

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1959

LEE

County

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## TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Lee County was formed in 1922. The county is wedge shaped and lies between Kentucky and Tennessee in Virginia's extreme southwest corner. The county's land area is 434 sq. miles or 277,760 acres and the water area 4 sq. miles. From the 1924 census report, there are 3,116 farms in the county with an average size of 54.9 acres. Geologically it is considered to be in the Valley and Ridge province or in the Appalachian Plateau. Elevations vary from 1200 feet on the Powell River at the Tennessee line to 3,732 feet in the northern tip above Keokoe. Temperatures average 39° in January and 79° in July. Precipitation is about 48 inches annually.

Lee's economy is based upon its agriculture and its rich natural resources of timber and coal. The Powell Valley limestone soil and bluegrass pastures produce good crops and livestock. Principal sources of farm income are burley tobacco, beef cattle, and dairy products. Poultry and hogs are produced on practically all farms for home use. There is a hatching egg route in the county.

There are three tobacco markets and two livestock markets in the county.

Many of the small farms are operated by part time farmers who produce farm products for home use. Several of the larger, but still small, farms which are located near towns and mining communities produce fruits and vegetables for sale.

## COUNTY ORGANIZATION

### HOW THE COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED

The county Extension program is planned by the county Agricultural Extension Service Board. The membership of the board is listed below.

#### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE BOARD

Flatwoods Community Club  
C. B. McClure  
Russell Gregory

Midway Community Club  
John Scott

Pleasant View Community Club  
Lester Parsons  
Clyde Garrett

Tobacco Farmers  
M. J. Coomer

Press  
George A. Lee

Dairying  
T. B. Fugate  
Charles Thomas  
Castle Daugherty

Livestock Farmers  
John Snodgrass  
Robert S. Orr

Poultry  
Mrs. J. E. Sexton

Banker  
Browning Wynn

Forestry  
Herbert Carter

The board, as listed above, met in Jonesville on March 19, 1959 and assisted the Extension personnel in working out a county Plan of Work for 1959. At this meeting Mr. T. B. Fugate was elected chairman of the group for 1959.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

### A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year

There were three active community clubs at the beginning of the year. They were Pleasant View, Flatwoods, and Campground. Pleasant View Club entered the Bristol Area Community Improvement Contest in 1958 and placed in the blue group, winning \$120.00 cash award. They were also awarded \$100.00 for having made more community improvement than any other community in the blue or red group. The Flatwoods and Campground communities each received a certificate from the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the area contest, for having had an active club in 1958.

Working with community organizations has proved to be a very effective method of working with farm people. Through community work the farm people are rapidly improving their farming and living conditions.

### B. Goals

Organize other communities if interest develops in club work.

Have at least two communities competing in the Bristol Area Improvement Contest.

Have ten or more people in attendance at the Area Awards Luncheon in Bristol in October.

Four or more delegates from the clubs attend the Institute of Rural Affairs at V.P.I. in July.

Secure a community club sponsor.

Hold a county contest if two or more communities enter the same division in the contest.

Increase the effectiveness of the community clubs over the county.

#### C. Methods

Extension workers assisted committees with planning their programs, securing information, speakers, and films for their meetings.

The clubs were assisted with special activities such as picnics, banquets, fund raising activities and recreational programs.

Information was furnished them on the Bristol Area Improvement Contest. A county contest will be held if it is needed.

Assistance was given the clubs in preparation for the Bristol Area Improvement Contest. Dr. George Blum, assistant extension sociologist, V.F.I., met with representatives from each club to discuss things that might be helpful to the clubs in working up their reports, scrapbooks, oral reports and tour for the judges.

News articles were prepared on the community improvement program.

The Jonesville Lions Club served as local sponsor for the community improvement contest.

#### D. Results

Pleasant View and Campground community clubs met regularly throughout the year. Flatwoods Club has had called meetings throughout the year.

Two communities entered the Bristol Area Improvement Contest. Under the new divisions set up for the contest, Campground entered as a beginning club and Pleasant View entered as an experienced club.

