

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Victor R. Powell

Name

Local Farm Agent

Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1960

Mecklenburg
County

FORWARD

The Extension Program is made up of the cooperative efforts of individuals comprising an educational media designed to work for the improvement of family living.

The individuals who make up such a program may be considered a combination of attitudes, aptitudes, abilities, skills and ideas to form the social and economic outlook of the people.

The Extension program, like any other program, must have a coordinator to function smoothly. This responsibility rest upon the Extension Agent, who must make the all important decision of recruiting sufficient leaders to assist with the role of information and demonstration specialists.

The basic function of the Extension Program is to impart certain factual information concerning Agriculture and Home Economics to people for improving living standards. The social and economic status of the people determines partially the kind of Extension Program that will be carried out.

Each individual is important in planning and conducting the Extension Program. It is the numerous ideas and personal tributes of individuals woven together into a beautiful pattern which brings into focus the true essence of the Extension Program. The most important factor dealing with any program is "labor or work." Cowper said, "Labor was the primal curse but it was softened into mercy, and made the pledge of cheerful days and nights without a groan."

"Work is a great blessing; after evil came into the world, it was given us as an antidote, not as a punishment." . . . A. S. Hardy

"Genius begins great works; Labor alone finishes them."...Joubert

"Labor is the greatest producer of wealth; it moves all other causes." . . . Daniel Webster.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 1960

Objective: To improve the standards of rural and urban living.

Goals:

1. To assist with and establish better management practices.
2. To promote larger investments in farm production.
3. To encourage better cultural and marketing practices of farm products.
4. To teach wiser use of income and an appreciation for natural resources.

Methods and Procedures

1. Demonstrations - Learn by doing
2. Outlook - Current information - Tours
3. Publicity - News articles - Broadcast - Visitation
4. Efficiency - Management factors - Records, etc.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

The following is a narrative report of the Agricultural Extension Program in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, covering the period from December 1, 1959 to November 30, 1960.

The Extension Program is a unit of educational medias woven together through cooperative efforts of individuals and groups of people. It's function is to establish satisfying goals and promote improved desirable rural and urban living conditions.

Special acknowledgement is made to those who made the Extension Program possible for another year. They are: The United States Department of Agriculture and Home Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Virginia State College, The County Board of Supervisors, Virginia Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Stabilization Commission, Local Banks and Merchants, The Local School Board, rural and urban leaders and other interested personnel.

The cooperation and consideration of the above named organizations have made Extension work a pleasure in Mecklenburg County.

November 30, 1960

Victor R. Powell
Victor R. Powell
Local Farm Agent
Mecklenburg County
Virginia

AGRICULTURE IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Mecklenburg County is located in the South Central section of the state of Virginia. It is bordered on the South by the state of North Carolina, on the East by Brunswick County, on the North by Lunenburg County, and on the West by Halifax and Charlotte Counties. The county covers 669 square miles and is predominately rural.

The topography may be considered slightly rolling with an average two to three percent slope. The fertility of the soil is considered fair, and best suited for general farming.

There is a large number of farm families living within the county's borders. Approximately 50% of these farm families are Negroes, and about 60% of the Negro farm families are share tenants.

Tobacco is still the chief cash crop among share-tenant farmers. However with a limited scope of operation, farming for the small farmer (share-tenant) is one of the greatest challenges in the history of America's Agriculture. Among the small share-tenant farmers there is sufficient labor, but land and capital is far below the margin for standard operation. Other farm employment is a seasonal operation which does not afford an equal distribution of farm labor income, therefore a large number seek employment outside the county.

There is also a number of Negro farm owners. Many of the farms they operate are too small to afford sufficient income for the farm families.

The size of these farms range from five acres to 350 acres, but the average size is approximately 50 acres, and most of these farmers are using the one crop system. (Further details will be given under farm management).

Mecklenburg County, since the construction of the "John H. Kerr Dam," has become a resort for summertime outings and the development of a wildlife program. The development has offered gainful employment for a number of unskilled laborers. Due to the high cost of available farm land and the limited net income of the small farmer his situation remains about the same. An example of such a situation is as follows: One small farm of 28½ acres and a tobacco allotment of 1.6 acres, 1.3 acres of wheat and 0.9 acres of cotton and a small four room dwelling was sold at a cost of \$11,300.00 for a debt of \$1,800.00.

