

The Monday morning Farm Page in our daily paper has done an excellent job of getting information to our people. The paper, however, has reduced the amount of space greatly at times.

The Home Grounds Beautification Committee and their program have been very effective and popular.

The Light For Better Living program has been well received. The cooperation of the power suppliers and others has been excellent.

Our h-h program has improved in quality of work and increased enrollment and percentage of completions.

This may be directly related to the wonderful atmosphere and wholehearted reception and support of the h-h Club program on the part of the following agencies: The administrative staff of Norfolk County Schools, the Norfolk County Cooperative Farm Bureau, the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, local Southern States Cooperative, the power company, and many other agencies and businesses.

The re-activation and partial reorganization of the h-h Youth Committee has done wonders with the over-all h-h Club program and above all it has aided the Extension Staff tremendously in planning and executing a h-h program that is based on the needs of the County.

counselling and assistance in management, feeding, internal and external parasite control has been given. Help in securing better sires and foundation females for their herds and flocks.

This year our marketing committee was successful in getting the cooperation of the Norfolk City Council in a project that resulted in a very good farm produce market in the City of Norfolk.

With more funds and assistance our drainage work has almost doubled.

The attendance at all school, short courses, and other educational meetings have improved.

The organization of our County Extension program planning board and the participation on the part of the farmers has increased.

The excellent programs sponsored by the two city Chambers of Commerce have increased. Their cooperation is excellent.

The organization of our County Extension committees into an over-all board should be completed.

More 4-H Clubs should be organized as time will permit. This is being done at present.

There is an Extension radio program each morning Monday through Friday at 5:20. This hour is entirely too early and should be changed. The Saturday program at 12:10 P.M. for 15 minutes is very good.

The television program once every other week from 7:15 - 7:30 P.M. is very good and reaching many people. We could, however, have a better channel. These public service programs on radio and television are reaching a vast number of people.

XVI. Evaluation ----

In compiling this Annual Report it was necessary to review the many Extension activities and other activities with many organizations and businesses. The accomplishment in each of the major projects of the County Agent's program is given under the appropriate heading. To give a complete evaluation would take many pages. To give a financial evaluation would be impossible. However, from this report comes information on the effectiveness of the program and points out the needed changes for the future.

We have had many successful programs. The success of our pasture and forage production has been outstanding. Many acres of good pasture have been seeded with better pasture management. The quantity of hay and the quality of hay, silage and pastures produced has been gratifying.

The quality of beef cattle has improved on many farms from wise culling of poor individuals and the purchasing of better replacements. The results of our efforts for better feeding and management of all cattle and other livestock has been excellent.

The willingness of all farmers to accept the recommendations of the County Agent in general has been good. The number of phone calls and office calls received from farmers seeking information has borne this out. The farmers look to the Extension Service for recommendations on fertilizer, lime, seeding rates, varieties, insect control, etc.

Our DHIA program has improved and is becoming more effective.

Requests from beef cattle, hog, poultry, and dairy farmers has increased. More bulletins have been requested, more individual

stress has been applied to the forestry project. There is a need for reforestation of some cut-over areas in the County which are owned by the parents or relatives of h-h Club members.

- b. Method: One h-h Club took reforestation as a club project. Pine trees were secured through the Extension Forester at VPI and planted by the club members and the Assistant Agent. These trees were planted on a cut-over areas of a farm owned by the father of one of the club members. Several other members of the same club have requested that the same thing be done on their farms this coming spring.

All members in the County were given copies of the forest identification sheets in an effort to make them more familiar with the trees in this area. Several forestry films were shown to the participating clubs.

10. Rodent Control:

- a. Situation: One club participated in the Rodent Control project. The need for this project was evident upon taking a look in the feed rooms of some of the neighboring farms.
- b. Method: The available information was distributed to the club members and demonstrations were held on the different methods of rodent control. Each club member made a bait box and set traps in areas where evidence of rodents was found. Pictures and specimens of the different types of rodents were secured for a demonstration on habits and places where most rodents thrive.

Members of the Youth Committee contacted civic clubs, asking for time to have the demonstrations presented. One of the local civic organizations made funds available to purchase the necessary equipment for these demonstrations. The Club members were selected and trained and some of the demonstrations have been presented. The response to the program has been very enthusiastic. A more detailed explanation of this can be found in the introduction to the 4-H Club section of this report.

8. Farm and Home Safety:

- a. Situation: The necessity for farm and home safety and the practices of it are so evident that it needs little discussion. Several of the elementary clubs and one of the senior clubs took the safety project this year. There were 52 completed projects in safety and the response of the children was excellent.
- b. Method: Each child was given a copy of the safety project manual and the safety project record book. A certain section of the project manual was discussed at each meeting and regular checks were made on the progress in the safety record books.

The meetings were devoted to electric safety and the rest were devoted to general farm and home safety. Three movies on farm and home safety were shown.

9. Forestry:

- a. Situation: Because so much of the land in this area is more adaptable to forestry than to farming quite a bit of

interested in the Entomology project were given all of the latest available information. The project manuals were discussed and explained in detail. Several trays of insects were borrowed from the Entomology section of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, to explain mounting and naming of insect specimens. Participating club members were asked to put their insect collections on display at the County Contest and the 4-H Achievement Day.

7. Electric:

- a. Situation: Today there is hardly a farm or home that does not need some type of electrical improvement. The electric project has required quite a bit of time and effort, but this has paid off in some really outstanding project work on the part of some 4-H Club members. There is, however, still a great deal of work to be done in this field here in the County. With the type of enthusiasm which this project receives from the power company, the electrical equipment suppliers and the 4-H Club members there should be little difficulty in bringing about the desired changes.
- b. Method: The Electric project was selected by the Youth Committee as one of the phases of 4-H Club work to be stressed in their program. In order to stimulate more interest and as a method of increasing public knowledge of the importance of proper home lighting, the phase of the Electric project chosen was that of proper home lighting. Different 4-H Club members in the three main areas of the County were selected to present the home lighting demonstrations.

with the present participants on management and care of sheep and stress that sheep being in two cash crops a year in the form of lambs and wool. Make available all of the latest information to any interested persons.

d. Swine:

- (1). Situation: This year there were more participants in the swine project than last year. One of the local purebred breeders sold 4-H Club members breeding stock at a reduced price in an effort to encourage the production of purebred hogs in the area. There was one commercial operation in swine production carried by a 4-H Club member.
- (2). Methods: Continue to encourage those already participating in the swine project by working closely with them on breeding and management. Continue to try to secure a sponsor for a purebred pig chain in the County.

6. Entomology:

- a. Situation: Interest in the Entomology project is still running high among 4-H Club members in Norfolk County. Several clubs had as high as 50% of the total membership participating in the Entomology project. The Tidewater area is well-suited to the life cycle of most insects, both harmful and helpful. It is felt that a more complete picture of the insects of the area will aid in the over-all farm control program of harmful insects.
- b. Methods: The clubs and individual members who were

- (o). All steers will be sold at public auction following the show. Parents may purchase their son's or daughter's steer for any purpose desired, however, payment must be made to the sponsoring Agency for the sale price of the calf.

Rules Committee

R. W. Johnson, Chairman  
John A. Thomas  
L. Barnes Allen

b. Dairy Cattle:

- (1). Situation: Because of the size of the "Norfolk-Portsmouth Milk Shed" dairying is a very important business. However, there is at the present time no h-R dairy program as such in the County. It is very difficult to pinpoint any reason or condition responsible for this apparent lack of interest among the h-R Club members in the dairy project. It is hoped that this year there will be a dairy judging team formed in the County. The manager of one of the large dairies has agreed to help coach a dairy team.

c. Sheep:

- (1). Situation: Last year there were two h-R Club sheep projects in the County. Both of these were from farm flocks of grade ewes with purebred ram. Because of the climatic conditions in this area it is next to impossible to get ewes to settle before the middle of September or early November. This makes lambs too late for good marketing.
- (2). Method: Encourage more h-R Club members to participate in the Sheep project whenever possible. Work closely