Campground Community Club placed first in the beginning club division. They received a large trophy and \$100.00. They made improvements around the Campground Church and parsonage, rented .5 acre tobacco as a fund raising project, improved the farms and homes, and donated \$30.00 to the Southeast A-H Club Center.

Pleasant View Community Club placed third in the experienced Club division. They received a plaque and \$75.00. They improved their club house and the grounds around it, graded and sold the tobacco crop raised in 1958 as a club project, improved farms and homes, and donated \$100.00 to the Southwest L-H Center to be given over a three year period.

Ten community club members and the extension agents attended the Area Community Improvement Awards Banquet held at Bristol in October.

Two community club members were sent by their clubs, with expenses paid, to the Institute of Rural Affairs at V.P.I.

The clubs' educational programs consisted of slide talks on varieties of tobacco and tobacco fertilization, agriculture in other states and in our area, talks on Farm & Home Loans, highway safety, milk products, community club contests and films on agricultural subjects. Bulletins were also handed out on different agricultural subjects.

One of the clubs held a Christmas banquet, Thanksgiving banquet and a Halloween party. The clubs had picnics during the summer. Talent shows, ice cream suppers and bake sales were held as money making projects by the clubs.

Several businessmen attended the community judging. They were pleasantly surprised at the improvements made and this has helped in creating more interest in community club work.

A local sponsor for the community club program was secured and a representative attended the Community Improvement Contest Luncheon at Bristol in May.

#### LIVESTOCK

##### A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year

Livestock is one of the most important enterprises in the county.

The January 1, 1958 livestock estimates for Lee County show cattle and calves totaled 20,500, sheep and lambs 2300, and hogs and pigs 5200. This was an increase of about 2300 head of cattle and calves, 867 head of sheep and lambs and 1345 hogs and pigs over the 1954 census report.

There were 559 feeder calves sold through the cooperative feeder sale in 1958. More calves are needed to draw more out of state buyers.

Nichols and Company, Boston, Mass. purchased 8,622 pounds of wool sold through the county pool in 1958 for \$3,944.58. The clear wool sold for \$46.55 per hundred.

There are approximately 25 purebred cattle breeders in the county, most of which are small breeders.

The price and demand for beef cattle was good during 1958.

The Federal Bang's eradication program was completed during March 1958, which certified the county as a Modified Certified Brucellosis Free County, which will run until March 27, 1961.

#### B. Goals

Place 50 high quality registered bulls.

Place 6 high quality registered rams.

Place 6 high quality registered boars.

Assist farmers with culling their herds and finding female replacements.

Sell 750 feeder calves through local sale and increase percentage of fancy and choice calves 10% above 1958.

Sell 95% of the wool through the cooperative pool.

Get some special news articles concerning beef cattle to the papers, possibly written by livestock specialists at Blacksburg.

Improve methods of shearing sheep.

### C. Extension Methods

The extension personnel worked with the chairman of the feeder calf sale committee in planning a meeting of all producers that had been selling through the sale, along with others interested. Arrangements were made with a livestock marketing specialist at V.P.I. to assist with the meeting.

Plans and requirements for the sale were discussed and voted on by the producers. The extension personnel discussed the sale with a number of producers and encouraged them to enter their calves in the sale.

Arrangements were made for a calf producer to go on a promotional trip to Ohio with representatives of the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association.

Livestock producers were kept informed on sales available locally, and dates of nearby purchased sales.

The importance of a good year round feeding program, including as many grazing days as possible, was stressed during the year. The advantages of good management practices such as culling, parasite and disease control, early castration, docking, dehorning and vaccinating of livestock were also stressed.

Arrangements were made for the Lee County Wool Committee to meet with the Scott County Wool Committee to work out a sale on the wool from the two counties. The committees decided to ask for sealed bids on the wool. They set a date for opening the bids and set on that day and sold the wool. The extension agents from both counties met with the committees. The Lee County wool is sold through Lee Farmers Cooperative, Inc.

