

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

BAILEY G. WILKINS

Extension Agent

VIRGINIA R. BURKS

Extension Agent

DAN W. MOODY (half-time)

Assistant Agent

GLENN UPDIKE (June 11 - July 20)

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1962

AMHERST

County

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

1. 4-H LEADERSHIP

A. WORK WITH PLANNING COMMITTEES - ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

Two 4-H Steering Committees, representing the Amherst Community and the Elon Community played an important role in the organization of three Community 4-H Clubs.

Using a list of boys and girls of 4-H age in the respective communities, the committees selected parents and others who were prospective club leaders.

In one community the committee, accompanied by the agents, visited the person selected as leader and asked her to serve.

In addition to securing the leader, the committee also set up the first meeting place.

In two instances members of the Steering Committees volunteered their services as club leaders.

These committees will continue to function and will assist with major 4-H problems.

B. CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY LOCAL LEADERS

1.) Local leaders played an important part in the 4-H camping program. One leader served as Camp Nurse. One taught a class in Archery. One served as counselor and helped with handicraft. Three junior leaders served as counselors and assisted with camp activities. One of the junior leaders accepted a job with Holiday Lake 4-H Camp

as the Storekeeper. He worked the balance of the summer and plans to return next summer. He entered Hampden Sydnor College as a freshmen in 1962.

Home demonstration clubs furnished camp scholarships for three needy 4-H members.

2.) Four leaders assisted in planning and conducting a 4-H Poultry Field Day and Family Picnic. The local bank paid for the picnic supper. The leaders prepared the meal.

3.) Two adult leaders assisted in conducting a Livestock Field Day which was held at Kenmore Farm. The local newspaper furnished the drinks for the noon meal. Each member brought his own lunch.

4.) One livestock project leader assisted with training the 4-H livestock judging team.

5.) Three leaders held meetings and assisted 4-H girls in two communities with sewing projects during the summer months.

6.) Four women are being trained as organizational leaders. These leaders have organized community 4-H clubs and are conducting the meetings, unassisted by the agents.

7.) Junior leaders assisted with training 4-H officers in the Fall County Council Meeting.

C. WORK IN LEADER TRAINING.

A leader training program for the organizational leaders of the Community Clubs is being conducted. The first meeting, with four leaders, covered 4-H philosophy, needs of boys and

girls of 4-H age and how to conduct a 4-H meeting.

The second meeting will be devoted to using Junior Leaders in the 4-H program and 4-H activities, projects and awards.

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT
THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

2. AGRICULTURAL

The agricultural commodity committees are functioning and work with the agent in their respective areas.

The Horticulture Committee meets two times each year with the Nelson County Horticulture Committee to plan the programs for the two fruit growers meetings. One is held in the winter and one in the summer. The meeting places are alternated between Amherst and Nelson Counties.

The Forestry Committee met twice in 1962. It selected topics to be covered in a Forestry School which will be conducted by the Virginia Forest Service County Forester and the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Forester.

The Livestock Committee met once in 1962

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

3. HOME DEMONSTRATION

The County Home Demonstration Committee, the planning and executive body of the Home Demonstration Clubs, met twice during the year. The spring meeting was held primarily for the purpose of planning the 1963 program. Prior to the meeting the program development chairmen of the clubs were trained by the agent. They led their respective clubs in program planning discussions and presented the club's program suggestions at the county meeting. In addition to planning the demonstrations for the new year at the spring meeting, county objectives were adopted and plans made for the Federation Program of Work. Suggestions for carrying out the latter two each year are sent by county chairmen to club chairmen.

The demonstration program could not have been carried on in the clubs throughout the year without the help of many subject matter leaders. Seventy-six demonstrations were given by the leaders.

Early in the year, a committee appointed by the county chairman, -and assisted by the agent, worked up a point rating sheet for each club to keep. Points could be earned for good participation in club, county, district and state events and projects. Each club reported total points earned at an Evaluation Program in November. Two of the clubs were

recognized as blue award clubs. This was the first time for this type of evaluation plan.

Club leaders believe that it has helped and will continue to help to improve the quality of work done by the clubs.

1. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT
THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

4. RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

The RAD Program has pulled technical resource people, including state and federal agencies closer together. It has enabled the Extension Service to involve county people who had not previously participated actively in Extension programs. For the first time leaders from all over the county were brought together to consolidate their thinking on all problems of the county.

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT
THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

GENERAL APPRAISAL OF LEADERSHIP IN COUNTY

The County Extension Staff feels that the county is fortunate to have high caliber leaders and potential leaders. Progress is being made in involving more leaders in the Extension Program. Several factors effect the availability of leaders. There is a high percentage of women with leadership capabilities employed regularly outside the home. This limits the time that they have to give to community activities. There is much competition for leaders among organizations within the respective communities. The Extension Staff is attempting to involve more leaders throughout the county in planning their own programs which will have educational value and will help them to meet their needs.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT - AMHERST COUNTY

A. PHASE: Agronomy - Forage Production

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

Amherst County is changing to an animal agriculture.

Economical production of forage is essential to successful livestock production. Yield of forage crops in the county is below state averages.

C. OBJECTIVES:

Increase the yield and quality of forage crops in Amherst County.

D. PROGRESS:

Every farmer in the county who produces and feeds silage was mailed a copy of Leaflet 153, "Here's When To Harvest Corn For Silage." This was followed up in a majority of cases with personal contact and an inspection of the silage corn. Harvesting methods were discussed with emphasis being placed on the importance of having machinery in good repair, the knives sharp and the machine adjusted to cut short length. As a result of the leaflets and visits considerably more silage was harvested at proper stage of maturity than had been in the past.

An alfalfa seeding demonstration was held on one farm.

Assistance was given eight farmers in recommended seeding practices.

Copies of "Recommended Varieties of Field Crops For Amherst County" were made available to seed dealers for their use and distribution to farmers where needed. Copies were also mailed to many farmers of the county by the agent. A tour of one alfalfa fertilization demonstration was held. The farmers present observed the results of the alfalfa stand on plot fertilized as recommended, as compared to plot not fertilized and field fertilized as farmer's normal practice. The results of CIPC for chickweed control was demonstrated also.

Farmers are realizing the importance of the quality of the forage they store for winter feed. They are becoming aware of the fact that just hay or silage is not enough and that there is hardly any difference in the cost of harvesting at the proper stage of maturity or just harvesting.

More and more farmers are asking for seed by variety and fertilizer by analysis. Farmers are learning that crops cannot be short changed - that each link in the chain is necessary.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT - AMHERST COUNTY.

A. PHASE: Forestry-Woodland Management

B. WHY THE PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

52% of farm land in the county is in woods.

9% of farm income is derived from forest products.

It is felt that through improved woodland management the return will be increased.

C. OBJECTIVES:

Increase the income from farm woodland.

D. PROGRESS:

Seven news articles were run in the county weekly stressing the value and importance of woodland management and of the help available to woodland owners. Eighteen request for woodland management assistance were referred to the Virginia Forest Service County Forester.

A four-day Forestry School for farmers and woodland owners is planned for early January, with the Virginia Forest Service County Forester and the local forester of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company conducting the school. Twenty-seven (27) "Timberland Examinations" were made by the County Forester in 1962. More farmers are becoming aware of the woodland and are realizing that it has potential value. They are realizing that the value will increase at a faster rate if some inexpensive management practices are performed.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND NATURAL RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT - AMHERST COUNTY

A. PHASE: Livestock-Sire Placement

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

The County Extension Livestock Committee felt an attempt should be made to improve the herd sires on many farms. They felt this could be done by retaining proven sires in service for longer than three years. This could be done by farmers exchanging sires with a neighbor for a similar type animal.

C. OBJECTIVE:

Get better producing bulls on more farms.

D. PROGRESS:

A list of farmers with a bull for sale, and a list of farmers who wanted to purchase a bull, is kept in the County Agent's Office. Livestock producers have been notified of these lists and frequent use was made of them by cattlemen. The agent knows of six old bulls that were placed as a result of this program.

The agent assisted several farmers in locating and selecting bulls for their herds. When purchasing young bulls emphasis was placed on obtaining fast gaining bulls from herds enrolled in the BCIA testing program. One feeder calf producer who was assisted in this manner in

1961 noted a 45 pound per calf weight increase in 1962 over
1961. He considered everything else to be about equal.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

A. PHASE: Clothing

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

Hat selection and construction was the clothing phase that was emphasized. It received major emphasis because homemakers realized the need for help with the selection of hats, considering styles suitable for the individual. Also, there were some homemakers who wanted to learn to construct hats so they could save money, and at the same time have a greater variety of hats.