- (c). Each Club member will be required to draw for his or her calf and its sponsor, in person, unless prevented by illness.
- (d). Each Club member participating in the Baby Beef Project must give a note for the full amount of the cost of the animal to the sponsoring organizations. Note is to be due and payable within 30 days after the date of the show and sale.
- (e). All club members will be required to pay to the sponsoring organization \$5.00 insurance.
- (f). All calves fed by h-H'ers must be drawn from lot numbers from his breed choice. Club members may not show calves from their home farm, but h-H Club members growing calves from his or her own h-H heifer project be permitted to enter all competition in Fat Stock Show and Sale.
- (g). A Club member will not be allowed to show or sell more than one baby beef animal.
- (h). No unmanageable calf may be shown, but can be sold.
- (i). All steer calves must be dehorned.
- (j). Club members may feed any choice of feeds approved by the County Agents, however, nurse cows or milk in its natural form cannot be used. Milk substitutes may be used at the discretion of the club member.
- (k). No calves may be put on feed by h-H club members prior to distribution date for all calves. Steers selected from club members herd must be weaned by distribution date.
- (l). When a Club member refuses to do a good job, the calf may be moved by the committee.
- (m). Each Club member is expected to exhibit his own animal in the show. If the Club members cannot be present then another Club member may be engaged to show the animal. In no case shall a professional showman, County Agent or other adult exhibit a Club member's animal.
- (n). Baby Beef calves shall be brought to the show grounds on the day preceding the show and sale for weighing, grading, and numbering. Club members must provide their own feed and containers and provide their own transportation to the show.

shown for two or more years. At different times during the eight months feeding period each club member carrying a baby beef or heifer project is visited by the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and his or her individual sponsor. They are accompanied by the Assistant County Agent and the County Agent when he is available. Each sponsor is also asked to be present for the distribution of the calves.

The baby beef program is climaxed during the first week of May. At this time the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce sponsors it's annual Rural-Urban Get-Together for all participants in the project, their families, the sponsors of the program, the Agriculture Committee and invited guests. Some outstanding leader in Agriculture is invited to speak at this program. The Show and Sale are held the next day at the Portsmouth City Stadium.

The sale is handled by an ex 4-H Club member from Norfolk County who is an auctioneer.

The entire program is governed by a rigid set of rules and regulations which are drawn up by the Extension Agents and the Rules Committee of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee. The following is a copy of these Rules and Regulations:

- (a). All contestants participating in the Portsmouth Fat Stock Show and Sale must be bonafide members in good standing of an active 4-H Club.
- (b). Each club member who participates in the Portsmouth Baby Beef Show and Sale must feed out a sponsored calf.

sponsors are secured by them and the rules and regulations governing this work are set up by the above mentioned committee.

The actual selection and placement of the animals is left up to the County Agent and Assistant County Agent.

Early in June the County Agent, Assistant County Agent and members of the County Beef Committee make a trip to different farms looking for calves. Farms on which prospective steers are located are asked to hold certain animals until late August at which time those animals which meet the required size, weight, and conformation are tagged. Around the middle of September these steers are brought to a central location in the County for distribution to the 4-H Club members. Prior to the distribution the Extension office sends each participant a folder containing information on housing, rations, and general care and management of the animal along with a livestock record book. During the first month each child is visited every week or as often as necessary. After that only new members are visited more than once a month unless more visits are warranted. During the course of the feeding period demonstrations are held in general care and management as well as fitting and showmanship. Each club member is encouraged to participate freely in these informal meetings. More direct supervision is given to club members participating for the first time or second time than to those who have

information on brooding and rearing poultry was presented to the members.

Early in September Mr. R. H. Burtner, the 4-H Club Poultry Specialist, came to Norfolk County and scored the poultry projects. It was also decided at this time to enter birds from each flock in the State Fair.

This year for the first time Norfolk County had an Egg Grading team. Mr. Louis Wesley came to the County and spent one afternoon coaching and instructing the boys in egg grading. One of the large commercial egg packers made their facilities available for workouts. The team was high scorer in the Richmond workout and placed third in the state.

#### 5. Livestock Projects:

##### a. Beef Cattle:

- (1). Situation: The enthusiastic response of the people of this area to the 4-H Baby Beef program is most gratifying. This year there were eight Angus steers and eight Hereford steers in the County. There are five heifer projects in the County this year. Because of the possibilities of beef production in this area this is one of the most important phases of club work in the County. Several small herds of purebred Angus and Herefords have been started as a result of the 4-H Baby Beef and heifer projects.
- (2). Methods: Since the 4-H Baby Beef and heifer projects are under the direct sponsorship of the Agricultural Committee of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, the

3. Range and Pasture Projects:

- a. Situation: With the increase in livestock in the County the need for new and improved pastures is quite obvious. There were only four participants in this project during the past year. However the quality of work done by these four boys was excellent. There is still a need for more work on this project. However, more and more club members are realizing the need for more and higher quality grazing.
- b. Methods: Each member participating was supplied with all of the latest information on pastures, mixtures, fertilization, and soil sampling equipment. The importance of pasture rotation, over-grazing, weed control and fertilization was stressed.

h. Poultry:

- a. Situation: The poultry project was one of the few projects this year which lost members. However, those participating in this project have done an excellent job. All members participating in the Sears Poultry project exhibited at the State Fair in Richmond. There is still a definite need for more farm flocks of poultry in this area. Approximately 80% of the poultry and poultry products of this area are shipped in from other areas.
- b. Methods: It is felt that some of the decrease in the number of participants in the poultry project was due to the economic situation in this area early in the year. Many companies were reducing their staffs and families were reluctant to agree to spend the money required to start and maintain a poultry project.
- For the members participating in the Sears poultry project a definite schedule of visitation was set up and all the latest

field. There is an excellent market for soybeans in the area and this is probably part of the reason for part of the popularity of this particular crop.

- (2). Methods: All members participating in this project were given soil sample boxes and encouraged to have the soil tested. All of the latest available information was presented to the members growing soybeans. Members were told about the new Hood variety of soybeans and encouraged to visit the County demonstration plot of soybeans.

2. Vegetable Growing:

- a. Situation: The garden project was one of the largest projects this past year. Part one of the garden project was very popular among several of the elementary clubs. The quality and quantity of gardens scored this year was excellent. According to Mr. A. V. Watts, Associate Extension Horticulturist of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, the gardens this year were of more economic value and showed more improvement this year than he had seen in a long time.
- b. Methods: At the beginning of the planting season each club member was given a garden folder containing the latest information on varieties, fertilization, and cultivation of vegetables. In this folder there was also a spray bulletin for insect control. The gardens were scored by Mr. Watts and the Assistant County Agent; the standard garden score card was used for this purpose. At the time of scoring each child was given a folder with fall garden suggestions information.

White Awards

T. J. Carawan  
Johnny Mac Heilig  
Mike Pearce  
Charles Olah  
Norman Bess

B. 4-H Club Projects:

1. Agronomy:

Most of the project work done in Agronomy is done by the club members in the senior clubs and in one of the three community clubs. The quality and quantity of this work done last year was excellent and the number of enrollments in the agronomy projects was up somewhat from last year. For a more detailed report refer to Form ES-21 page 25, Items 82-92.

a. Corn:

- (1) Situations: Corn yields in Norfolk County have been excellent this year. Four-H members carrying the corn project have all reported excellent crops of both silage corn and corn grown for grain.

The yield per acre of both grain and silage was much higher than last year. This can probably be attributed to the ideal growing season and the improved agronomy practices.

- (2) Methods: The members participating were given the latest available information on varieties, fertilizer, insect control, and agronomy practices.

b. Soybeans, Field Peas, Alfalfa and Other Legumes:

- (1) Situations: Due to the soil type, climate and market in this area soybeans are the major legume crop in Tidewater, Virginia. Soybeans are a very popular 4-H Club project in the agronomy

Second Place - Robert Stewart

1 Blue Ribbon  
1 White Ribbon  
Three Checks in amount of \$12.05

Third Place - William Charles Sawyer, III

1 Blue Ribbon  
1 Pink Ribbon  
Three checks in amount of \$9.30

Fourth Place - Margaret Evelyn Sawyer

1 Blue Ribbon  
Two checks in amount of \$7.00

Entomology Project - Sponsored by the Norfolk County Farm Bureau

First Place - Danny Parker

Scholarship to 4-H Camp in amount of \$6.00

Second Place - Wayne Rountree

Scholarship to 4-H Camp in amount of \$6.00

Electric Project - Sponsored by the Norfolk County Farm Bureau

First Place - Edward Bishop

Scholarship to 4-H Camp in amount of \$6.00

Garden Project

Blue Awards

Robert Stewart  
Buddy Shaw  
James Cox  
Jeffrey Creef  
Edwin Nettles  
Randolph Schiemann  
Paul Olah  
Francis Old

Red Awards

James Beasley  
Buddy Denny  
Bobby Spencer  
Phillip Foster  
Ludford Creef  
Jerry Moulton  
Jerry Merrill  
Charles Allen

At this same show the h-h Club members participating in the Sears Poultry Project showed the second, third, fourth and fifth place pens of sex-linked poultry.