With the assistance of the sheep specialist at V.P.I., a sheep shearing school was held near Jonesville. After a demonstration on the proper way of shearing was given, each farmer present was encouraged to shear one or more sheep. The proper method of folding and tying the fleece was also demonstrated.

The county Fair manager was assisted with the livestock exhibits and securing a judge for the livestock.

#### D. Results

The goal of 90 registered bulls, 6 runs and 6 boars was more than reached. Several Landrace hogs were purchased during the year by Swine breeders. The demand for bulls was good all year and several breeders purchased purchased female cattle.

One Lee County breeder had the grand champion bull at the Tri-State Show and Sale at Bristol in April. Another county breeder had the reserve champion bull at the Spring Show and Sale and champion in the October sale. A Lee County farmer purchased the champion bull in the October sale to keep as a herd bull.

Several breeders purchased bulls and females with clean pedigrees for replacements.

There were 552 calves sold through the feeder calf sale for \$67,701.90. This was an average of \$122.65 per head.

The calf sale committee elected by the producers early in the year was active in planning and conducting the sale. The goal of selling 750 calves was not reached. There were 692 calves consigned to the sale. A few farmers sold on the farm when offered a good price and some predictions were that the price would drop off some. Efforts were made to get several Angus calves in the sale but when less than 100 were consigned the farmers decided not to sell through the sale due to the small number. One or two farmers could not meet health regulations due to brucellosis.

Nichols and Company, Boston, Mass., purchased 7,706 pounds of wool sold through the county wool pool for \$3,629.33. The clear tied wool brought \$90.75 per hundred net to the farmer. So far as the extension workers knew only two producers didn't sell through the pool.

A number of farmers were assisted with selecting breeding animals, registering, and transferring papers on their livestock.

A few cows were bred artificially through the Lee-Wise A.B.A. The breeders were pleased with some of the artificially sired calves born during the year.

Thirty-six beef cattle from the county were exhibited at the county fair. This was the largest number exhibited from the county for a number of years.

Pasture and meadows made good growth during the late fall and cattle are in good shape to start the winter.

#### AGRICULTURE

##### A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year

The 1954 census shows 42,467 acres of cropland and 70,375 acres of pasture land, making a total of 112,842 acres of land in the county used in the production of farm products other than timber. The primary use of these acres is to supply feed for the livestock.

Tobacco is the main cash crop. The county crop in 1958 sold for over two million dollars. There were 2,122 acres of tobacco planted on 3, 133 farms. The average tobacco allotment is .677 acres.

Hybrid corn and tobacco variety tests have been conducted in the county each year for a number of years. Up to date information on best varieties is needed each year.

More silage could be used on most farms for both dairy and beef cattle.

A better forage program is needed on many farms. More farmers need to grow alfalfa. More clover, improved pastures,

increased yields of row crops, strip cropping and a better understanding of soils is needed.

One farmer grew Turkish tobacco in 1958.

Latest information on crop diseases and insect control is needed by the farmers each year.

#### B. Goals

Prepare county crop recommendation sheet and get this to 60% or more of the farmers and to all of the seed dealers.

Get 25 or more farmers to attend the field days at the experiment stations.

Continue corn and tobacco variety tests and hold field meetings at each test.

Conduct three tobacco stripping and sorting demonstrations in different sections of the county.

Increase participation in A.S.C. program.

Increase alfalfa acreage at least 10%.

Ten or more farmers build bunker, trench or upright silos to improve their forage feeding program.

#### C. Methods

A meeting of all professional agricultural workers was held in February. At this meeting the latest information on the county variety tests and experiment station recommendations were discussed and a county crop variety recommendation sheet was prepared and distributed.

Representatives from the Tobacco Grading Service were contacted and secured to put on stripping and sorting demonstrations.

Arrangements were made with M. J. Coomer to plant a hybrid corn and tobacco variety test on his farm. Mr. Ed Shulkum and Dr. R. G. Henderson from the experiment station at V. F. I. helped with these tests.

Agricultural workers and farmers were notified of the field days in the county and at the nearby experiment stations. They were encouraged to attend these meetings.

