In general, all areas in the farm, home and the community have been and are progressively improving. Yields and quality of crops, soil utilization or land-use are agencies or procedures through and by which these improvements are being made.

Home and living conditions are in a higher state of realization and there are programs and objectives for further and continued progress.

With an increase in number of leaders, which is badly needed, especially among the male, much greater progress would be realized since there are limitations in the amount of contact that can be made by the extension personnel. Due to labor shortage among male members in families, leadership among these is not sufficient to realize the greatest benefit from that area.