The second place Summer Yearling Angus heifer was also from Norfolk County. She was shown by Edwin Nettles.

On h-h Club day the Norfolk County h-h Clubs were represented at the State Fair by 30 club members, leaders and Agents.

In County achievement the following awards were presented:

Achievement Medals -- Joe Walker  
James Cox

Citizenship Medal --- Randolph Schiesann

Electric Medals ---- Edward Bishop

Entomology Medals --- Danny Parker  
Wayne Rountree

Field Crops ----- Buddy Shaw  
Tommy Cornette

Garden Medals ----- James Cox  
Jeffrey Greef  
Randolph Schiesann  
Ludford Greef

Poultry Medals ----- James Cox  
Robert Stewart  
William Charles Sawyer  
Margaret Evelyn Sawyer

Recreation Medals --- Hope Newman  
Robert Stewart

Safety Medals ----- Danny Parker

Swine Medals ----- T. J. Carawan  
Tommy Cornette

Special Awards

Sears Poultry Project - Sponsored by Sears, Roebuck Foundation

First Place - James Cox

1 Blue Ribbon  
1 Red Ribbon  
Three checks in amount of \$15.55

The next group of lights are the tube or fluorescent bulbs. All three of these bulbs have the same wattage but differ in color. All three are used for special effect lighting.

The demonstrations have been well received where presented and the comments have been very favorable. It is felt that the desired results are being achieved.

**A. 4-H Club Work:**

The increase in the quality of 4-H Club work and in the enrollment of 4-H Club members during the past year has been most encouraging as can be seen from the statistical report. The percentage of project completions has increased markedly over the past year.

Norfolk County has been well represented in State competition during the past year.

The County sent two judging teams to State competition this year. They were the livestock judging team and the egg grading team.

The livestock judging team placed second in district competition and eighth in the State competition. One of its members was third high man in the State on swine judging. The egg grading team was first in the district and third in the State competition.

At the Richmond Junior Premium Fat Stock Show and Sale both the Champion Angus and Champion Hereford were from Norfolk County. The Champion Angus went on to become the Grand Champion of the show. Both of these animals were shown and fitted by Joe Walker.

At the Atlantic Rural Exposition this past year, Joe Walker also showed the first place Angus and the second place Shorthorn. The Angus went on to become Champion Junior Angus and Grand Champion of the show.

f. Contact all club members parents

g. More recognition for younger club members.

The committee decided that one of the best ways to accomplish its goals was to get the h-H Club program and its work more in the public eye. To do this it was decided that h-H Club members should present a program to all of the civic clubs which would be willing to devote a night to this type of program. The Electric project was chosen as the topic for these demonstrations.

One of the local civic organizations donated a sum of money so that equipment could be purchased for these demonstrations. Three teams composed of one boy and one girl were selected from different areas of the County to present these demonstrations.

The girl member will present a program on lamps and proper lighting. The boy on the team will present a demonstration dealing with the history, development and uses of artificial lighting.

The boy's demonstrations will be based on the proper use and differences between 9 conventional globe type lights and 3 tube or fluorescent lights. The nine conventional lights are: clear globe, frosted globe, milk white globe; these compose the first group of three general purpose light bulbs: the next group is composed of three bulbs for special uses, they are: General Electric decorator bulb, the silver cap reflector bulb, and the indoor spot light. These three bulbs are used when a certain effect is desired. The next group of lights are three lights devoted simply to use in lamps. They are all three-way lights. One is a 100,200,300 watt mogul base bulb. The other two are conventional base bulbs. One is a 30-75-100 watt bulb and the other is a 75-100-150 watt R-40 bulb.

members from farms are from the farms which supply less than 50% of the total annual income. The size of the farms in the County are small and the number of farms in the County is decreasing each year.

Third: The percentage of youth reached by the 4-H Club program as compared to the total percentage of youth of 4-H Club age is very small.

By keeping these facts in mind the reader should get a clearer picture of the actual 4-H Club program in Norfolk County.

The Youth Committee of Norfolk County has five meetings this year. The first two meetings were devoted to the presentation of background material and situation in an effort to bring the members of the committee up to date on the existing situations here in the County.

The third meeting was an organizational meeting of the members of the Committee. Also at this meeting the tenure of service of the individual members was decided.

The persons chosen to serve on this committee were selected according to their relationships to the youth of this area. They represent: education, 4-H Club parents, Adult 4-H Volunteer Leaders, home demonstrations clubs, farmers, ex 4-H Club members and 4-H All-Stars. As a result of these meetings the following goals were set up:

- a. To obtain one adult and organizational and project leader for each club.
- b. Increase number of clubs by 25%.
- c. Increase membership.
- d. Increase adult project and organizational leaders for each club.
- e. To make State Administration aware of the need to add more projects of interest to urban and rural non-farm boys and girls.

C. Farmers Home Administration:

Arranged for their representative to have a place for a regular day each month in the County to take loan applications and meet his clients. Helped the Field Supervisor get his loan committee set up. Gave the program publicity and referred several farmers to him.

D. North Carolina & Virginia Plant Food Institute:

This organization has probably been used more than helped. Mr. E. Y. Floyd, Director, was a speaker at our Dairy Short Course. He visited the County's Coastal Bermuda demonstrations and our District 4-H Camp to advise on establishing our sand hills. Mr. Floyd helped with our fertilizer school and also helped in getting out the attendance of those in the fertilizer industry.

XV. 4-H Club Work

Before getting into the actual accomplishments of 4-H Club work in Norfolk County there are some factors which effect the Club work here in the County which should be brought to the reader's attention.

First: Of the 13 4-H Club in Norfolk County in which boys are enrolled, ten (10) meet in school and three (3) are community clubs. Since school clubs meet during the assembly program, the actual time available for project instruction is limited. Only the three community clubs have adult leaders and there are only 3 project leaders in the County. Of the three adult leaders, only one is willing to hold a club meeting if the Assistant Agent is not present.

Second: The majority of 4-H Club members enrolled in the County are from either, rural-non-farm or urban homes and many of the Club

The Youth Committee took on the lighting program and developed two demonstrations. One given by a 4-H boy and one given by a 4-H girl. This program has been presented to four civic clubs to-date. For a more detailed report of the demonstrations, turn to the youth part of this report.

#### XIV. Working With Other Agencies

##### A. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation:

The County Agent has served on the Committee as an ex-officio member. Have met with the Committee at each regular and special meeting when possible. I have missed only a few of the meetings.

Helped in selecting the ACP practices and served as Chairman of the County Electoral Board. The relationship has been good and the program promoted. The County Agent has used the radio facilities and the newspapers to help publicize the different programs.

##### B. Soil Conservation Services:

The County Extension Agents have promoted this program. The County Agent has served on the Soil Conservation District Board and also as secretary to the Board. The County Agent attended all meetings, conducted such correspondence and recorded all minutes. The Agent attended the State Convention of the Soil Conservation District supervisors in Roanoke. Helped plan and made arrangements for a meeting place and lunch for our Soil Conservation District area meeting.

We were successful in getting three delegates to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Short Courses at VPI and the College of William and Mary and State College. Had one of last years delegates to speak at the area meeting.

This committee met with some invited guests and the program was presented and discussed. Then a sub-committee was set up to plan a program for a lighting workshop for all professional workers of the group. This workshop was planned and held with about 25 professional workers attending.

They planned for a lighting exhibit at one of the local supply stores, this was held for four days by the Home Agents, Home Economists, and agricultural engineers of the power suppliers. This exhibit was very successful with about 350 persons attending.

The County Agent served on the program committee, the committee to make a survey of the wholesalers and distributors of electric supplies, lamps and bulbs. Each was contacted and we have been successful in getting some of the equipment made available but it lacks a lot of being what we need.

The Extension Agricultural Engineer at VPI, and the power company engineers have visited and planned one farm and home demonstration to be used on our tours in the future. The Home Agent worked with many families in the home. One new home was planned with detailed wiring and correct lighting for the home and yard. This will be a demonstration home for our tour.

This program has received wide publicity. The County Agent gave a television program on proper lighting for out-of-doors. The Home Agents have given them on different phases of home lighting.