Another small farm of 40 acres was sold without dwelling for \$10,000.00. The indebtedness was 2,400.00. Situations like the ones mentioned above makes it impossible for the small farmer to exist.

Employment for non-whites is limited to saw mill labor, pulpwood cutting, day-farm labor and domestic labor, none of which pays a living wage.

There is a great need for some type of leadership throughout the County. Adults need to reconsider their role as leaders and additional efforts must be made to train the youth if the rural population is to continue its existence in Mecklenburg County. Too many people are satisfied with the (status quote) and not enough concerned with promoting better and higher standards of family living. Powell once wrote "He who has no inclination to learn will be very apt to think he knows enough."

PART I

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

ADVISORY BOARD

HOME DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

4-H LEADER COUNCIL

4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL

.....
.....

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

The County Agriculture Advisory Board:

The County Agriculture Advisory Board was one of the first local organizations established after the Extension Program was started in the county. This board is made up of volunteers who are interested in learning better ways to maintain their way of life through agriculture.

The Board serves as a hub around which the entire Extension Program revolves. The work of the committee men makes up the program of activities. The most outstanding activities for 1960 were:

1. The Board financed a delegation of ten (10) members to the Farm and Home Institute at Virginia State College during the month of July.
2. Two farmers served as demonstrators for flue-cured tobacco.
3. Six farmers served as demonstrators for aromatic tobacco.
4. Planned and conducted Farm Tour for the purpose of observing tobacco, sweet potatoes and the use of aluminum siding on dwelling.
5. The Board sent representatives to the following agricultural activities.
 - a. Farmer of the Year (award program) Sussex County.
 - b. Agriculture Experiment Station, Virginia State College.
 - c. State Advisory Board Meeting, Franklin County.
6. Twelve farmers served as demonstrators for the new sweet potato project started in the county this year. (See report under Field Crops).
7. The Board financed a \$25.00 ad for the 4-H Sweet Potato Show and Sales Contest.
8. The Board sponsored another "Harvest Festival," as a mean of securing funds for its operations.
9. Initial plans were introduced for the purchase of land for a building site.

10. Two additional groups were organized for the purpose of receiving information on policies, practices, changes and developments in Agriculture.
11. The Board members showed greater interest and larger participation in the county fair.
12. A larger percentage of board members participated in and assisted with 4-H Club work during the year.

The Home Demonstration Committee

The Home Demonstration Committee is the nucleus for Home Demonstration work in the county. It works jointly with the Advisory Board and cooperatively with the 4-H Junior Council to establish a satisfactory program and good human relationships between individuals, clubs and other organizations.

Some of the Activities for 1960 are:

1. Attend District H. D. Council Meeting
2. Assist Extension Agents with weekly broadcast
3. Assist 4-H Club members with project work and radio script.
4. Attend "Farm and Home Institute."
5. Sponsor educational tour to New York City.
6. Exhibit, both by booth and individual, at the county fair.

The 4-H Leader Council:

The 4-H Leader Council serves to bring the leaders together for discussion and information on similar problems. The Council sent two delegates to the State Leader's Organizational Meeting.

The one outstanding contribution made by the leaders council is to recruit new leaders and divide 4-H clubs into group according to interest.

The Junior Council

The 4-H Junior Council is the core of the 4-H Program. The youth takes a great deal of pride in the growth and development of the organization. It not only affords opportunities for leadership, but the satisfaction of being permitted to make decisions and carry them out to completion.

The county-wide project for the year was "Wildlife Conservation," with the greatest emphasis on birds. The severe cold weather during the early part of the year made the study of birds fascinating to a large number of 4-H Club members. The results of the study was most favorable. The committee has the authority to recommend members for awards based on individual achievement.

Some of the other activities of the Council for 1960 are:

1. Sponsor Miss 4-H for 1960.
2. Observe National 4-H Club Week and Achievement Day Program.
3. Observe Rural Life Sunday with appropriate ceremonies.
4. Sponsor delegates to 4-H Short Course.
5. Sponsor delegates to Wildlife Conservation Camp.
6. Prepare and put up educational booth at Fair.
7. Select and purchase trophies, plaques and medals for 4-H members and leaders.
8. Finance delegate to Regional Camp.
9. Select outstanding boy and girl of the year.
10. Make radio broadcast.