The soil testing service was mentioned in a number of news articles, meetings, and through personal contacts.

Many farmers were assisted with crop diseases and insect problems.

Farmers were encouraged to take advantage of the A.S.C. program.

V.P.I. specialists from the agronomy department made visits to farms in the county and the extension agents attended out of county meetings such as Agronomy School at Lebanon, Institute of Rural Affairs, Extension Conference and similar meetings.

The Daniel Boone Soil Conservation District was assisted with a contour plowing demonstration.

#### D. Results

The county crop recommendation sheet was prepared in February and several copies were sent to agricultural workers, seed and fertilizer dealers and given out at community club meetings and through the office.

A field meeting was held at the corn variety test.

A contour plowing demonstration was held in Blackwater community with 30 or more farmers attending.

280 soil samples were sent in and fertilizer recommendations sent to the farmers.

A large number of crop diseases and insects were identified on the farm and a number of specimens sent to the specialists at V.P.I. for identification and control recommendations.

Two tobacco stripping and sorting demonstrations were held in different areas of the county. The Tobacco Grading Service was requested to hold three demonstrations in the county, but due to the grader's limited time he could only work in Lee County one day. About 75 farmers and F.F.A. boys attended these demonstrations.

Between 10 and 15 farmers attended the field meeting at the experiment station at Greeneville, Tennessee where corn, tobacco, alfalfa, pasture, and livestock experiments were explained. The Emory station did not hold a field meeting this year.

The sign up on the A.C.P. program was high both in the spring and fall. Many of the requests for assistance were cut over half due to the lack of funds.

The acreage of alfalfa increased during the year and most of the farmers got good stands, especially on fields seeded in the fall.

About 5 or 6 new silos were built. This was fewer than the 10 set as a goal early in the year. Most of the dairymen built silos some time ago to take care of their needs.

#### DAIRYING

##### A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year

A survey of the grade A dairies made in April 1958 showed there were 56 dairies with 1496 milk cows, an average of 26.7 per farm. These cows produced an average of 22.2 pounds of milk on the day the questionnaires were filled out.

The survey showed .5 acre of alfalfa per cow, .52 acre silage per cow and 2.56 acres of pasture per cow.

A new manufactured milk route was established during 1958 which gives routes covering about two-thirds of the county.

The Lee-Wise Artificial Breeding Association services are available to all livestock owners. There were 501 cows bred by the association during 1958. The Lee-Wise DHIA did testing work for six dairymen. More cows are needed in both associations.

Good labor for dairying is scarce and high. Good replacements are hard to find.

#### B. Goals

Artificially breed 650 cows.

Increase number of cows on testing program, either DHIA, owner-sampler, or weigh-a-day-a-month.

Hold annual A.B.A. and D.H.I.A. meetings.

Increase silage from .5 ton per cow to .75 ton.

Increase number of elevated stalls for manufactured milk from one to four.

Place a number of dairy heifers with dairymen and other farmers for replacements.

Improve the year around feeding program for dairy cattle.

#### C. Methods

Annual meetings of D.H.I.A. and A.B.A. were held with extension specialists and representatives from the breeding center assisting. Each association was assisted with their equipment and records.

Meetings were held for the manufactured milk producers for the purpose of discussing the need for more milk, outlook information, elevated stalls and general information.

Plans for dairy buildings and laws regulating the production of milk were kept on hands for dairymen.

Dairymen were encouraged to enter dairy animals in the county fair.

Work was done with dairymen on feeding, breeding, selecting replacements, and other management problems.

Special emphasis was given the mastitis prevention and control program.

#### D. Results

The Lee-Wise A.B.A. and D.H.I.A. held their annual meetings and elected officers for the year.

A Tri-State Milk Producers Association meeting was held in the county. About thirty dairymen attended this meeting. Representatives from Tri-State Milk Producers Association brought the dairymen up to date on the organization's operation, expansion program and future plans.