The radio, newspapers, circular letters, all have been used as a mass media for reaching people. The bulletin, "See Your Home In A New Light" has been passed out by the hundreds.

be a big obstacle after we inform the people and create the desire.

2. Problems:

- a. Inadequate wiring on most farms to permit proper lighting and still be safe.
- b. Lack of information on the part of the owners.
- c. Increase in cost of wiring and fixtures.
- d. Lack of proper kinds of bulbs, lamps and fixtures in hands of suppliers.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Inform the people on proper lighting in the home and on the farm.
- b. Make a survey of the wholesalers, local suppliers and dealers of electrical equipment and bulbs.
- c. Work to get proper lighting of farms for safety and proper lighting.
- d. Get electric suppliers and dealers to stock the needed, correct kinds of lamps, bulbs and equipment.

4. Methods and Results:

There is not an organized County farm and home lighting committee. The Better Lighting program this year was planned and carried out under the, "Light For Better Living" Committee. This committee consisted of representatives of the following:

- a. Power suppliers.
- b. Home economists.
- c. Vocational Agricultural teachers.
- d. Extension Agents.

- b. Working off-farm and receiving most income from other sources.
- c. Finding time for County and Home Agents to visit together.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Continue the farm and home development program concentrating on the farm program.
- b. Add at least five farms in 1958.

4. Methods and Results:

The County Agent and Assistant County Agent went over the list of farms and new farms were added to the list. They each took farms to work up a program with.

To date we have four completed and two more well on the way.

This program is very effective on these farms and (with the farmers) whom we can work. We have found that the complete picture and records of a farm operation makes it possible to have almost complete knowledge of the operations and possible to give close supervision even by telephone.

XII. Lights For Better Living Program:

- 1. Situations Most homes and farms have inadequate wiring for their present electric load. Most of the homes have improper lighting in general and for reading and studying. Most farms are not lighted properly for efficiency of operation or safety. This situation will be hard to improve on many an old farm due to the cost. We had hoped to get all new farm homes and buildings properly wired when constructed, but have found that in most instances it required almost twice as much as the contractors had allowed for the wiring job. Therefore increased cost will

pruning, insect and disease control of shrubs and flowers. Several news articles have been run in the newspapers on home grounds beautification.

One demonstration home landscape plan was developed, with the assistance of Mr. A. S. Beecher, Extension Horticultural Specialist. We hope to get the planting completed for tours, etc. in future years.

A tour was held of two nurseries (with excellent attendance of home owners) with Mr. Beecher giving information on plant materials and their uses.

The Committee has a Home Grounds Beautification School planned, for February 1959. The program is complete and speakers engaged. This school will be held every Tuesday and Wednesday night in February, with a different topic being presented each week at two different locations.

#### XI. Farm and Home Development:

1. Situation: This program has been slow due to non-residence ownerships, renting multiple units, and receiving major portions of income from other sources other than farming. The first year the County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent worked with two farms and made some progress. The farm and home development committee selected many more farms, but when we began to look at the operations, most of them were not suitable for one or more reasons.
2. Problems:
  - a. Finding farms that can be used as farm and home development units.

- b. Help 25 families to develop a landscape plan.
- c. To acquaint home owners with some plant material, use and care.
- d. To acquaint home owners with horticultural information and assistance available from the County Extension Service.
- e. To get 100 families to have their lawns soil tested.
- f. To encourage families to help keep our roadways and parks clean.

4. Methods and Results:

The County Agent gave method demonstrations to the program chairmen of the twenty-three Home Demonstration Clubs on the following demonstrations:

- a. Culture of Azaleas.
- b. Pruning and Care of Shrubs.
- c. Propagation of flowers and shrubs.
- d. Insect and Disease Control on Flowers and Shrubs.
- e. Soils, and How To Take A Soil Sample.

The Home Grounds Beautification Committee met three times in planning programs and carrying them out.

The Committee sponsored a Litterbag campaign. The campaign was given considerable publicity, several hundred litterbag posters were distributed. The different gasoline companies distributors were contacted about putting car litter bags at their service stations.

A television program was presented on pruning shrubs on WVEC-TV.

Several radio programs have been developed around home grounds beautification, on proper seed, fertilizing and care of lawns,

Forester has visited several farms and advised them on forestry problems. Several farms have been assisted in getting timber cruised.

X. Home Grounds Beautification:

1. Situation: Many homes and communities are attractive. Many others are not. Thousands of new homes have been built in recent years, with many of them being poorly landscaped. The contractors and builders have followed very poor landscaping principles generally.

Many public buildings such as community houses and churches need either renovation or a complete new job of landscaping.

The State Highway Department is spending thousands of dollars landscaping our highways and cleaning them of paper, bottles, and other litter.

People are showing more interest in ornamental horticulture. The County Extension Service Agents are getting more calls for help in ornamental horticulture.

2. Problems:

- a. Too many new and old homes are poorly landscaped.
- b. Lack of well developed lawns.
- c. Many houses need repair and paint, some yards need care.
- d. Lack of appreciation for natural beauty along our highways and in our parks.
- e. Lack of knowledge of plant materials, use, culture, and care.
- f. Lack of pride in appearance of (home grounds) personal property.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Encourage families to clean yards, paint and repair houses.

have had more individual farm drainage than any year before since I came to the County in 1955. The community projects will drain about 7,000 acres.

The use of lime has received a good publicity program at meetings, on radio programs, newspapers, farm and home visits. The response has been excellent.

## II. Forestry:

1. Situation: The price of good land that is well-drained is too high for forestry production. Yet there are thousands of acres of poorly drained land that should be planted. There are thousands of acres of cut over wood land that needs forest stand improvement.

2. Problems:

- a. Expensive land.
- b. Lack of funds on part of land owner and ACP.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Work with 4-H Club boys to get some pine seedlings planted.
- b. Promote educational program with the Virginia Division of Forestry, the Agricultural Conservation Programs, and Virginia Forests, Incorporated.
- c. Get 50,000 pine seedlings planted.

4. Methods and Results:

The County Agent met with the Virginia Forests, Inc. and their County Forestry Committee.

The 4-H Club boys planted 3,000 seedlings.

Several farmers have been assisted with forest stand improvement problems and selective cutting. Mr. Charles E. Gill, Extension

izing. A very extensive educational program has been conducted by radio, newspapers, letters and visits.

I have helped the producers with poultry problems, culling and parasite control.

#### VIII. Conservation:

1. Situations: Drainage is our number one conservation need. The lands that are drained are high in organic matter and very acid. Getting this land limed is necessary before it can produce profitably. Thousands of acres of corn, soybeans, and land planted in other row crops go through the winter without a cover crop, with heavy losses from leaching.
2. Problems:
  - a. Need for drainage.
  - b. Need for lime.
  - c. Lack of cover crops.
3. Objectives and Goals:
  - a. Promote the digging of community drainage projects.
  - b. Promote individual farm drainage.
  - c. Get all newly drained land properly limed.
  - d. Get more funds from the ACP Program, for drainage in the County.
4. Methods and Results:

The amount of money allotted Norfolk County for ACP practices was increased about 25% by the State Committee. This was the result of a meeting of the Virginia Dare Soil Conservation District and a meeting of the State Committee. During the 1958 ACP program we have promoted 29 community drainage projects and

d. No Broiler processing plants.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Conduct an educational program on layers as a good source of income.
- b. Try to increase layers in the County in flocks of 2,000 birds or above.
- c. Work to improve prices for quality eggs.

4. Methods and Results:

A poultry school was held last winter in cooperation with the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and Princess Anne County. The following topics were included.

- (1) Proper Housing - G. D. Kite, Extension Agricultural Engineer
- (2) Cage Layers Vs. Floor Flocks - Denver D. Bragg, Extension Poultry Husbandman
- (3) Producing Quality Eggs - R. Lewis Wesley, Asst. Extension Poultry Husbandman
- (4) My Experiences in the Poultry Business - R. Carlton Etheridge, Farmer

The poultry industry including, feed companies, egg grading stations and some of the producers were visited by the County Agent and two poultry specialists and a representative of the Virginia Poultry Federation, before the kick-off of our Poultry Expansion program for the area. We had an excellent group to attend the meeting in Suffolk. I served on the nominating committee to select a slate of officers, select committees and present a list of the names of people to serve on the committees. The committee also planned the next program for the purpose of organ-

western ewes, the first in the County as far as we know. There is one small registered flock in the County that we have helped with the breeding program and other problems. Two demonstrations were given on castrating, docking, and clipping.