PART II

OUTSTANDING BOY

OUTSTANDING GIRL

DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

.....
.....

THE MOST OUTSTANDING BOY FOR 1960

Thomas L. Bowers, a member of the Concord Senior 4-H Club, was considered the 4-H Club Boy who made the most outstanding contribution in project work and leadership for the year 1960.

Thomas is 15 years old, and the only boy in a family of three children. Thomas's father is a part-time farmer which gives a greater opportunity for the development of the boy.

Thomas joined the 4-H Club at the age of ten and has shown exceptional ability in performing individual tasks.

Thomas has been a state winner two times, and a winner of five county awards. He is a member of the New Farmers of America at the West End High School, a member of the football team, the Debating Society, the Science Club. He attends Sunday School regularly and is a member of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. He also attended the Regional Camp in Washington, D. C.

His projects for 1960 are: fifty layers, one market hog, one-half acre sweet potatoes, two acres corn, one-half acre vegetable garden, Wildlife and Leadership. Thomas gross over \$1500.00 from his projects for 1960

THE MOST OUTSTANDING GIRL FOR 1960

Antionette Marie Johnson, is a member of the Wightman 4-H Club and a Senior at the East End High School, South Hill. She was considered the girl making the most outstanding contribution to 4-H Club work in the county.

Antionette Marie is a member of the Lone Oak Baptist Church. She is a member of the Sunday School, the Junior Choir and Junior Missionary. She is active in her high school activities and an excellent student.

She is poised, quiet and dignified in her manners and possesses a very pleasing personality. Antionette shows an unlimited power of will to stick to the job and see it through.

Her 4-H Club record speaks for itself. The scope and variety of projects she has conducted indicates the versatility with which she can operate.

She has also participated in county and state activities on a large scale. She has served as delegate to conferences, made radio broadcasts and given numerous demonstrations.

The projects she conducted for 1960 are: vegetable garden, cooking, canning and sewing. The awards won by her at the local fair is an indication of her ability and competency. She plans to enter college upon graduation from high school.

THE COUNTY'S DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

The chief function of the county's demonstration committee is to set up plots throughout the county (for demonstrations) which are representative samples of products grown in the area. The objective is to show through actual participation and observation the results of improved and applied methods for better farming.

The demonstration committee embraces the 4-H Clubs, the Home Demonstration Clubs and the Advisory Board. Each group has its own committee Chairman, but work out activities jointly.

1. The 4-H Demonstration Committee:

The demonstration committee gives excellent opportunities for growth and development in leadership and responsibility to a large number of 4-H Club boys and girls. It is another phase of the program that children learn by doing.

The results of the demonstrations are as follows:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>no. demonstrations</u> | <u>participants</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Achievement Day | 1 | 72 |
| Clothing | 23 | 196 |
| Club Recreation | 33 | 1,072 |
| Corn | 14 | 20 |
| Exhibits | 3 | 84 |
| Field Crops | 7 | 7 |
| Foods | 15 | 208 |
| Garden | 31 | 162 |
| Health | 4 | 145 |
| Talent | 1 | 43 |
| Workshops | 1 | 30 |
| Yard Improvement | 10 | 26 |

2. The Community Improvement Committee:

There is a number of unorganized improvement committees whose activities are based on individual basis, but for this report only the organized groups will be considered. The Community Improvement Committee is the Palmer Springs Committee.

| Area | No. Demonstrations | Participants |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| A.S.C Program | 9 | 19 |
| Clothing | 5 | 36 |
| Farm Management (Records) | 5 | 53 |
| Home Improvement | 8 | 31 |
| Reforested | 2 | 2 |
| Soil Conservation | 14 | 14 |
| Winter Crop | 3 | 27 |