C. OBJECTIVES:

To have more homemakers select or make hats of styles suitable for the individual.

To teach principles that will help homemakers coordinate costumes through proper selection of hats.

To teach hat construction to interested persons so they might have more hats for less money.

D. PROGRESS:

The first step was to obtain leaders in the home demonstration clubs. The leaders were trained by the clothing specialist at a leader training meeting in May. The demonstration training given included the teaching of principles to follow when selecting a hat and a review of materials and equipment needed

for making a hat. The leaders gave the demonstration to their respective clubs in July. To illustrate points, the leaders used hats brought by the members to the meeting. Leaflets entitled, "Basic Facial Types" and "Selecting Becoming Hats" were distributed to members and visitors. Members were informed of plans for a hat making workshop and the supplies needed.

Eighty-eight percent of the members who saw the demonstration on "Hat Styles To Suit The Individual" felt that it helped them to better understand why certain hat styles are better than others for different persons.

A two-day workshop was held in the fall for those who were interested in learning to make a hat. A letter announcing plans for the workshop was sent to all club members. Those who enrolled, were sent a complete list of materials and equipment needed. A well-qualified instructor from Lynchburg was secured. During the workshop those participating learned to make a frame, cover it, put a lining in it, and add trim. In addition to learning the basic techniques of hat making members received a great deal of information on styling hats. The instructor reviewed the V.P.I. bulletin on, "Selecting Becoming Hat Styles."

Twenty women participated in the workshop and each made one or two hats. Three were from out of the county. Of the remaining, twelve were club members and five were non-club

members. Club members wore their hats and were recognized at the County Home Demonstration Evaluation Program. There was a great deal of enthusiasm shown at the workshop. The agent has talked with many of the women since that time. They are enjoying wearing their hats and several of them have made additional hats. It is planned that a questionnaire will be sent in April in order that a more complete evaluation can be made.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS - Amherst County

A. PHASE: Household Equipment

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

Homemakers lacked information on how to shop wisely for laundry equipment and supplies and in some instances how to care for the equipment. Some homemakers are replacing non-automatic with automatic washing machines. Some are considering the advisability of buying an electric clothes dryer. With the many new laundry supplies arriving on today's market there are many questions by consumers.

C. OBJECTIVES:

To have homemakers become better informed buyers of washing machines, clothes dryers and laundry supplies; to have them gain information that will help them to use more effectively laundry supplies and to learn the care steps required for satisfactory performance of equipment.

D. PROGRESS:

The agent received help from the Home Management Specialist in preparing a demonstration on Selection and Care of Washers and Dryers. The agent presented the demonstration at twelve home demonstration club meetings. She included in her weekly news column information on the subject in an effort to reach non-club members. She discussed the types of automatic washing machines and clothes dryers on the market and covered points to consider when shopping for

this equipment. Also, included in the demonstration were a few points on caring for both the automatic and non-automatic laundry equipment. V.P.I. leaflets relating to the subject and fact sheets from the Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council were distributed.

Other household equipment fact sheets from the Council were distributed at other times during the year.

The demonstration brought about a good bit of discussion in some clubs. It was interesting to the agent to find the wide difference in ownership of automatic equipment among clubs over the county. In one club no one owned an automatic washing machine and in another all members were owners.

Since the demonstration was not given until the fall, there has been insufficient time in which to determine the usefulness of the material. The agent does believe that many homemakers will have a more thorough understanding of the features of today's laundry equipment as a result of the program, and will be in a better position to shop intelligently.

Steps toward carrying out the program on Selection and Use of Soaps and Detergents began with the appointment of leaders in the Home Demonstration Clubs. The leaders were trained at a leader training meeting in August by the

Home Management Specialist. In October they gave the demonstration in their respective clubs. Members were asked to bring their favorite laundry supplies. Leaders used these as illustrative material in the demonstration, in discussing the many types of laundry supplies on the market. Leaders discussed when and how each type could be used effectively. They pointed out the importance of comparing weights and prices. Bulletins on detergents and stain removal were distributed to club members. The agent included information on the subject in her weekly news column.