The producers shipped lambs in the Lamb pools and wool pools.

#### VII. Poultry:

1. Situation: Layers in the County reduced from 75,686 in 1945 to 64,520 in 1950 and to 54,572 in 1955. Turkeys increased from 274 in 1950 to 6,192 in 1955. Income from poultry products in 1955 was \$335,511.

The Tidewater cities around the Hampton Roads form one of the largest markets south of New York. Better than 70 percent of the eggs are shipped in from Northern Virginia, New Jersey and many other states.

There are many farmers in Norfolk County that could use layers to a great advantage as a good source of income. We have a surplus of grain and the egg market situation has improved by having a new egg grading station and one of the older ones has continued under new management. The broiler demand is great but processing and market facilities have all closed. Most of the broilers go to the Richmond markets.

2. Problems:

- a. Lack of interest on the part of farmers.
- b. Hard to get credit from local banks for poultry production.
- c. Broiler prices have been too low.

2. Problems:

- a. Lack of good commercial flocks of good quality sheep.
- b. Poor feeding and management.
- c. Parasites are hard to control due to poor drainage.
- d. Most flocks are too small to justify the producers hauling their lambs the long distance to our lamb pools and wool to our wool pools.
- e. Dogs kill a lot of sheep and lambs.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Add sheep to a number of beef cattle farms.
- b. Increase size of flocks to more economical units where possible.
- c. Work to get farmers to ship lambs through cooperative marketing pools.
- d. Conduct an extensive educational program on sheep.
  - (1) Furnish each producer with a copy of the Sheep production bulletin.
  - (2) Use letters, radio, and newspapers to inform each producer of the importance of good management and parasite control.
- e. Assist farmers in getting good ewes and rams and help them to cull.

4. Methods and Results:

Sheep have been given some coverage by newspaper articles, radio and letters. This has caused some inquiries and resulted in a few more sheep in the County. We have assisted in locating six registered rams. Helped get one flock about a dozen sheep built up to about 40, including 20

to check the litter weights and then measure and certify to carcasses measurement and weight from five litters. This has taken considerable time on the part of the Extension Agents, especially the Assistant County Agent. At the present we have checked eight of the ten carcasses required for the second Certified Meat-Type hog boar.

The expansion of hogs and the increase in the meat-type hogs in the County has been great. The control of parasites both external and internal has increased.

The Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and the Extension Agents tried to get a livestock survey of the Tidewater area, but after three meetings of the committee, two being held with Extension specialists and representatives from the Virginia Division of Markets, the survey was called off. These efforts were to try to get a better livestock market which failed.

Hog pastures acreage and quality has increased under our educational program, as well as feeding and management.

C. Sheep:

1. Situations: Sheep are of little significance in our livestock program. The number of ewes have varied from 351 in 1945 to 463 in 1955. About  $33\frac{1}{3}$  percent increase in 10 years. Most of the sheep are small flocks of about six each, used to keep down bushes, weed and grass. Sheep receive very little attention. However, there are a few flocks in the County that are well-managed. Sheep numbers could be increased and profitably so, on many beef cattle farms.

- c. Improve marketing for hogs.
- d. Reduce losses from lice, worms, and diseases.
- e. Improve feeding and management for more efficient production.

h. Methods and Results:

The meat type hog promotional program has been pushed the entire year. The Agents attended a meeting at the Tidewater Research Station at the kick-off. Have had many farmers visit the station on the Livestock Field Day as well as several h-H Club members that we carried to the Field Day.

Several radio talks have been given on meat type hogs - hog production and management. Several farmers have been assisted in getting meat type boars, sows and gilts.

We have farmers that have been assisted in getting in the parlor feeding of swine. One has been assisted in setting up a fog system.

For two years we have been working with a young farmer who started in production of Registered Yorkshire Hogs. His success has been beyond our expectations. This year he sold hogs in the Suffolk, Tappahannock and Winchester consignment sales, topping the sales in more than one instance. He showed at the Virginia and West Virginia State Fairs and he had several hogs to capture top honors in classes at each fair.

He has produced a Certified meat-type sire. This was the first certified meat-type boar in Virginia and the seventh in the United States. To certify a boar the Extension Agent has

ready for market. Gave assistance in all other management programs including rearranging pastures, feed lots, holding and loading chutes and cutting pens.

Six breeders have been helped in their complete program with frequent visits and a complete revised program.

B. Hogs:

1. Situation: Hog numbers have reduced yearly in Norfolk County since 1945, where the number of hogs was 7,694 to 6,721 in 1955. However, hog numbers have increased some since 1955. Garbage feeding has just about disappeared and accounts for the earlier decline.

There is a surplus of corn in the County that could be fed profitably to hogs.

The quality of hogs has improved and good breeding stock is available locally.

2. Problems:
  - a. Lack of meat-type hogs.
  - b. Shortage of good hog pastures.
  - c. Lack of control of internal and external parasites.
  - d. Need for better markets.
  - e. Too many farmers are doing a poor job of feeding and management.
3. Objectives and Goals:
  - a. Increase meat-type hogs in the County as rapidly as possible.
  - b. Get good hog pastures on all farms that are not forced feeding in pig parlors.

- e. Locating good registered bulls in a reasonable distance of the County.
- f. Lack of proper culling due to herds being increased.
- g. Lack of good markets.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Improve quality of cattle by rigid culling of cows and replacing with better cows.
- b. Reduce cattle numbers on the few farms that are overstocked.
- c. Hold a Livestock School.
- d. Improve feeding and management of herds.
- e. Work with the Chambers of Commerce Agricultural Committees and Farm Bureau Committees of Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties and improve local markets.

4. Methods and Results:

We could not get in another livestock school this year but have one planned for January 1959.

In cooperation with the VPI Animal Husbandry Department and the National Livestock Meat Board, we helped plan and conduct a meat information school for this area.

News articles have been published on feeding, control of lice, flies and internal parasites, including systemic insecticides. Radio talks have been given on each. I have helped select and place 6 bulls and several good replacement heifers and cows.

The steer feeding program has taken a lot of time. Some farmers have been assisted in locating feeders, worked with them on a detailed feeding program, helped with steers when

Helped Norfolk Chamber of Commerce plan and conduct a dairy tour of consumers to promote better city and farm relations.

VI. Livestock:

A. Beef Cattle:

1. Situation: The beef cattle cows have increased from 135 cows in 1940 to 1332 in 1955. This number has increased each year since 1955. Dairymen are selling out and going into beef cattle production. We have a few purebred breeders of Black Angus and Herefords. Most of the cattle producers are new in the business and their herds have a lot of average to poor cows.

There are several feeders in the County. The largest feeder keeps about 200 head of cattle on the farm the year round. None of the producers are selling calves in the Virginia Feeder Calf Sales. All producers are using registered bulls.

Parasites both internal and external are causing considerable loss in production.

The Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce sponsors the h-h Baby Beef Project - Show and Sale - each year for Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties. Norfolk County has from sixteen to twenty steers per year.

2. Problems:

- a. Lack of good pastures, hay and silage.
- b. Too many poor feeders and managers.
- c. Too many poor quality cows.
- d. Lack of control of internal parasites, lice and flies.

Veterinarian; (5) Pasture and Hays; (6) Economics of Dairy Farming.

Held several DHIA Board meetings and have hired supervisor full-time instead of part-time. Had a meeting of the DHIA members and had a program on DHIA records and their use. Three DHIA herds dropped out when we had a part-time supervisor. One herd sold out, making a loss of four herds. Three new herds have been added.

The radio, newspapers, meetings, letters, bulletins and personal visits have been used very extensively on the different dairy problems listed, with good results; such as, better feeding of dairy herd, better care and management, better replacement calves and heifers. An excellent job was done by the veterinarian and Dr. S. L. Kallian, Extension Livestock Disease Specialist, on Bangs and Leptospirosis.

As results of Agronomy school and other educational methods there was great improvement in the quality of hay. Several farmers have gone to buying alfalfa during harvest season direct from farmers in the valley of Virginia. The County Agent, with the help of the State Department of Agriculture, assisted in the location of hay.

The silage production efforts has resulted in an increase of at least 25% in silage. More farmers are using oats and grasses for spring silage harvest. More sorghums were planted for silage. The educational work has resulted in an increase of about 358# of milk and about 62# of fat in our DHIA herds.