3. The Home Demonstration Committee:

Most of the demonstrations set up by the Home Demonstration Committee are conducted during the regular monthly meetings. However, during National Home Demonstration Week, area demonstrations are given. Each meeting is a demonstration meeting. The results of the demonstrations are as follows:

| Area | No. Demonstrations | Participants |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Clothing | 48 | 200 |
| Exhibits | 3 | 18 |
| Flowers | 16 | 170 |
| Foods | 48 | 416 |
| Furniture | 16 | 75 |
| Kitchen (plans) | 2 | 16 |
| House Plans | 4 | 10 |
| Storage | 8 | 80 |

4. The Crop Improvement Committee:

The interest and participation in the crop improvement committee has grown over the years. Individuals enjoy the prestige and recognition that go along with single demonstrations on their farms. New projects are gaining much popularity among farmers in the county. The results of some of the demonstrations conducted during the year are as follows:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>No. demonstration</u> | <u>Participants</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Landscape | 4 | 16 |
| Pasture (old) | 5 | 21 |
| Pasture (new) | 2 | 5 |
| Tobacco (flue) | 2 | 2 |
| Tobacco (aromatic) | 6 | 6 |
| Potato (sweet) | 14 | 12 |
| Soil and Water | 3 | 5 |
| Meadow strip | 1 | 1 |
| Housing (new) | 3 | 3 |

The demonstrations recorded above were supervised either by the agent, specialist or community leaders.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Five years ago a new feature was added to the Extension Program. "Farm and Home Development." Five farm families were contacted and this phase of the program discussed, based on the limited instruction given the Extension Agent.

Since the program, as understood dealt with the cooperation of the entire family as a single unit, an inventory of the complete family operations was necessary. After the completion of the inventory, long time goals were set up in accordance with the scope of individual operations. Emphasis was placed on the management phase of farming. Additional time was allotted to these five families, and much follow through was put into advancing this phase of the program.

Only three of the five families have managed to reach recognizable goals to date. One of the three did not complete one of the major projects started, therefore only two families will be mentioned in this report. They are Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hawthorne and Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Burwell.

The Hawthorne Family

Mr. and Mrs. Hawthorne were married at the beginning of world war two. Mr. Hawthorne spent 39 months in the Armed Forces and upon his return enlisted in the Institutional-on-Farm Training Program for three years. Under the supervision of Mr. Hinton, Mr. Hawthorne purchased 105 acres of land, and much of his farm equipment. The farm house (see picture below) was a log structure and very crude, but it did not stop Mrs. Hawthorne from making the surroundings attractive.

The Old Farm House



Long time planning has paid off for the Hawthornes'. In the past five years their farm income has nearly doubled. For supplementary income the family added laying hens and brood sows. As the family income increased plans were made for a new home. The family looked over the plans in the Extension Office and selected plan No. A62. (See picture below).



Hawthornes' New Home

The house was completed in the late fall of 1959. It was too late to seed the lawn, therefore the seeding was done in August of 1960. The landscaping will be completed this fall. The success of this family is due largely to management.

The Burwell Family

Early in the 50's a large number of farm families had to sell their property to the Government and clear the way for the John H. Kerr Dam. The Burwell family was one of the many families who had to make a new start in a different part of the county.

The family moved from the Soudan community into the Clarksville community and purchased 78 acres of land. The old farm house provided adequate space for the family (see picture below) but as the family grew up and moved out Mr. and Mrs. Burwell wanted a more compact unit. Mr. Burwell nearing retirement age and is gradually turning all farm operations over to one of his sons.

The house pictured on next page is the results of careful management and planning for the future.

Burwells' Old Home



Burwells' New Home



The building of new homes was not the only achievement of the two families previously mentioned, but it does represent the completion of one of their main goals set up in the long time plan.

"THE OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY"

The family who made the largest investment on their farm during the year is the Alexander Family of South Hill.

Small farmers make such poor progress with their farming because their investments are too small. When we refer to investments we should consider only a small percentage of the investment that can be called profit. If the investment is small, the profit is even less.

Clarence C. Alexander and his wife Inez Morse Alexander is a very modest couple who believes that it pays to invest, when it is a sizable investment.