Three meetings were held for farmers interested in the production of manufactured milk. These meetings were held at Jonesville, Campground, and Flatwoods. At these meetings representatives from Kraft Foods described their plant and told about manufacturing cheese and gave suggested ideas as to how the grade C milk producer could improve his operation. They showed a film on manufacturing cheese. At the end of the program prizes were given out and refreshments of cheese and punch were served.

Several plans for dairy buildings, silos, feed racks, and other dairy needs were distributed during the year.

Two new grade C elevated milking stalls have been added during the year.

Thirty-nine dairy animals were entered in the Lee County Fair this year. There were none from the county at the fair in 1956.

Several good replacement heifers were added to herds in the county during the year.

There were 570 cows bred artificially during the year.

Three grade A milk producers are testing through the Lee-Wise D.H.I.A. program. Three dairymen, who were testing, sold out during 1959, reducing the number on test to three. One or two more are interested and will probably go on test within the near future.

Dairymen are realizing the value of good silage and are improving the quality of silage they feed to their dairy herds. There has been some increase of tonnage of silage produced this year, but it is doubted if this would amount to the .75 ton per cow set up as a goal.

The grade C milk route established in April, 1958 has been taken over by another milk hauler. The number of grade C milk producers on this route has increased until the hauler is going to have to add another truck if any additional producers want to sell.

#### 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

##### A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year

There were twelve 4-H Clubs in Lee County with a total of 387 members carrying 647 projects. 493 projects were completed during 1958.

Three local leaders assisted with club work. All club meetings were held in schools with one club meeting at private homes during summer vacation.

County 4-H activities include: annual junior livestock show in April; an eight sow 4-H Duroc pig chain, sponsored by the local bank; annual county picnic held in August; county 4-H float in Lee County Tobacco Festival and the county Achievement Day program in November.

Out of county activities include: Bristol Junior Livestock Show in April; Resource Development Camp, Fontana, North Carolina; Senior 4-H Camp at Clyde Austin 4-H Camp, Greenville, Tenn., with six other Virginia counties; Junior 4-H Camp at Abingdon Presbytery Camp, Bristol, Tenn., with five other Virginia counties; 4-H State Short Course and All Star Conference at V.P.I.; State Conservation Camp, Virginia Beach; and Electric Congress, Richmond, Virginia.

4-H Club work is sponsored by local business people. They contributed a total of over \$400.00 during the year.

4-H medals, money, and trips to State Short Course are used in recognizing outstanding project and leadership work.

Older members drop out of some of the clubs. More local leaders and the support of more parents will strengthen the club program.

Transportation and expenses to and from out-of-county events are very expensive because of our location.

#### B. Goals

Increase number of clubs from 12 to 13.

Secure two additional local leaders.

Continue all county and out-of-county activities during this year and encourage members to participate.

Send 50 club members to the Junior and Senior camps.

Continue the 4-H pdg chain and move it to a new club during the year.

Have 85% project completion.

Have two or more county council meetings in 1959.

Encourage members to enter records in district and state competition.

Give 4-H medals, \$6.00 per project, and two expense paid trips to State Short Course for outstanding project and leadership achievements.

Help in setting up a county committee for the Southwest 4-H Center Drive. Send out letters and help in other ways to inform people concerning the Center. Assist the fund drive leaders in the county when possible to get donations for the Center. Assist 4-H clubs in fund raising activities for the 4-H Center.

Set up a tractor maintenance project and select a local leader to assist with instructions in this project.

Stress the value of 4-H before the people through radio programs, 4-H plays, 4-H parties, and similar activities.

Improve the quality of calves fed in the 4-H Baby Beef project.

#### C. Methods

Organize new clubs where there is interest and encourage more members to compete for district and state awards.

Contact prospective local leaders for clubs that do not have leaders. Mention the need for leaders at county 4-H events, Achievement Day, and by other means of communication.

Encourage the members to participate in the junior and senior camps with the intention of building up greater 4-H club interest within both age groups.

Tell 4-H members about the tractor project and about awards that are received through tractor driving contest. Stress the 4-H and FFA tractor driving contest at Lee County Fair.