B. Problems:

1. Lack of high quality hay.
2. Shortage of silage and silos.
3. Too much surplus milk.
4. High labor costs.
5. Lack of the use of DHIA records by dairymen.
6. Too many low producing herd replacements brought into the herds as direct results of poor calf and heifer management.
7. It is costing too much to produce 100 lbs. of milk on the average Grade A dairy farm.

C. Objectives and Goals:

1. Increase the quantity and quality of hay.
2. Increase the quantity and quality of silage.
3. Hold a two-day dairy short course.
4. Increase dairy production by increasing the size of herds and increase production per cow, from 10,353 lbs in 1957 to 10,800 lbs in 1958.
5. Lower the cost of producing 100 lbs. of milk by better forage program and better herd management.
6. Increase number of DHIA herds and use of the records.
7. Improve the feeding and management of dairy calves for herd replacements.
8. Cull out more of the low producing cows in each herd.

D. Methods and Results:

1. Hold a two day dairy short course in December with speakers on the following topics: (1) Production of Forage; (2) Saving Forage; (3) Feeding Forage and Roughage; (4) The Dairyman and His

serghum alone, grass silage and small grain silage for the first time. Some farmers have been successful in harvesting a lot of hay from pastures in the spring of the year.

Several dairy farmers were assisted in locating alfalfa hay during the harvest season.

Silage is being substituted for hay to much greater extent than ever before.

V. Dairying:

- A. Situation: There are 40 Grade A dairy farms in Norfolk County. The number of dairy farms has been reducing annually for the past two years. There were 2342 cows in milk as of the 1954 Census, an increase of 181 cows over 1950 but 166 less than 1945. The rate of production per cow has increased each year for the past few years.

The dairymen of Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties have a joint Dairy Herd Improvement Association and one large farmer has his cows tested in another association.

The artificial breeding work done in Norfolk County is done in cooperation with the American Breeders Service with two local dairymen doing the breeding. Thirteen hundred and ninety cows were bred in the area in 1957. The number of cows bred in 1958 will be much less. In 1954 about 1800 were bred in the area. Norfolk County accounted for about 50% of this number.

Labor cost is high, the percent of surplus milk is increasing annually, resulting in a much lower average net price to the producer. About 50% of the dairymen have gone to bulk tanks.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Where there are suitable lands for alfalfa on dairy farms get it properly seeded to alfalfa if it will work in the over-all program.
- b. Get more hay dryers installed.
- c. Increase number of silos in the County so silage may be substituted for hay as far as advisable.
- d. Get dairy and beef cattle farmers to fill silos with small grain in the spring and corn silage in the fall.

4. Methods and Results:

At our dairy short course and livestock school hay and silage production was presented by dairy specialist and agronomist. Due to the difficulties we have in curing hay, silage as a substitute for hay was given a lot of emphasis.

Different types of silos such as trench, bunk, as well as upright silos were emphasized. The use of small grains, to fill silos in the spring to increase tonnage was pointed out, as well as using sorghum, grass and other crops with the different kinds of preservatives.

Different kinds of hay drying equipment and buildings were presented by slides. There has not been any increase in hay dryers, but some interest has been created and plans for two hay dryers have been delivered to two farmers.

The acreage of alfalfa has been increased on several farms. Detailed information on alfalfa production has been given them. We have several farmers using sorghum and soybeans,

true for winter pastures. Several farmers were helped on weed control in pastures. Mr. Allen Kates, Extension Weed Specialist, visited several farms with the County Agent.

G. Hay and Silage:

1. Situation: Alfalfa acreage was reduced from 163 acres in 1950 to 136 acres in 1954. Lespedeza acreage reduced from 989 acres to 821 acres during the same period. During this same period the yield per acre increased.

According to the 1954 Census the State average acre yield for alfalfa was two tons per acre, while in Norfolk County the average acre yield was  $3\frac{1}{3}$  tons per acre.

Land suitable for alfalfa production in Norfolk County is limited to a small amount of land on a few farms due to the high water table and poor drainage of our soils.

Here on the Coast we have a very high humidity, heavy dews, and frequent rains making hay curing hazardous and expensive.

Silage production is increasing and a lot of silage is being substituted for hay in the roughage feeding program. There is a need for more silos and we cannot use trench silos in this area. The dairy farmers are buying 50% of their hay.

2. Problems:

- a. Shortage of hay and silage.
- b. Lack of sufficient silos and funds to erect new silos.
- c. Weather conditions make hay production expensive.
- d. Lack of suitable land for alfalfa.

- c. Increase acreage of winter supplemental pastures on these farms.
- d. Get all farmers to use soil samples for fertilizer needs on pastures.
- e. Get all farmers to use fertilizer and lime as indicated by soil sample results.
- f. Improve pasture management and rotational grazing on each farm.
- g. Work towards a goal of ample water and shade in each pasture.

4. Methods and Results:

Our pasture educational program for dairy was included in our Short Course for Dairymen and at our Livestock School, with specialists from VPI and Mr. E. Y. Floyd, of the North Carolina & Virginia Plant Food Institute.

The committee planned a pasture tour, but wanted it held during the dry season of short pastures. Mr. John F. Shoulders Agonomist and I planned the school or tour, but we had plenty of rain during the summer so the tour was cancelled.

Publicity was given to pastures, seeding, fertilization, liming, soil sampling, through out the year. The important item of soil samples received a lot of publicity and we had a great increase in the use of soil samples.

A number of farms were visited, pastures studied and the pasture system modified and other recommendations made.

Summer pastures received a lot of publicity, and as a result we had a good increase in acreage. The same was

farms and some beef, that have pastures of excellent quality with high forage yields. These same farmers follow a good fertilization program and a good management program. The major portion of our pastures are under-fertilized, over-grazed and have poor stands of desirable pastures, grasses and legumes.

The most successful farmers are using small grain and other supplemental pastures for winter grazing to an advantage. Many farmers in the County are not. We have a shortage of pastures nearly every year during the dry late summer season. Some farmers are using, sudan grass or millet to great advantage to carry their livestock over this period.

2. Problems:

- a. Shortage of good permanent pastures.
- b. Shortage of supplemental pastures both winter and summer.
- c. lack of ample fertilizer and lime on most pastures.
- d. Lack of managed grazing.
- e. Shortage of water in pastures.
- f. Lack of shade in pastures.
- g. Low yields on a large percent of pasture acreage.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Increase acreage of permanent pastures for dairy, beef cattle and hogs.
- b. Increase supplemental pastures in summer on all beef and dairy cattle farms.

- e. Encourage farmers to plant according to production guides.
- f. Increase sweet potato curing housing to cure all No. 1 potatoes produced to facilitate orderly marketing during winter and spring when prices are higher.

h. Methods and Results:

A marketing committee was organized as one of the committees for long-time program planning. Three members of this committee, three members from the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee and three members of the Princess Anne County Farm Bureau were pulled together to improve the retail and wholesale produce market situation in the City of Norfolk. This was the direct results of the efforts of the Norfolk County Committee. These combined efforts led to two meetings of the area committee, two meetings with the Mayor and City Council of Norfolk and to several hearings and finally the Grand Opening of the Farmers Produce Market at Myers Field, the old Norfolk Tars baseball field, and the closing of the street markets and area markets for city produce stands or trucks selling retail farm produce. Everyone seems to be happy and as high as 200 trucks have use of the produce market per 24 hour period.

Many retail stands have been located under the grandstand with lunch bars, etc.

The new market has increased the demand by concentrating buyers in a more desirable area of the City and increased the prices received by farmers.

Producers have been furnished timely information on

insect and disease control. Have worked with the horticultural department and specialist in making a survey of varieties and fertilizers used.

Worked closely with the few sweet potato producers in getting disease free seed or slips for planting. Helped three with storage houses and curing.

The vegetable production bulletins have been given wide circulation by furnishing them to all requesting assistance and h-H Club members.

Have used radio, newspapers, Farm Bureau Newsletter, letters, and bulletins to give information. Mr. A. V. Watts, Associate Extension Horticulturist, has furnished a number of articles and visited many farmers.

At our fertilizer and agronomy meetings, vegetables and potatoes were included.

The vegetable and potato marketing guides were given wide publicity.

#### F. Pastures:

1. Situation: Only a few of our farmers have sufficient acreage of good pastures for their dairy herds or other livestock. The Census shows considerable decrease in pastures from 1945 to 1950, but some increase between 1950 and 1954.

