

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Charles W. Sanders

Name

County Agricultural

Title

Agent

C. B. Lanford

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1935

County

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Page	1
Title Page	2
Table of Contents.	3
Situation	4
Farm and Home Management Program	4 - 5
Progress Report of One Cooperator.	5- 6
Agronomy Program	6 - 8
Vegetables	8 - 9
4-H Club Work.	9 - 10
Livestock	10
Poultry	10
Forestry	10
Dairying	10
Cooperation With Other Agencies	10 - 11
SCS	10
ASC	10 - 11
FHA	11
Vocational Agriculture.	11
Virginia Forest Service	11

Situation

The 1959 Census gave some interesting statistics on the new situation in Hanover County. The Census showed that the county population increased from about 22,000 in 1954 to 27,500 in 1959. The number of farms decreased from 1541 to 1074, and the average size of farms increased from 116 acres to 143 acres.

Of the 1074 farm operators 629 families obtain most of their income from sources other than farming.

The 1959 Census also showed a slight decrease in the acreage of crops except soybeans. However, in most cases yields were up. The numbers of cattle, hogs and sheep decreased slightly from 1954 to 1959. There was an increase in the number of poultry and eggs produced.

The cost-price squeeze continues to operate on farmers. This means that efficient production, the best marketing method and facilities available, selecting farm enterprise combinations and other good farm management practices are extremely important.

Farm and Home Management Program

Farmers in Hanover County continue to experience high prices for the things they have to buy and low prices for the produce they have to sell. One problem is how to keep cost of production low and increase the per unit output. Marketing consumes a large part of the farmers time. An individual problem is the lack of farm planning and good records.

Objectives for the year were to continue counseling with those enrolled in the program; enroll additional cooperators; encourage farmers to participate in the VPI Mail-In-Record Program; encourage farmers to sell calves, pigs and vegetables thru the existing cooperative marketing associations; and teach as many farmers as possible the process of budgeting crops and livestock.

One new method of teaching was tried this year. Cooperators were invited to meet with the agent and Kenneth Loope, Extension Farm Management Specialist, in private conference to try to analyze their specific problems.

A series of community meetings were held in 3 communities on Farm Management, starting with the outlook at the first meeting and then going to record keeping, budgeting and crop and livestock management practices. 150 farmers attended these meetings.

On-the-farm help was given to 10 farmers by Extension specialists on specific problems.

Cooperation in carrying out the whole program was obtained from the County Agent, the Soil Conservation Technicians, the Farmers' Home Administration, the Vocational Agricultural Teachers, and the local bankers.

Four farmers spent a half day each with the agent and Mr. Loope. These conferences attempted to show the farmers how to estimate costs and returns for crops and livestock. Many questions came up relative to practices. The agents attempted to show how experimental data could be used to fit each farming set up. As a result of these conferences, specialist help was re-

quested on irrigation, mix mill, egg room, and hay barn. John and Leonard Burnette installed an irrigation system for truck crops; J. D. Isbell, Jr. installed a mix mill and an egg room, and the Cooperative Vegetable Growers Association built a cooling room to hold vegetables.

Three farmers are enrolled in the VPI Mail-In-Farm Record Program.

Four farmers sold feeder calves thru the Cooperative Feeder Calf Sale. Three farmers sold feeder pigs thru the Cooperative Feeder Pig Sales. Fifteen farmers sold vegetables thru the Cooperative Vegetable Growers Association. All these men expressed themselves as well pleased with the prices received and are continuing their support.

At each farm visit the agent encouraged the farmer to budget carefully his costs before making an expenditure. This has brought out the need for better records.

Other results include: 1 cooperator enrolled in the Beef Cattle Improvement Association; 1 cooperator is serving on the area poultry committee; 2 cooperators have built farrowing houses for hogs according to VPI plans. One cooperator is in the certified-hog-litter program. 84 families participated in the program this year.

Future work in farm management can be strengthened by more on-the-farm counseling, teaching budgeting and enterprise combination to obtain the most net profit. The county advisory committee, thru the County Board of Agriculture, should be used more to spread information about the program.

Progress Report of One Cooperator

T. H. Sydnor has been enrolled in the Farm and Home Development Program since its start in the county.

Mr. Sydnor owns a 110 acre farm with 61 acres of cropland and pasture land. In addition he rents approximately 75 acres of cropland and 100 acres of pasture. Mr. Sydnor started farming in 1951 with a very small amount of capital. He borrowed money to buy the farm and for operation. On the rented land, the landlord has furnished the current operating money.

He has a broiler house of 7500 capacity in which he grows 4 batches a year on contract. He grows feeder pigs and fat hogs. At the time the agent started working with Mr. Sydnor, he had 5 sows. The beef cattle were owned by the landlord and they shared the calf crop. His machinery inventory consisted of a combine, mower, rake, auger wagon, cultivator, cultipacker, loader, manure spreader and flat-bed wagon.

Mr. Sydnor is a graduate of VPI in Dairy Husbandry. He has worked for other farmers in the capacity of manager before starting on his own. He is capable of making and executing his own plans.

