

## S U M M A R Y

During the period from December 1, 1958 to November 30, 1959 a total of 274 days were spent conducting Extension work. There were 172 days devoted to adult work and 102 days devoted to 4-H Club work. There were 275 farm and home visits made during this period. There were 164 office calls and 75 telephone calls made during this period for assistance or information. There were 430 bulletins and 292 circular letters distributed to farm and urban families in Prince Edward County.

Our overall objectives is to initiate a program based on an analysis of the situation with its resulting findings to meet the needs of the people and to create a desire in them for a better standard of living. However, it must be realized that time and cooperation are important factors in the Extension Program.

The Berryman family have been convenanced that pure bred animals and a balanced ration really pays.

Everett's project has really served as an incentative to encourage other 4-H members as well as adult farmers who observed the project or heard about it. The family plans to continue the production of pure breed swine.

### ACCOMPLISHMENT

Everett Berryman a 4-H Club member purchased three pure bred Duroc pigs for his project this year. Two of the pigs were to be sold at the Junior Hog Show and Sale (males) and one to be used for breeding purposes (gilt).

The pigs were born on February the 2 nd and purchased by Everett on or about the 2 nd of April.

Everett Berryman Jr. (with the assistance of his father) built a 50 x 150 pen which extended across a small stream of spring water for his pigs. Everette also improvised self feeders. These feeders were made by using two 55 gallon oil drums.

Everette mixed his own hog ration which consisted of grain grown on the farm plus 40% supplement which was bought commercially.

Everette was very careful to adhere to all recommended practices given to him as near as possible.

On August the 17 th. 1959, which was about 6½ months after Everette's pigs were purchased the Junior Market Show & Sale was held in Lynchburg, Virginia. Everette carried his hogs to the Show & Sale with the hope of selling them. It was amazing to note that his hogs weighed 303 lbs, 305 lbs, and 310 lbs. respectively. The hogs were too large to bring top market price. Therefore, Everette and his father decided to butcher two of his hogs and sell the cured pork. The gilt has been bred.

4. There are many communities without a sufficient number of interested boys and girls to organize a club; yet it is a possibility that some of these boys will become individual members.
5. In general, the entire county needs to be better acquainted with 4-H Club work.

Objectives:

1. To organize and promote 4-H work wherever and whenever possible.
2. Sell 4-H Club work to youths and adults.

Methods:

1. Visits were made to 4-H Club Members homes to discuss club work with the parent and club member.
2. Much time was spent recruiting adult leaders.
3. Organization of 4-H clubs when and wherever possible.
4. Motivate boys and girls through group lectures and any other means possible.

Results:

There were nine school 4-H clubs organized in 1959, with a total of 425 members. Eight adult 4-H Club leaders were recruited.

Many of the 4-H Club members participated in local and state activities. Such as the Five County Fair held here in Farmville; the district tractor contest that was held in Appomattox; the Junior Hog Show & Sale held in Lynchburg, and the 4-H Club Short Course and Wildlife Conference held at Virginia State College on June 29- July 3 and August 4-6, 1959 respectively.

Discussions at general meetings and 4-H Club meetings--circular letters to key farmers and personal visits were used to promote the forestry program. The farmers were encouraged to consult the area forester in developing recommended practices on their individual farms.

Two farmers and two 4-H Club members have already begun plans for planting pine seeding as a part of this program in 1960.

The agent is planning to put greater emphasis on forestry in 1960.

#### 4- H CLUB WORK

##### Situation:

There are approximately 1,400 youths between the ages of 10 and 21 in the county.

During the year of 1959, there was a total of 425 boys and girls enrolled in 9 school 4-H Clubs. Because of the school situation here in the county; it is necessary for the extension Agents to resort to community clubs.

##### Problem:

1. Community 4-H Clubs must be organized in areas where most members are located.
2. There is a definite need for more and better leadership training programs.
3. There is a need for more parent participation with 4-H Clubs.

2. Furnish individual farmers with up - to - date information on breeds, sanitary practice, disease control methods, low feed cost, etc.

Results:

1. Five pure bred bores and pure bred gilts were purchased this year by local farmers. All hogs purchased came from meat-type herds. The animals consisted of the following breeds: one Landrace Boar, one Duroc Gilt, three Hampshire Boars.
2. Mr. John Fears, a part time farmer, decided to produce eggs commercially. At present Mr. Fears has a flock of 1200 laying hens. Mr. Fears grades his eggs; this provides for a higher profit per unit sold. Mr. Fears sells many of his eggs locally and other are shipped.
3. Mr. Albert Ghee constructed a new dairy barn for his cattle herd.