Permanent Pasture Acreage	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
	11,103	6,778	7,043

The acreage increase since 1954 is encouraging but the quality of our pastures is poor and per acre yield of grazing is low. However, we have many farms, some dairy farms

convenient small packs that the average small farmer is not equiped to pack. The chain stores are looking for large quantities of such packs that can be furnished only by large producers or packing concerns.

2. Problems:

- a. Lack of suitable markets for small vegetables growers.
- b. High labor costs and low prices.
- c. Lack of volume of quality pack to meet the chain store demands.
- d. Need for cooperative marketing to get quantity and reduce individual machinery costs for grading and packing.
- e. Cost of equipment makes it almost impossible for the small producer to equip his farm for the present day spray program for the control of insects and diseases.
- f. Sweet potatoes are dumped on the low market during the harvest due to lack of sweet potato curing space.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Try to organize a farm produce market in the city of Norfolk.
- b. Inform all producers of the latest recommendations for insect, disease and weed control.
- c. Work towards a cooperative farm machinery program in communities where several small producers are located close together.
- d. Try to locate a cannery in the County to take up the surplus fresh vegetables.

4. Methods and Results:

The latest information was furnished to the producers on the production and harvesting of peanuts. Most of the peanut farms were visited and helped with their peanut problems. They were urged to visit the Tidewater Experiment Station at their field day and most of them did visit the Station.

E. Vegetables, Potatoes, and Sweet Potatoes:

1. Situation: The vegetable acreage in the County has reduced from 3515 acres in 1945 to 2952 in 1950 and 2393 in 1954.

Potatoes acreage reduced from 1525 acres in 1945 to 469 acres in 1954. During this period the average yield increased from 102 bushels to 170 bushels per acre.

Sweet Potatoes decreased from 286 acres in 1945 to 95 acres in 1954. During this period the yields per acre increased from 77 bushels per acre to 136 bushels.

Several factors have caused the reduction in vegetable and potato acreages.

First vegetables require a lot of hard labor and the high cost of labor has forced many small producers out of production.

Second, a lot of our top vegetable farms were sold for housing developments.

Third, the crowding of farm produce truck off of the city streets due to congestion of traffic and closing of the old city market.

Fourth, the chain stores (housewives) are demanding

h. Methods and Results:

- a. Each farmer was furnished a list of small grain varieties suitable for Norfolk County with a letter of explanation. This information plus the large charts carrying this information were furnished each seed dealer. The importance of using adapted varieties, dates of seeding, seed treatment, proper fertilization, and controlling noxious weeds, have been given good coverage by the radio programs, newspapers, bulletins and letters. This information was presented at our fertilizer meeting and Agronomy meeting.

Several small grain farmers were on the grain storage tour. Information on controlling small grain storage insects was given good publicity in the local Farm Bureau newsletter and newspaper.

D. Peanuts:

1. Situation: The peanut acreage has reduced about 47% since 1950, this leaves only about 230 acres in the County. The yield has increased from 1250# to 1660# per acre. Most of the peanuts are located in one small area in the County.
2. Problems:
  - a. Insects and diseases are reducing peanut yields.
  - b. Too much loss of peanuts during the process of digging.
3. Objectives and Goals:
  - a. Keep peanut producers informed on the latest recommendations from the Experiment Station on insect control, disease control, and cultural practices.

- g. More grains on the farms have caused a need for more suitable storage on the farm. Farmers are using most all kinds of buildings and bins for storing small grains that have resulted in an increase in the amount of grain damaged and/or lost by insects and rodents.
- h. Too many farmers are seeding oats and barley too late.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Increase the production of small grain for feed by helping farmers to increase acreage. Work towards better fertilization and cultural practices to increase yields.
- b. Inform farmers of the latest disinfectants, to use for seed treatment and disease control.
- c. Inform farmers of latest recommendations on the control of onions and other noxious weeds.
- d. Furnish all farmers a list of the latest variety recommendations. Also contact all seed dealers and take recommendations to them and get dealers to stock and encourage farmers to use the best varieties.
- e. Help farmers in fertilizing small grains wisely for best yields and to reduce loss from lodging.
- f. Inform farmers of the advantages of having a small grain cover crop on their corn fields to reduce leaching and for winter grazing.
- g. Demonstrate to farmers their loss of grain from insects and rodents and encourage better storage, and proper treating of small grain for insect control.

increased storage facilities and export markets here in Norfolk, wheat acreage will probably continue to increase.

Livestock numbers have increased annually for the past 10-15 years. The demands for barley and oats for feed has increased. The acreage of oats increased about 600 acres from 1950 to 1954. With much higher yields per acre. Barley decreased about 500% from 1945 to 1950, but by 1954 had increased back to the 1945 acreage with about 6 bushel increase yields per acre. Barley does not produce as well as oats on our soil and the acreage of oats was 1732 acres while barley was only 264 acres in 1954.

Generally small grains in Norfolk County do not do as well as they do just North or Northwest of the County. The soils, plus extremely high humidity which is inducive to diseases, poorly drained soil and other factors, such as, lack of improved varieties, lack of farm storage, poor control of noxious weeds, are contributing factors.

2. Problems:

- a. Shortage of barley and oats to feed livestock and dairy animals.
- b. Disease control problems are increasing.
- c. Controlling noxious weeds is a problem.
- d. Lack of good adapted varieties for this climate.
- e. Need to increase small grain cover crops, to prevent leaching of soil.
- f. Improper fertilization to increase yields and prevent lodging.

d. Get increase in acreage of soybeans seeded to cover crops.

4. Methods and Results:

- a. Seed dealers and farmers were furnished information on varieties of soybeans best suited for Norfolk County. Yield results on soybeans seeded on different dates was given wide publicity at Agronomy meeting, fertilizer meeting and by other publicity.
- b. A survey of insect population and damage was made of the County regularly from the time soybeans were up good, until late fall. The information obtained was announced on radio, published in daily papers and the County Farm Bureau Newsletter. The recommendations for control by spraying and dusting were also given.

Due to wide publicity given to fertilizing of soybeans we had a great increase in the number of soil samples.

The county farmers turned out in large numbers at the Experiment Station field days.

There were two demonstrations of Hood soybeans planted. This was given wide publicity, resulting in several hundred farmers visiting the demonstrations.

The educational work conducted on pre-emergence spray for weed control last year resulted in a great increase in the use of herbicides and much wiser use. The number of damaged beans were held much lower than any previous year.

C. Small Grain:

1. Situation:The wheat acreage increased 150 acres from 2100 acres in 1950 to 2250 in 1954. The yields increased from 18.6 bushels per acre to 26 bushels per acre. With

with excellent attendance and interest. Many farmers have put up storage bins and drying equipment this year. The equipment installed this year was more desirable and the farmers profited by the mistakes they observed when on the tour.

The radio, newspapers, letters and bulletins were used to give timely information on varieties, time of planting, cultural practices, harvesting, insect control and drying and storage of corn.

**B. Soybeans:**

1. Situation: Soybeans are one of the major crops. The 1958 planted acreage is estimated at about 1900 acres. This is an increase of about 4000 acres since 1950. Too many farmers are planting soybeans on the same land year after year. Soybean yields are very low running around 19.5 bushels per acre.
2. Problems: Corn and Soybean problems are about the same, except with Soybeans we have the following additional problems:
  - a. Controlling insects in the field, such as, corn earworm, bean beetles, loopers and green clover worm.
  - b. Soybean yields are too low and the yields have increased only about 3 bushels in 18 years.
  - c. Too many farmers are planting soybeans on the same land year after year.
  - d. Mottling of beans are reducing prices received by farmers.
3. Objectives and Goals:
  - a. Get all farmers to spray or dust soybeans where insect damage is sufficient to justify it, but not to spray when not needed.
  - b. Increase soybean yields by 10 bushels per acre by 1962.
  - c. Improve crop rotation of soybeans

- d. Too much insect damage, by weevil and other stored grain insects.
- e. Too much corn wasted by mechanical pickers.
- f. Weed reducing corn yields.
- g. Too much damage to corn while in farm storage.