His main problems were:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lack of capital | 6. Adjusting crops to soil type |
| 2. Shortage of land | 7. Poor barley yields |
| 3. Inadequate buildings for hogs | 8. Selling pigs |
| 4. Lack of machinery | 9. Regular income |
| 5. Adjusting crops to soil type | |

Mr. Sydnor is gradually paying off his loan. He now has 2 tractors, 2 wagons, manure loader, spreader, grain drill, corn planter, auger wagon, rake, mower, baler, combine, electric welder, corn picker, and small tools. He has built a farrowing house and uses farrowing stalls. He has arranged his farrowing schedule so that he has 10 to 12 sows farrow every 2 months to fit the schedule of the Richmond Feeder Pig Sales. He uses a purebred boar on well bred sows and produces pigs that grade high in the sales. He bought a BCIA Hereford bull to use on 20 choice heifers bought at a feeder sale. Mr. Sydnor is the first Hanover County farmer to join the Beef Cattle Improvement Association. The agent has advised Mr. Sydnor as to the best use of the fields he has based on a soils map prepared by the Soil Conservation Service. He attributes his 75 bushel yield of barley to the information obtained at an area Extension Agronomy meeting.

Mr. Sydnor assisted in organizing the Richmond Feeder Pig Association and is its first president. He has attended farm management schools held in the county as well as special interest meetings. He has attended the Institute of Rural Affairs twice, the Beef Cattle Short Course at Front Royal, and the field days at Middleburg. He calls on the agent when he has a problem.

Mr. Sydnor says that he is making progress in his operation and is improving his capital position. He still needs to make improvements, especially in keeping records and analyzing them.

With his four batches of broilers and 10 litters of pigs for each sale, Mr. Sydnor has a fairly regular income he can depend on.

Agronomy Program

Situation:

With the narrow margin of profit in producing grain and forage crops, it is imperative that the available resources of farmers be used to produce the maximum profit. The soybean-small grain double cropping system needs to be studied. Soil testing for plant food elements can indicate possible changes in fertilizing practices. The number of different crop varieties used may be excessive.

Needs:

The County Extension Agronomy Committee met at the beginning of the year and listed the following needs:

1. More soil sampling
2. A better liming and fertilizing program using soil sampling as one factor to consider in determining the needs.
3. More effective and economical weed control in agronomic crops.
4. Wider use of the recommended varieties.

Methods:

14 posters encouraging farmers to take soil samples were placed in business places over the county by members of the agronomy committee and the agents. These posters had a packet holding soil sample boxes and instruction sheets. The agents visited these business places to restock soil boxes and pick up soil samples.

The local newspaper published news articles written by the agents on soil sampling. One article featured a picture of the chairman of the Agronomy Committee taking a soil sample with the county agent giving instructions.

The Independence Ruritan Club assisted in the soil testing program by having 2,000 letter enclosures printed. These were distributed to business firms and agricultural professional workers to send out with their regular mailings.

Excellent cooperation was received from the fertilizer dealers, farm machinery dealers, bankers and merchants. The Soil Conservation Service and the Vocational Agricultural Teachers encouraged farmers to test soil.

The alfalfa fertilizer and weed control demonstration was continued on the farm of Tom Stanley.

3 demonstrations using atrazine and simazine to control weeds in corn were carried out.

1 demonstration using 3 chemicals to control weeds in soybeans was carried out.

1 demonstration using granular CIPC to control chickweed and German moss in onions was started in the fall of 1960.

2 demonstration plots of 6 varieties of soybeans was set up--one on Rt. 360 (a heavy traffic road) and one near Ashland.

Members of the Agronomy Committee were given a list of recommended varieties of crops prepared by the Extension agronomist. This list was also published in the local paper. Copies were sent to all professional agricultural workers. Copies were distributed at farmers meetings held during the year.

25 farmers attended a field day at the Warsaw Experiment Station and saw the varieties of corn and soybeans being tried there.

Pictures of the demonstrations were taken of the demonstrations. These will be used in a slide projector at winter meetings of the Agronomy Committee and general farmers meetings.

The Superintendent of the Warsaw Experiment Station spoke at one farmers meeting on the production of soybeans. 25 farmers attended.

Allan Kates, Extension Weed Specialist, discussed chemical-weed control at one farmers meeting with an attendance of 30.

A circular letter was mailed to alfalfa growers advising them of the recommended time to apply granular heptachlor to control alfalfa weevil.

Results:

The total tonnage of fertilizer used has dropped, but the increased use of high analysis mixes brings about a higher number of plant-food units used.

The use of lime has increased 25% during the past year.

Weed Control:

1. 2,4-D pre-emerge spray was used on approximately 500 acres of corn.
2. 2,4-D post emerge spray was used on approximately 3,000 acres of corn.
3. Approximately 800 acres of alfalfa was sprayed to control chickweed and German moss.
4. Approximately 600 acres of alfalfa was limed and fertilized according to recommendations.
5. Approximately 150 acres of new alfalfa was seeded with recommended variety.
6. Approximately 1,000 soil samples were taken and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

Vegetables

Situation:

139 vegetable growers in Hanover County produce vegetables for sale. Vegetables account for 10% of the gross value of farm products in Hanover County.