FORESTRY

Prince Edward County has about 152,800 acres of commercial forests exclusive of public reserved and other non-commercial forest land. This is evident that forestry plays an important part in the lives of many farms families in the county. The problem in the forestry enterprise is the fact that trees are being cut much faster than they are being replaced.

The objectives in the extension forestry program is to initiate practices to get more farmers and 4-H club members interested in forestry as a necessary part of the farm program.

Results:

A number of farmers increased the acreage seeded for hay and the program is being fitted into the overall farm plan on many farms. Three farmers have acknowledged that growing hay is much cheaper than buying and their aim is to grow a better quality as well as increase the quantity of hay.

LIVESTOCK (Including Poultry)

Situation:

The use of livestock in the farm program is becoming an important factor. The production of livestock and livestock products are on the increase in this county. This has proven to be a very desirable way for local farmers to supplement their farm income which previously came from the production of tobacco and other cash crops. The major problem facing the farmers in this growing enterprise is selection of good breeds, a well balanced feeding program and disease control.

The extension program is planned to encourage and promote a livestock enterprise based on good pastures designed to furnish a low cost feed, good sanitary practices and disease control methods.

Methods:

1. Individual farm visits.

HAY

Situation:

The hay situation is similar to the pasture situation here in Prince Edward County. The fact that livestock is on the increase in this county and that there are many acres of idle land or at present used for row crops which could be more profitably used for hay production, makes hay desirable and necessary to be important in the farm plan. A good quality hay grown in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the year round farm feed program has been emphasized to many farmers.

Method:

The objectives of the hay production in Prince Edward County was to help alleviate the feed shortage through increasing the quantity and quality of hay grown and to plan for and anticipate needs for the crop as the number of animals increase per farm.

Methods used to promote the program were:

1. Educational information on the importance of production and maintenance of good hay to meet the needs of the local farmers were discussed at meetings and sent to families in the form of letters, pamphlets and bulletins.
2. Comparative cost of different feeds were discussed with many individual farmers.
3. The seeding of supplementary hay crops were encouraged.



## PASTURE

According to studies and observation, the production of pasture has greatly increased in recent years. But evidence indicates that there is a need for more acres of good quality pastures. Many of the acres of idle land can be profitably used for pasture.

The majority of the farm families are seeking ways of having a steady income from the farming operations throughout the entire year. Farmers are producing dairy products, market hogs and beef animals in order to meet their demands for a year round income. Because of these demands and the present price of feed, we are recommending that a good pasture program is very important and necessary to help keep the cost of production in line with the prices received at the market.

### Method:

Five farmers were asked to cooperate by producing adequate pasture for their farms. These farmers were given the following information: Bulletins - "For Top Pasture - Top Dress" "Managed Grazing Pays" and "Forage Mixtures for Year-Round Feeding". This same information was given to many other farmers.

### Results:

1. Six known farmers increased their pasture acreage.
2. Three additional permanent pastures were sown (24-acres).
3. Two winter pastures were sown for demonstration purposes. These were sown by Mr. John Holcomb and Mr. William Henry Stiff.

oats are beginning to replace wheat as a feed to some extent. Wheat is grown as a feed as well as for market. With the high cost of labor and the cost of ready mixed feeds, farmers can do a good job of keeping the cost of livestock products and livestock down by growing a variety of small grain and mixing their own feed. The yield of these small grain crops can be increased considerably by following recommended practices.

Problem:

1. Not enough emphasis put on small grain production generally.
2. Many farmers are not using recommended varieties.
3. In many instances, improper methods are used at seeding time.

Methods:

1. Key farmers are used for demonstration.
2. Recommended varieties were sent to individual farmers.
3. Reference material on Small Grain production was mailed to the individual farmers.

Results:

1. At least 5 additional farmers are growing their own feed
2. Two farmers are mixing their own hog ration from home grown grain.
3. Wheat yields have shown an increase in yield per acre.

Problem:

1. A large percentage of the farmers are still planting open pollinated corn.
2. There were two known farmers that saved their own seed from hybrid corn.
3. Many farmers plant corn too early and save too late in order to get the maximum yield.

Method:

1. Visits were made to individual farmers to discuss the corn situation.
2. Two circular letters were mailed to farmers with emphasis on time of planting and recommended varieties. A V. P. I. bulletin accompanied each letter on the same subject.
3. Group meeting.

Results:

Many farmers have acknowledged that they have had an increase in corn yield - for example - Mr. Roland Saunders requested that a special visit be made to his farm to see the results. Mr. Saunders acknowledge that this is the first time his corn crib has been filled. Mr. Saunders did not increase his acreage - simply used recommended practices.

SMALL GRAIN

Situation:

Small grain is grown extensively in this county. Barley and

TOBACCO CONT'D

2. Inadequate information on sorting, grading and marketing of the crop.
3. More soil tests need to be made to determine the exact needs for fertility and lime.
4. Poor or no rotation systym.
5. Five farmers reported this year that Black Shank has infested their tobacco plots.
6. More farmers need to plant recommended varities.