3. Objectives and Goals:

- a. Increase grain storage and drying facilities on the farms in the county until all large grain farmers have ample storage and drying equipment to properly dry their corn and hold it in condition until marketed.
- b. Get all producers to plant the best adapted varieties of hybrid corn as recommended by the Experiment Station.
- c. Increase the use of soil samples for better fertilization of corn from the present estimated 10%<sup>to 75%</sup> by 1962.
- d. Reduce the amount of corn wasted by mechanical harvesters.
- e. Get all farmers to clean up storage facilities before harvesting corn and t. oat storage places and corn for insect control.
- f. Get all farmers to use the latest recommended herbicides for weed control.

4. Methods and Results

The seed dealers were furnished a copy of the recommended varieties with a letter. This was also furnished to the farmers. The seed dealers met with the County Agent at the Tidewater Experiment Station and observed the corn hybrid experiments and yield data. A large group of farmers and seed dealers visited the Experiment Stations at their regular field day.

A tour of farm grain storage and drying equipment was held

and one for Portsmouth City.

IV. Agronomy:

General Situation: The Agronomy program for Norfolk County is broad in scope. It includes corn, soybeans, small grain, pastures, hays, silage, as well as commercial and non-commercial production of potatoes, sweet potatoes and vegetables.

There is a wide variety of soils, that vary from well drained sassafras, to poorly drained mucks. The lack of drainage, high labor costs and inadequate marketing facilities present problems on most farms.

A. Corn:

1. Situation: The corn acreage in the County has been reduced from 18,700 acres in 1950 to 18,200 acres in 1954. However, the Agronomy Committee felt that the acreage went still lower in 1955 and 1956, but increased some in 1957 and 1958. Yields have increased from 23.9 bushels in 1950 to 43.9 in 1954. Most of the outstanding farmers are making 80 to 100 bushels of corn.

There is a shortage of good farm storage and drying equipment forcing farmers to market their corn direct from the field when the market price is usually the lowest. The usual wet season and hurricanes make harvesting on most of our poorly drained soils difficult and costly. The percent of farmers following proper fertilizer practices, cultural practices, and weed control practices is too low.

2. Problems:

- a. Lack of proper storage and drying equipment on farms.
- b. Too many farmers are not planting the best adapted varieties.
- c. Farmers are not using soil samples for correct fertilization program.

The median income of families in 1949 was \$3,125. One fourth of the families had an income of \$2,000 or less.

The median school years completed by men in Norfolk County is 9, by women is 10.

Norfolk County has had a rapid industrial development which has furnished a lot of employment. The cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth and South Norfolk and the tremendous Government installations furnish excellent employment for about 75% of the county population.

The organizations within the county greatly affects the educational work of any Extension program. With urban counties this presents a great problem. The cosmopolitan population makes effective organizations almost impossible, and greatly increases the Extension Agents work load.

### III. County Organization

All of the committees of the Extension Service Board were organized during the year and each committee has planned a long-time program.

#### Committees of the County Board

Agronomy Committee  
Livestock Committee  
Dairy Committee  
Marketing Committee  
Home Grounds Beautification Committee  
Youth Committee  
Home Demonstration Clubs

The Youth and Home Grounds Beautification Committees are joint committees of the County Agents and Home Agents.

Other committees that have planned and helped carry out a part of the Extension Program are: The 4-H Honor Club; 4-H County Council; DHIA Board; Soil Conservation District Board; Norfolk County Cooperative Farm Bureau, Incorporated; The Norfolk Cooperative Milk Producers Association; and the Virginia Potato & Vegetable Growers Association.

Two Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture Committees, one for Norfolk City

greenhouse products, corn, milk, soybeans, vegetables, poultry, hogs, cattle, wheat and potatoes.

The land area is divided as follows: Cropland and Cropland Pasture 67%; Woodland 25%; other land 8%.

The 1950 Census showed Norfolk County's population as 99,937. In January 1953, Norfolk City annexed one of the six districts of the County and that district had a population of 55,800 by city count. It was estimated that this was about 40% of the county population at that time. So the population figures given in the Census do not represent a true picture of Norfolk County. The County had an estimated population of 76,500 as of January 1, 1956. Portsmouth City is in court proceedings to annex ten square miles of the County at present and if they annex this ten square miles they will annex a population of about 31,000 including 11 schools.

Norfolk County has 791 farms which average 99 acres in size and \$15,690 in value of land and buildings.

The 1955 Census breakdown of the County population of 99,937 in farm, rural non-farm, and urban is as follows:

	<u>People</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Colored</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>White</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Colored</u>
Rural Non-Farm	18,089	15,142	12,470	18.1	79.0
Rural Farm	5,297	4,434	863	5.3	5.4
Urban	76,551	64,081	2,470	76.6	15.6
Totals	99,937	83,657	15,803	100%	100%

There were 23,415 married couples in Norfolk County, of which 22,035 own their homes and 1,380 are rented. The average number of persons per household was 3.75 persons.

## II. Brief Description of Norfolk County

Norfolk County lies in the southeastern part of the coastal plains area of Virginia. The County is bordered on the south by North Carolina, on the east by Princess Anne County, north by the cities of Norfolk, South Norfolk and Portsmouth and the Hampton Roads and on the west by Nansemond County and the Dismal Swamp, which is a part of Norfolk County.

According to the 1954 Census, Norfolk County has a land area of 230,400 acres with 78,293 acres of land in farms with 791 farms. According to the Census, land in farms shrunk from 94,829 acres to 78,293 in 1945 to 1954. Harvested acreage decreased from 48,940 to 42,245 acres.

The land is level and much is swampy or poorly drained with better than 40,000 acres in the Dismal Swamp and Lake Drummond. The frost-free growing season is 240 days, extending from March 22 to November 17. Annual precipitation averages 45 inches.

Many more residents are now employed by Government, manufacturing, and other occupations than in farming, but Agriculture is still of considerable importance in the County's economy. The value of farm products sold in 1954 according to this Census, was \$4,442,691, which means the total sales would be close to five million dollars per year.

Norfolk County is the leading county in the State in the sale of nursery and greenhouse products exceeding \$1,300,000 and ranks fourth among all counties in the value of vegetables sold. It is also one of the leading corn and soybean producing counties with 18,200 acres of corn and 16,750 acres of soybeans in 1954. The soybean acreage has been increasing about 500 acres per year since 1953. Farm income is very well balanced. The main sources of income are as follows: nursery and

Table of Contents . .

2.	Vegetable Growing . . . . .	46
3.	Range And Pasture Projects . . . . .	47
4.	Poultry . . . . .	47
5.	Livestock Projects . . . . .	48
	a. Beef Cattle . . . . .	48
	b. Dairy Cattle . . . . .	52
	c. Sheep . . . . .	52
	d. Swine . . . . .	53
6.	Entomology . . . . .	53
7.	Electric . . . . .	54
8.	Farm and Home Safety . . . . .	55
9.	Forestry . . . . .	55
10.	Rodent Control . . . . .	56
XVI. Evaluation . . . . .		57

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Table of Contents	
II.	Brief Description of Norfolk County . . . . .	1
III.	County Organization . . . . .	3
IV.	Agronomy . . . . .	4
	A. Corn . . . . .	4
	B. Soybeans . . . . .	6
	C. Small Grain . . . . .	7
	D. Peanuts - . . . . .	10
	E. Vegetables, Potatoes, & Sweet Potatoes . . . . .	11
	F. Pastures . . . . .	14
	G. Hay & Silage . . . . .	17
V.	Dairying . . . . .	19
VI.	Livestock . . . . .	22
	A. Beef Cattle . . . . .	22
	B. Hogs . . . . .	24
	C. Sheep . . . . .	26
VII.	Poultry . . . . .	28
VIII.	Conservation . . . . .	30
IX.	Forestry . . . . .	31
X.	Home Grounds Beautification . . . . .	32
XI.	Farm And Home Development . . . . .	34
XII.	Light For Better Living Program . . . . .	35
XIII.	Working With Other Agencies . . . . .	38
	A. Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation . . . . .	38
	B. Soil Conservation Service . . . . .	38
	C. Farmers Home Administration . . . . .	39
	D. North Carolina & Virginia Plant Food Institute . . . . .	39
XIV.	4-H Club Work Introduction . . . . .	39
	A. 4-H Club Work . . . . .	42
	B. 4-H Club Projects . . . . .	45
	1. Agronomy . . . . .	45
	a. Corn . . . . .	45
	b. Soybeans, Field Peas, Alfalfa & Other . . . . .	45

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NARRATIVE REPORT  
OF  
EXTENSION WORK  
NORFOLK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

December 1, 1957 - November 30, 1958

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# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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1958

NORFOLK

**County**