Clarence nor Inez attended any college, but both gained much factual information, knowledge and many skills through every day experiences. Clarence was a restless type of boy who always looked for adventure. In 1937, he left his father's home to look for public work and remained in public employ until 1942. In 1942 Clarence was inducted into the Armed Forces where he remained until 1945. In 1945 upon discharge from the service, he returned to work on the home farm under the institutional-on-farm program, where he remained until 1950. In 1950 he started to work for himself, but rented his father's farm. Clarence rented from his father until 1955 when he purchased 100 acres of his own. He borrowed the money from the Federal Land Bank. In addition to the purchase of the 100 acres of land the horse drawn equipment was replaced by mechanized equipment.

At this stage of Clarence's farming operation he decided that it was better for him to deal with the Farm and Home Administration for farm operational loans. For the next five years Clarence borrowed \$1,400.00 annually for the operation of his farm. During the years of 1955 to 1960 Clarence and Inez lived in the house pictured below.

The early Home of
Clarence and Inez



Clarence used the buildings (pictured below) on his father's farm until he obtained his F.H.A. Loan in 1960.



In 1960 Clarence and Inez Alexander negotiated a F.H.A. Loan for \$16,000.00 and an additional \$1,400.00 operational loan. They used the cash to finance the purchase of an additional 68 acres of land, the new brick dwelling (pictured below) and the two other buildings pictured on this page.

The Alexanders' present
Home



Present Pack House
and Strip Room



Clarence and Inez Alexander has a gross income of approximately \$6,000.00. They practice general farming on their meager 168 acres of farm land. Their operation for 1960 includes 4.3 acres of flue-cured tobacco, 8 acres of wheat, 10 acres of corn, 15 acres of permanent pasture, twelve acres of mixed hays, one-half acre sweet potatoes, 3 dairy cows, 3 beef heifers, 5 brood sows, seven market hogs, one bear, 63 pigs for sale, and a flock of 50 layers.

The family hire labor during the rush season, but most of the farm work is done by Clarence and Inez.

They are both very active in civic and community activities. They have no children of their own, but have been mother and father to a number of unfortunate youngsters.

Their investment in human resources is equal to that in natural resources.

"POTATO DEMONSTRATION"

Farm management is a complicated word to many small farmers and its practice means even less to others. However, there are some small farmers who believe that the practice of good farm management does pay off in the end. There were nine farmers who elected growing sweet potatoes as a supplementary crop for additional income. The results of these demonstrations are as follows:

| Name | No. acres | Bushel | Grading |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| | | Harvested | Bushel No. I - II |
| Hutcherson, J. A. | .05 | 163 | 77 |
| Brown, George | .08 | 215 | 112 |
| Dokes, Claude | .03 | 97 | 52 |
| White, Lewis B. | .09 | 271 | 123 |
| Phillips, Decature | .06 | 176 | 75 |
| Morse, Richard | .04 | 105 | 55 |
| Jones, Willie E. | .03 | 84 | 35 |
| Farrar, A. A. | .03 | 59 | 20 |
| Lyons, Ansel | .03 | 86 | 42 |

Most of the potatoes were harvested during the month of September, cured and stored. The local markets purchased a large number of the culls for across the counter sales. Individual families bought many of the jumbo for canning purposes. The potato demonstration proved to be an asset to the farming communities in the county.

AROMATIC TOBACCO DEMONSTRATORS

Aromatic tobacco, the new tobacco that was introduced in the county several years ago, has fascinated a number of small farm operators. One farmer had this to say about the production of aromatic tobacco, "Aromatic tobacco is like any other crop. The man who attempts to produce and market a quality product must understand many phases of the production, culture and management of the crop grown. Experience is the greatest factor involved in the production of aromatic tobacco. It is no different than any other crop once you understand its habits of growth and maturity. I believe aromatic tobacco is more profitable than flue-cured tobacco."

There is a number of advantages in growing aromatic tobacco as well as disadvantages. Some of the advantages are: First, there is no allotment factor involved; second, the crop can be harvested early; third, curing cost is low; fourth, handling, storing and marketing are very simple.

Some of the disadvantages are: first, labor requirements are very large; second, harvesting is continuous; third, soils and weather conditions are most important, and are factors which determines the success of failure of the crop.