Methods:

Two circular letters were sent to tobacco farmers reminding them of timely agricultural practices. Twelve soil tests were made for different farmers before tobacco recommendations were made.

Two bulletins were sent to each tobacco grower, "Managing Your Tobacco Plant Bed" and "Have Good Light for Sorting Tobacco".

Results:

1. There were 8 known farmers who used recommended varities.
2. Eighteen or more persons used one or more of the recommended practices.

CORN

Situation:

Corn is one of the basic crops in Prince Edward County. It is planted on more farms and a larger acreage than any other single crop. The average yield is approximately 35 bushels per acre.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The county Agricultural Advisory Board is composed of representatives from the various communities. The Advisory Board is composed of 35 members.

The function of the Advisory Board is to assist the Extension Agent with the planning and promotion of county-wide programs in agriculture and homemaking; also to put into effect certain activities delegated to them by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The agent seeks the advice of the Board determining, planning and carrying through his official duties.

The County Advisory Board was quite helpful in carrying out our objectives in 1959. A total of four meetings were held during the year.

### TOBACCO

Tobacco is the principle cash crop in this county. Many of the farmers are using improved varieties, recommended fertilizers, good insect control measures and the recommended cultural practices; but, there is evidence that more farmers need to use more recommended practices.

Farmers have been growing tobacco on much of the same land for many years. This system has caused much of the soil most suitable to tobacco to erode, become infested with diseases and become deficient in fertility requirements.

#### Problems:

1. Low yields and poor quality leaf.

The population characteristics for Prince Edward County are as follows:

Total rural farms . . . . .	6,944
Total rural non-farms . . . . .	4,079
Total rural . . . . .	<u>11,023</u>
Total rural white . . . . .	5,616
Total rural non-white . . . . .	5,407
Total white & non-white . . . . .	<u>11,023</u>
Total rural population . . . . .	11,023
Total urban population . . . . .	4,375
Total rural & urban . . . . .	<u>15,398</u>

TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the principle industry. The soils are varied but generally productive and adapted to general crops. The climate is mild and generally there is enough rainfall for general farming. Flue-cured tobacco is the main cash crop in the southern and eastern sections of the county; while, in the northern and western sections, dark fired tobacco is the pride of the tobacco growers. Livestock and livestock production are gradually making its way into the hearts of the farmers as a way of life.

COUNTY SITUATION

Prince Edward was formed in 1754 from Amelia County and named for Edward Augustus, a son of Fredrick, Prince of Wales. In 1954 the population was 15,398 which included Farmville's population of 4,375.

Prince Edward County (area 357 square miles--228,480 acres) lies in central Virginia in the Piedmont Plateau, which altitudes range from 400 to 700 feet. Temperatures average 38.9 degrees in January and 79.5 degrees in July. Precipitation is about 54 inches annually. Mineral resources include kyanite which is mined commercially, feldspar, coal, granite and brick clay. Approximately two-thirds of the county is in forest. Prince Edward is an important producer of pulpwood and lumber. However, recent studies indicate that at present much of the forest is being or has been cut excessively. This is leading to a serious problem unless land owners cooperate with the Forest Department and other Agencies to replace those ones that are being cut.

According to the 1955 Preliminary Census of Agriculture, there were 1,179 farms in Prince Edward County in which 510 are classified as non-white operators and a total of 182 non-white tenants as compared to the 1950 census which listed 1,340 farms of which 600 were classified as non-white operators, representing 489 owners and 111 tenants.

## PREFACE

This report is an attempt to relate in a narrative form some of the activities and accomplishments of the Extension Program in Prince Edward County for the period of one year (December 1, 1958 - November 30, 1959).

This report will reflect some observations and facts found in the county as a result of studies and surveys made or being made.

The major objectives of this report may be stated as follows:

1. To afford the public a summary of the Extension Program.
2. To determine the need for a stronger Extension Program for the future.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the Extension Program.
4. Constructive criticism is welcome; suggestions wanted, and any other information that can be supplied to aid us in building a better Extension Program.

The County Extension Program is designed to meet the needs of all people here in the county—men, women, boys and girls. Work with adults and 4-H members will be covered in this report.

We wish to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation rendered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Virginia State College and various other agencies, federal, state and local in making this program possible for the people of this county. We also wish to thank our State Agent and staff for their unlimited assistance in formulating and directing the Agricultural Extension Program in this county.

Lenrod L. Elowe  
Local Farm Agent

November 30, 1959



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# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

Lenrod L. Elowe \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Local Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Title

Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Agent



1959

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Prince Edward

County