Arrange for time on the local radio station and assist 4-H members in preparing for program. Urge 4-H members to take part in 4-H plays, parties, and similar events.

Help in planning and carrying out fund raising drives for the 4-H Center with the individual 4-H Clubs.

Encourage members planning to carry the Baby Beef project to get assistance from the extension agents in selecting their calves and feed according to V.P.I. recommendations.

Work out arrangements for the members to attend camps, Short Course, Electric Congress, picnic and other activities.

#### D. Results

A new club was organized at the Pennington Gap High School, making a total of 13 clubs. The membership increased from 387 to 436 and the number of projects increased from 647 to 649.

Ten members, one local leader and the assistant county agent attended senior 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Clyde Martin, Greeneville, Tennessee. The number was cut down because bad weather during the winter delayed school burning out until time for camp.

Seventeen members, one local leader and county agent attended junior 4-H Camp at Abingdon Forestry Camp, Bristol, Tennessee.

Four members and assistant county agent attended the State Short Course. Two members were taken into the Virginia All Star Chapter.

Two members attended the Regional Resource Development Conference held at Fontana, N. C. and three members attended Conservation Camp at Virginia Beach.

Two members and assistant county agent attended the Electric Congress at Richmond.

Local landors were secured to help with the new Farmington Gap L-H Club and the Stokleyville Club.

A committee was set up for the Southeast L-H Center Drive. Information about the L-H Center Fund Drive was well publicized over the county. The L-H Clubs have had fund raising activities and had very good results. People working on the L-H Center Drive have really cooperated and have made a good showing. The county has raised \$4,923.68 in cash or pledges of their goal of \$8,367.00.

The L-H tractor maintenance project was set up and much interest shown. A county L-H tractor driver's contest was held and the county winner competed in the district contest held at Abingdon. A L-H and FFA tractor driving contest was held at the Leo County Fair.

Nine L-H members with the extension agents were on a radio program. The program was developed around reports by several different L-H members on out of county trips they had made during the summer. There was a brief discussion on the L-H Center at Abingdon where both junior and senior camps will be held in 1960.

A L-H play was presented before the local P.T.A. by several L-H members.

Leo County's annual Junior Livestock show was held April 4 with L-H members showing eight fat steers. These calves were entered in the district show and sale at Bristol, April 15. Leo County had the reserve champion steer, which sold to a local merchant for 97 cents per pound. The overall sale average was \$39.60 per hundred pounds. The Leo County calves averaged \$27.10 per hundred pounds.

There are 26 L-H calves on feed this fall and there is lots of interest in the project.

The registered Durco pig chain was moved from Flatwoods to Jonesville and Bischoffter. Eight L-H members received sow pigs and a mottled boar was purchased to place with the eight sow pigs in the chain.

A county wide 4-H picnic was held in August at Gamberland Bowl Park and was attended by 125 4-H members, leaders and parents.

The annual Achievement Day program was attended by 214 members, parents, leaders and others interested.

A 4-H Float was entered in the Lee County Tobacco Festival parade. It was judged to be the most appropriate for the occasion, winning a \$50.00 cash prize.

The entire 4-H program has provided valuable experience and leadership training for those members participating.

#### EXT.-TVA DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

A. Situation and Needs at Beginning of Year  
Demonstration program started in 1935 and has continued to date.

There were 17 active demonstrators well distributed over the county with all sizes and types of farms being represented at the end of 1938.

Look of a home agent limits the home phase of demonstrators.

The county wide organization of demonstration farmers is known as the Lee County Soil Conservation Association.

Much has been done through this program in promoting the use of fertilizer as well as other improved practices. Due to a shortage of funds, T.V.A. was unable to supply all the fertilizer requested by the Test-demonstration farmers.

More accurate records of yearly operations and better outlined check plots are needed.

Some demonstrators should take greater advantage of high analysis fertilizer to meet their particular needs.

## B. Goals

Add three new demonstrators in order to keep the over-all number at 20 members.

Close out 1958 records with 100% completion and set up 1959 records. Turn in more accurate and complete books than in previous years.