Of the home demonstration club members who reported accomplishments for the year, 81% learned something new about the selection of laundry supplies, 3% did not learn anything new and 16% did not receive information. Four-fifths of those in the group who learned something new about the laundry supplies, had applied some of the information learned.

No method has been worked out to evaluate use of information supplied through the newspaper, except through occasional comments and requests for bulletins. Sixty-seven percent of the club members reported sharing information received through the clubs with an average of three non-club members.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - EDUCATIONAL PLAN

4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS - AMHERST COUNTY

A. PHASE: Training Leaders

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

Volunteer adult leaders are insufficiently trained in scope of 4-H program.

C. OBJECTIVES:

To train leaders to give leadership and guidance to 4-H members in carrying out an effective 4-H program.

D. PROGRESS:

In November a leader training meeting was conducted by the agents. Four adult leaders attended. Since these leaders had had very little background in 4-H, the philosophy of 4-H, the basic needs and characteristics of boys and girls of 4-H age and how to conduct a 4-H meeting were the three main topics presented.

Time was allowed for help on specific questions of the individual leaders.

A Handbook, consisting of the following materials was given to each leader:

1. Suggestions for the first meeting.
2. Suggested procedure for a 4-H meeting.
3. "Join a 4-H Club Today,"
4. "A Guide For 4-H Officers."

5. "4-H Book of Fun"

6. 4-H catalogue of supply items.

Other material is to be added to this Handbook after it has been explained in leader training meetings.

Following the Leader Training Meeting one of the agents visited the leaders individually and assisted them in specific plans for the organizational meeting of their Community 4-H Club.

Three adult leaders attended the State Adult Volunteer Leaders Conference at Natural Bridge for one day's session.

A larger scope of the leader's role was brought back by them.

A second county leader training meeting has been requested by these leaders. Problems they wish covered are the use of Junior Leaders and Planning the Yearly Club Program.

The leader training was helpful as the leaders have conducted meetings to date with very little assistance from the agents.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS - AMHERST COUNTY

A. PHASE: Rural Areas Development

B. WHY THE PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

The Extension Agents in each county were assigned the special responsibility of providing organizational leadership to county people to establish a RAD Committee in the county if needed.

C. OBJECTIVE:

To present the Rural Areas Development program to county leaders and have them determine if Amherst County needed and could be improved by an organization of this type.

D. PROGRESS:

The county Extension Staff followed the procedure outlined by the Program Development Leader in presenting the RAD program.

Several staff conferences were held to clearly organize the approach. The Technical Panel met with the County Extension staff and offered help and suggestions. The County Extension staff selected and analyzed county background material to present to a group of county leaders. The basis for selecting the material was its value toward pointing out problem areas and needs in the county. Another meeting of the Technical Panel was held to review and criticize the information which was to be presented. Upon final selection

the information was put on charts and color slides were made of the charts. These slides were used for presenting the material.

Thirty-eight county people attended the educational meeting December 3, 1962. All members of the Technical Panel and the Extension Program Development Leader were present and assisted with the meeting. A county leader presided as Chairman of the meeting. The Extension Agents presented the background material.

The group expressed the desire to have a Rural Areas Development Committee organized. A committee of three were appointed to serve as a nominating committee to select the RAD Committee.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS - ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS - AMHERST COUNTY

A. PHASE: Community 4-H Clubs

B. WHY THIS PHASE RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS:

There has been a high percentage of drop-outs from 4-H club work among members upon completion of seventh grade in school.

C. OBJECTIVES:

To organize a Community 4-H Club in the Town of Amherst in 1962.

D. PROGRESS:

Club members who completed the seventh grade in Amherst Elementary school in 1962, along with their parents, were invited to a meeting in which they were given opportunity to learn more about the 4-H club program and to decide if they wished to organize a Community 4-H Club. The agents conducted the meeting, using visuals in the form of charts, slides and achievement records. Topics covered in the meeting were: 4-H projects, awards, activities, the advantages and disadvantages of community 4-H clubs. Six members and four parents attended this meeting. Those present were interested and wanted the agents to have another similar meeting and make further effort to get more to attend. The agents used letters, telephone calls and personal visits to get more attendance. Six members and one parent attended the second meeting. The group decided to organize a Community 4-H Club and have held meetings monthly since the first meeting in July. The club toured the Atlantic Rural

Exposition in Richmond in September. Prior to the first meeting five prospective leaders were contacted about the club. One has served as leader since its organization. Individual training has been given this leader.