The average vegetable acreage per farm is 12 acres. These small acreages has prompted these growers to establish a cooperative marketing organization and facility to better meet the demands of today's market. The marketing organization has a number of problems which must be worked out.

Other problems which have confronted Hanover County vegetable growers in 1960 are plant diseases, insects, and other production problems.

Needs:

1. Refrigeration and overnight parking facilities at the marketing facility.
2. More outlets for county produce.
3. Wider use of soil samples to determine fertility needs.
4. Better control of insect and disease damage.
5. More economical weed control in vegetables.

Goals:

1. Improve marketing facility.
2. 70 growers selling through the Association.
3. 40 farmers taking soil samples to determine fertilizer and lime requirements.
4. Increase use of recommended insect and disease control.

Methods of Meeting Needs:

The county Extension agents participated in ten meetings held to plan the operations of the Vegetable Growers' Association. Visits were made to vegetable growers to give marketing information.

A demonstration of tomato varieties was set up on the farm of John and Leonard Burnette. Slides were taken of this demonstration and will be used at later meetings. F. H. Scott and Dr. L. W. Fedema, of the VPI Horticulture Department, assisted in this demonstration.

A circular was prepared in the County Extension Office, giving some of the latest recommendations on vegetable production. This circular was given to all vegetable producers at the annual meeting of the Hanover Vegetable Growers Association.

Samples of seeds were obtained from four tomato growers and put in the Virginia Department of Agriculture testing plots. This test was to determine any difference in the characteristics of the Valient tomato seed gotten from different sources.

A weed control meeting was held in cooperation with the East End Hanover County Young Farmers Club.

Bulletins, farm visits, news articles and letters were used to get information to vegetable growers.

Results:

1. A refrigeration facility and a grading belt were added to the marketing facility.
2. 49 growers sold produce through the Hanover County Vegetable Growers Assoc.
3. 35 vegetable growers took soil samples to determine fertilizer and lime needs.
4. 25% more Hanover County farmers sprayed their tomatoes effectively for early blight and tomato fruit worms.

Extension specialists, other than Dr. Fedema and Mr. Scott who came to Hanover County to assist in this program were Mr. Allen Kates and Dr. Robert Fristou.

4-H Club Work

Results:

One hundred and twelve Club members completed one hundred and twenty one projects in 1960.

The following items were produced:

- a. 1 acre of corn
- b. 6 acres of vegetables
- c. 24,000 trees planted
- d. 24 birds
- e. 18 dairy animals
- f. 11 beef animals
- g. 60 head of swine
- h. 69 rabbits
- i. 18 articles in farm and home electrification.

Ten 4-H Club members took soil samples of their garden plots.

4-H Club members sold 575 litter bags. This activity promoted the cleaning up of highways and community areas and raised funds for 4-H activities.

Two club members exhibited swine and livestock at the Junior Livestock Show and Sale.

Six 4-H Club members exhibited at the State Fair.

County Council officers and Junior Leaders designed and prepared a 4-H Year Book.

One Club member attended the State 4-H Short Course.

One hundred and forty three 4-H members, parents and leaders attended two County Council meetings.

One hundred and twenty members, parents and leaders attended the 4-H Rally Day.

Nine 4-H Clubs were organized in 1960.

Livestock

Hanover County farmers sold 144 feeder calves and yearlings, 80 fat cattle and 735 feeder pigs through the cooperative sales. All of these sales are sponsored by the Extension Service in cooperation with other agriculture agencies and organizations.

600 sheep were sheared by the professional shearers obtained by the County Agent.

8 pure bred sires were placed through the assistance of the County Extension Agents.

Poultry

- a. One egg producer set up grinding and mixing system.
- b. Two egg producers began keeping more complete records.
- c. Two egg producers using lights properly to stimulate production.

Forestry

Results:

- a. 100,000 trees were planted.
- b. 80,000 acres of forest land were improved by thinning and culling.
- c. 50 acres of unproductive woodland worked and planted.
- d. 25 timber owners inspecting for pine sawfly.

Dairying

Results:

- a. Two farmers using artificial breeding for the first time.
- b. Three dairy animal owners vaccinating calves for the first time.
- c. One dairy farmer worming calves for the first time.

Cooperation With Other Agencies

SCS

The County Extension Agents met with SCS officials to plan a program for the newly organized Caroline-Hanover Soil Conservation District. The Extension Agents and the County Soil Conservation technician have cooperated in making land-use plans for farm people.

ASC

The County Extension Agents have cooperated with the ASC in:

- (a) Setting up community nominating committees
- (b) Planning ASC practices
- (c) Giving fertilizer and lime recommendations for approved practices
- (d) Publicizing ASC program

FHA

Cooperation with the FHA has consisted of:

- (a) Supplying technical and farm management information to families covered by FHA
- (b) Publicizing FHA program.

Vocational Agriculture

Four meetings were held in cooperation with Vocational Agriculture teachers in supplying production and marketing information to farmers.

Virginia Forest Service

The services of the Forestry Department were publicized, and farmer requests for these services were forwarded to the Forestry Service.