Have check plots on each demonstration farm.

Bring annual plans up to date on all demonstration farms.

One or more demonstrators attend the annual meeting of the Association of Tennessee Valley Farm Families, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Have some test-demonstrator use the V.P.I. Mail-In Record System.

## C. Methods

Take applications for prospective demonstration farmers.

Assist demonstration farmers with farm management and planning.

Have at least one meeting of all demonstrators annually and work out transportation for all those interested in attending the annual meeting of the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association at Abingdon.

Encourage and assist farmers in taking advantage of all available demonstration material.

Encourage and assist farmers in laying out check plots.

Make plans for and conduct tours of outstanding demonstrations.

Local association to pay annual dues to the treasurer of Association of Tennessee Valley Farm Families and the annual dues to the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association.

Encourage demonstrators to take soil samples, assist in getting them, and make recommendations based on the tests.

Demonstrators were encouraged to attend field days at experiment stations and variety tests within the county.

Assist demonstrators in closing out and setting up record books.

Describe the Electronic Record System to test-demonstrators bringing out the advantage of having a total for each item every month.

#### D. Results

There were 17 active demonstration farmers at the beginning of the year. During the year three more were added and ordered fertilizer. One of these new demonstrators has asked to be dropped, evidently due to the records required. The 5 year period ends for one demonstrator and another may be dropped due to his taking very little part in the program. One of the demonstrators has purchased another farm and requested that it be included in his test demonstration contract.

Twenty-four demonstrators, extension workers, and a TVA representative attended the annual county T.V.A. demonstrators' dinner meeting. Several demonstrators were interested in attending the annual meeting of the Association of Tennessee Valley Farm Families, but were busy at the time and unable to attend.

The demonstrators used 115.5 tons of mixed fertilizer during the 1958-59 year. The size of several requisitions had to be reduced in order to stay under the county quota of 96.5 tons for July 1, 1958 to June 30, 1959. Later the county was allotted 20 more tons. Even though it was late to order, 19 of the 20 tons was used by demonstrators in the county. Lee County's quota for July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960 has been set at 82 tons.

The demonstrators will have to be limited on their 1959-60 fertilizer orders in order to stay within the new quota.

All active demonstrators except two turned in a record book. One of the demonstrators has been sick and unable to turn in a book. The other one has shown very little interest in the program. Demonstrators are using their record books more and more in their farm management and in filling out their income tax forms.

In many instances the demonstration farmers are influencing their neighbors and other farmers to improve their farming methods.

Six demonstrators and extension workers attended the annual meeting of the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association held at Abingdon.

Check plots have been set up on several demonstration farms and are showing very good results.

A field trip was held at two of the test-demonstration farms showing harvest of alfalfa hay, seed corn production, livestock, tobacco and over-all farm management. Several farmers and a TVA representative attended this field day.

Two test-demonstrators attended the Institute of Rural Affairs held at Blacksburg.

The directors of the Association voted to donate \$250 to the Southwest Virginia L-H Center, which will serve fifteen Southwest Virginia counties.

Twenty dollars was given to help pay the expenses of two L-H Club members to attend the Regional Resource Development Conference held at Fontana, N. C. in June.

In cooperation with the experiment station an official hybrid corn variety test and burley tobacco variety test was conducted on one of the demonstration farms.

One of the demonstrators is using the Electronic V.P.I. Mail-In Record System. He is using the summaries of his records that are sent back to him in managing his farming program more efficiently.

#### POULTRY

Poultry is kept by almost every farm family for home meat and egg supply. The 1954 census shows 90,732 chickens on farms, which was 30,754 chickens less than in 1950. There were 1,040 turkeys in 1954.

There are a few farmers with small flocks producing hatching eggs. Many farm flocks are not profitable. Prices have been so low on poultry and eggs during 1959 that several farmers have gone out of the poultry business.

Information on housing, feeding and management of poultry is made available to farmers through the office, meetings, and by personal visits to the farm. Information is also available to 4-H poultry project members.

