

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

December 1, 1954 to November 30, 1955

o Richmond County
Warsaw, Virginia

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COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS:

Richmond County is divided into five communities with thirty eight neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has a man with a woman leader. There is a total of seventy-six neighborhood leaders. We also have a steering committee of ten men and women from various communities in the county. We have an Advisory Board which is composed of a man and a woman from each community. The purpose of these organizations is to plan the program of activities of the farmers in the community and county and to aid in the setting up of the methods by which these plans are to be carried out.

The 4-H Club council has for its purpose that of making county wide plans for the 4-H clubs of the county. There are sixty members making up the 4-H club council which meets twice a year. They sponsor programs such as Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Club Week, The State Short Course, and Wild Life Conference.

THEY TYPE OF AGRICULTURE:

The type of agriculture is general with such crops being raised as corn different kinds of hay, pasture, small grains, soy beans, and tomatoes being the main crops raised. Some beef cattle, hogs, chickens, eggs, milk and cream are sold in medium quantities.

AGRONOMY:OGG:

Our goal this year was to increase the yield and quality of corn grown in the county. To do this we tried to get more farmers to plant adapted hybrid corn. There were six farmers used as demonstrators.

Small Grain:

Our goal was to increase the yield and quality of small grain. To do this we had as many as possible to seed outstanding varieties of small grains, gave them the supervision needed, urged them to clean and treat their seed before planting and to use only certified seed.

Hay Crops:

Our goal was to increase the acreage of hay in the county and to improve the yielding ability of the present acreage. To improve the yielding ability of the present acreage we are stressing the importance of red clover in our rotation as a soil improver and as a seed crop. We are urging that more of our poor land be seeded in Lespedeza.

Pastures:

To get more pastures that are good and permanent throughout the county has been the aim this year and in the long time program we hope to increase the animal carrying capacity of the permanent pastures. To do this we are stressing the need for better pastures, helping the farmers in selecting the adapted grasses for their pastures, assisting in working out an adapted lime and fertilizer program. As a result we have five farmers that are improving their pastures.

Tomatoes:

To produce more and better quality of fruit per acre economically was our aim this year. To do this we are using the assistance of specialist of the Extension Service to conduct meetings on cultural practices, prevention control of disease and insects, proper fertilization and plant growing. To continue to stress the importance of certified plants, and importance of proper picking.

Soil Conservation Services:

To get more farmers to take full advantage of the program has also been the goal this year. To get this done we are employing all the educational media possible.

Production and Marketing Program (A.S.C.):

Our aim has been this year to get every farmer possible to take full advantage of this program. To do this we are employing all educational media possible by helping farmers to plan their fertilizing and liming program.

Home Garden:

Our goal has been this year to get as many families as possible to have a year round garden. To do this we are giving timely suggestions on varieties planting dates, diseases and insect control. As a great result we had much better gardens in the county, and also a better quality of vegetables on the garden exhibits at the Fair.

Livestock:

Our goal this year was to have more cows both dairy and beef. To do this we are making personal contacts, and we are urging the farmers to have better pastures during the summer months, to help the farmers to do this we are having educational meetings.

Hogs:

Our goal this year was for as many farmers as possible to produce a sufficient amount of pork for his use. To get farmers to do this we are continually stressing the importance of the Live-at-Home program through farm meetings, News articles, radio programs, and personal contacts. Also try to improve the quality of the hogs in the county by placing good type breeding animal in the county, by controlling internal and external parasites and diseases by recommending better feeding practices, and by use of pastures.

Poultry:

Our goal this year is to have as many families as possible to have a good laying flock to reduce mortality rate of poultry on the farms. To carry out these goals we stressed general purpose breeds for farm flocks by urging the farmer to provide better housing conditions, by practicing conducting culling demonstrations and by stressing good feeding practices.

Forest Management:

We had as an objective to encourage farmers properly manage their woodlands. The methods used to get the farmers to look upon their woodlands as a crop and to properly harvest their timber by selective cutting, by leaving seed trees and to work with the State Forest Service in preventing and controlling forest fires.

4-H CLUB WORK:

This year our goal was to develop a better 4-H club program in the county. The method we used this year was to work closely with the 4-H council and each 4-H club member more often to discuss their problems by enrolling the support of the parents of the 4-H club members and by helping to select the projects that the members were interested in.

As a result of our efforts we have 4-H club members enrolled as follows in the different projects; The number enrolled in projects two hundred and eighty five; number completing projects two hundred and forty six; number carrying corn project one, number completing one, the number growing vegetables sixty nine, the number completing

fifty eight; the number raising poultry twenty eight, the number completing fourteen; number carrying dairy calf projects three; number completing three; the number raising pigs thirty seven; number completing thirty two; number raising rabbits six, number completing six; number carrying tractor maintenance first year two; number completing two; number carrying Farm and Home Electric nine; number completing nine; number carrying Home ground beautification thirty seven; number completing twenty eight; number carrying safety ninety three; number completing ninety three.

General Activities:

In carrying out teaching activities the agent made five hundred and thirty one farm and home visits, had one hundred and thirty two office calls, received and sent out one hundred and thirty nine phone calls, made two radio speeches, carried seven result demonstration, held nine meetings with an attendance of one hundred and ninety five attendance, the agent devoted two hundred and forty nine days one program emphasis. Days devoted to adult work one hundred and fifty five, days devoted to 4-H club work ninety four, the agent spent sixteen days in service training, sixty one days were spent in extension organization and program planning, seventy two days were spent with crops, sixty seven days were spent with livestock, twenty six days were spent working soil and water conservation and management, eight days were spent working with the planning and management of farm business.

Stonewall Improvement Community:

As a community wide work, we had as our goals, the interior and exterior improvement of the church cemetery, church building, school ground and school building which is used for the social center. The people with their pastor as leader in the church and community the agent serving as adviser in community were not satisfied to improve their homes and surroundings, without doing something about the church, so in the planning it was decided to build an annex to the church, consisting of two Sunday School rooms, choir and deacons room, two laboratories not yet equipped, two closets, an improved rostrum, a choir loft and a pastors study also painted the interior of the church auditorium to correspond with the newly built addition. This was done at a cost of \$6,500. Three thousand of this amount was raised by the people of the community from their live at home work on the farms. There is still a balance which will be taken care of next year. This work has been completed which gives the community a certain amount of pride to see this accomplished in one year. The cemetery goal was also accomplished, exterior of school building painted, school yard built up to prevent washing.