The club has elected temporary officers and has planned a portion of its year's program. The club now has eight members on roll.

The outlook for the success of this club is doubtful. The agents aren't quite sure where the trouble is. It could be that when a child is going into the 8th. grade his parents are reluctant to encourage the child to take on too many outside activities which might interfere with his school work. It could be the lack of basic understanding of 4-R work by both parents and members.

A similar organizational plan will be conducted in the Monroe community in 1963. The agents will strive to have the leaders assume a more responsible role in the formulation of the club. Opportunity for organizing the club will be offered before the end of the school year.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

E. PROGRESS MADE IN OTHER PHASES OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

(C). Furnishings

A county-wide special interest workshop on Copper Tooling of Planters was held in October. Twenty-three women received instruction from the Extension Rural Arts Specialist on how to tool the copper and construct the planters. Wooden boxes used in the project were constructed by students of the High School Vocational Agriculture Class. The craft introduced the women to the art of tooling and allowed them to use imagination in creating a design. They were quite pleased to have a useful accessory to take home.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

E. PROGRESS MADE IN OTHER PHASES OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

(B). Housing - Planning, Remodeling and Repair

Visits to the homes of three families were made to give assistance with remodeling plans. Assistance was given by Extension Specialists who work with Housing.

Recommendations, through the study of plans, were made to two additional families. Due to numerous reasons, improvements by these families have not moved beyond the planning stage.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

E. PROGRESS MADE IN OTHER PHASES OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

(A.) Nutrition - Food Preservation and Food Preparation

The County Extension Nutrition Committee wrote a letter to Home Demonstration Club presidents asking them to urge their members to distribute to non-club members information on the use of more milk in the diet.

Circulars for the members to distribute were recommended.

The circulars were ordered by the agent following the placement of orders by the clubs. A total of 170 copies of each of the four circulars secured were distributed in the county by members.

III. SUCCESS STORY

"A Halloween Pumpkin For Every Home" was the slogan of the Elon American Legion Post 100. The Post made a net profit of \$600.00 from the sale of pumpkins from one acre. This money was used to help pay off their debt on a community swimming pool.

In November 1961 the American Legion Post invited the County Agent to their regular monthly meeting to discuss with them a fund-raising project. The agent discovered at the meeting that they planned to grow an acre of tomatoes. This was discouraged. The difficulty in getting tomatoes on the early market due to soil type; the insect and disease problem, with resulting time consuming and expensive spraying controls; the uncertainty of production and the complex marketing system were pointed out. The group cooled down on the tomato project but asked for suggestions - something they could grow and sell that would give them a reasonable return.

Several crops, including pumpkins, were suggested. They decided to try the pumpkins.

The agent had a soil test made and gave recommendations for fertilization. The Jack-O-Lantern variety was recommended. Bulletins on Growing Pumpkins were made available to the group and the cultural practices were followed.

The resulting crop surpassed all their expectations. The pumpkins were gathered and stored before frost. About three weeks before Halloween they began their selling campaign. They put pumpkins in every store, supermarket, service station and fruit stand in the Lynchburg area. They sold them house to house. They had a serve-yourself stand in front of their Post building on Route #130. A customer could select his pumpkin and leave the money in a glass jar provided for that purpose. They had pumpkins left after Halloween but they sold enough to give them a clear profit of a little over \$600.00. They felt their project successful.

IV. GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR

An increasing number of county people, both men and women are looking to Extension and V.P.I. for help with agricultural and home economics problems. A greater respect is being developed for recommendations based on research.

In the 4-H program more older club members are showing greater interest and are remaining in club work. This is contributed to several factors: more participation in demonstration contests; an active Honor Club; giving Junior Leaders more opportunity to function and more general 4-H activities being conducted.

While Extension activities have increased and more people of the county have been involved there remains a large percentage of the county population that is not being reached.