Poultrymen are encouraged to purchase chicks that come from disease free and high producing strains. Assistance was given to farmers with poultry disease problems.

Poultrymen are urged to make use of good pasture in their poultry program.

#### FORESTRY

About one-fifth of the farmland in the county is in woodland.

Through the forest warden and other agricultural workers 4,817,838 tree seedlings have been set to date. About 80,000 of these were set in 1959.

Two woodlot management demonstrations that were set up in 1958 are being continued. A meeting was held at one of these plots during the year. The purpose of this meeting was to let farmers observe a saw timber cutting that had been made and go over the record of all products removed. The primary objective of this demonstration is to show other woodland owners the proper method of improving the woodland for top quality saw log production. These woodlots are being used by the F.F.A. and young farmers clubs for training in estimating timber and species identification.

Several farmers have requested the help of the Forest Service in having their timber marked.

Farmers are assisted with seedling orders. News articles on forestry have been sent to newspapers in the area.

#### FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Farm and Home Development Program is more of a farm development program since there is no home demonstration agent in the county.

The men agents have worked with 18 families on intensive farm planning and management during the year. A number of farm visits were made to these farms and assistance given on crop rotation, fertilization, buildings, herd and flock replacements, soil conservation and farm management.

By working regularly with these farmers the agents can be much more help to them.

#### STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Information on the production and harvesting of strawberries was made available to all strawberry growers during the year.

A meeting of the Lee County Strawberry Pool members was called prior to the marketing season. The members voted to continue the strawberry pool for the 1959 season. Twelve members sold their berries through the pool this year. Members voted to re-elect two directors whose time had expired and re-elect the officers that served last year. The membership fee was discussed and it was decided to charge those with less than .3 acre one-half the regular membership fee. The standard fee remained at \$7.00 per member. A manager for the pool was hired and the members voted to try to get a state grader for the season.

A state grader was secured, at no cost to the growers this year, through the Division of Markets, Richmond, Va. Mr. Edward Garland, marketing agent, Division of Markets, also assisted part of the season with promoting the sale of berries.

Due to abrupt changes in the weather, the berries were very uneven and unscud. Rainy weather during picking season didn't improve the situation any. There were very few No. 1 berries. Growers had low yields as compared with yields in past years.

There were 616½ 24-quart crates sold through the association. The farmers net per 24-quart crate was \$5.78 or about 24.1¢ per quart. This was thought to be a good price considering the condition of the berries with several crates being shipped as unclassified berries.

#### VEGETABLES

Work done on vegetable production was mostly with the home garden. Bulletins on the latest varieties, fertilization, use of sawdust, diseases and insect control were distributed to farmers. A specialist from V.P.I. talked on gardening to a young farmers group.

#### COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

During the year the extension personnel cooperated with other agricultural agencies which provided an effective means of reaching more people.

The county agent served as supervisor of the Daniel Boone Soil Conservation District during the year. The regular monthly meetings were attended and farmers were told of the help the technician could give them during the year.

The Daniel Boone Soil Conservation District was assisted with two meetings in the Blackwater community on a watershed project.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Administration was assisted with selecting practices for the 1960 A. C. P. program.

The F.P.A. and veterans instructors were assisted with securing information, films, and speakers for their classes during the year. A number of demonstrations were conducted during the year convenient for the classes to attend and in cooperation with the instructors.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A number of articles and pictures were furnished the Middlesboro Daily News for a special farm edition of their paper.

Seven farm men and women and the county agent attended the Institute of Rural Affairs at V. P. I.

The county fair was assisted with securing judges. The extension agents assisted with entering livestock, poultry, farm crops and horticulture exhibits at the fair. More entries were exhibited this year than in several years previous.

#### GENERAL ROUTINE WORK

Personal contacts through 733 farm and home visits, 2153 office calls, and 3156 telephone calls, were made by the extension agents during 1959. During the year 117 news articles were prepared by the agents for use in daily and weekly newspapers and 2395 bulletins and circulars were distributed in connection with office calls, farm visits and meetings.