The following table is the results of aromatic tobacco demonstration in the county for 1960.

| <u>Farm Number</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>No. Lbs.</u> | <u>Average Per Lb.</u> | <u>Total Gross</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | .06 | 576 | .916 | \$ 527.63 |
| 2 | 1.00 | 804 | .928 | 746.38 |
| 3 | .09 | 946 | .910 | 871.15 |
| 4 | .05 | 531 | .991 | 526.40 |
| 5 | .08 | 801 | .888 | 712.14 |
| 6 | .07 | 537 | .985 | 529.03 |

PART III

"AGRICULTURE IN THE FIELD"

"Field Crops"

Procedures and Methods

CORN

COTTON

FARM MANAGEMENT

FORESTRY

HORTICULTURE

PASTURE AND HAY

SOIL CONSERVATION

SMALL GRAIN

TOBACCO (KING)

4-H CLUBS

LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC RELATIONS

.....

CORN

Corn is one of the grain crops grown on nearly every farm in the county regardless of size or type of farming. Crude culture and management practices are still being used by a number of farmers. The use of hybrid seed corn has increased tremendously in the past several years, but has a long way to go to reach 100 per cent. Most of the corn grown is used for livestock and home consumption.

COTTON

Most of the cotton grown in the county is on very small acreage. Large farm owners rent the cotton allotment to small farm owners on half-share basis. Under such conditions, the land owner supervises the cultural practices and handle all management. The small farm allotment very seldom, if ever, goes above one acre.

FARM MANAGEMENT

The term "farm management," is not too well understood by a large number of small farmers. Its meaning, to many, lends itself to additional work for the already overworked farmer. It has been a difficult task to interpret satisfactory its true meaning and function in the operation of farm business. Individual demonstration plots have done more to coordinate the farming activities under a management program than any single phase of Extension work.

Small farmers are small because they have failed to use management as a factor to increase production, efficiency and capital. Many of these small farmers believe that he is not expected to produce because of the size of his initial investment. He is reluctant to try new methods, improve practices or risk investments for improvement. The squeeze of markets and large farm operators has caught him in the middle, therefore he fear taking any chances. One factor alone, management, is the key to success for the small farmer. Social security for the farmer has done more to establish record keeping in the county than any single unit of development.

FORESTRY

Small farms have a peculiar situation which does not lend itself to forestry. The farm must provide land for farming, pasture, fuel and all other operations. Hardwood makes the best fuel, therefore, to destroy or remove the hardwood and replace with pine forest seems unreasonable. The small sections of forestry are used yearly as supplementary income, and the cleared land for the production of crops. Only a few farmers practice reforestration. During the year only an approximate 15,000 pine seedlings were set by Negro farmers.

HORTICULTURE

The practice of horticulture among Negro farmers is limited to only a few fruits for home consumption. There are no commercial fruit growers within the borders of the county. The production of all fruits combined would not exceed 1,000 bushels. Most of the small farmers find it too expensive to purchase the necessary equipment for the maintenance of an orchard. However, there are several farmers who grow small and large fruits for market.

PASTURE AND HAY

There has been some noticeable progress made in the development of permanent pastures in the county. The actual number of acres seeded can only be estimated, since many of the acres of pasture were temporary summer pastures. The results of supervised seeded pastures are as follows:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>No. Acres</u> |
|-------------|------------------|
| Hester | 7 |
| Brown | 5 |
| Downey | 6 |
| Burwell | 5 |
| Reid | 8 |
| Dokes | 3 |
| Alexander | 6 |
| Oliver | 4 |

| Name | No. Acres |
|-------------|-----------|
| Talley | 35 |
| Phillips | 6 |
| Crutchfield | 26 |

The new hay crops planted under the Extension Program are as follows:

| Name | No. Acres |
|-------------|-----------|
| Talley | 37 |
| Crutchfield | 25 |
| Phillips | 7 |
| Hester | 5 |
| Alexander | 13 |
| Harrison | 22 |
| Downey | 6 |
| Jones | 8 |

The seeding of pasture and hay under Extension supervision was also assisted by the County's A.S.C. Program. The figures listed in the table on the previous page do not include the many one, two and three acre fields seeded by individual farmers without improved recommended practices.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Many of the farmers are beginning to adopt better practices of soil and water conservation. The soil conservation is making available more service to the farmers as additional members are added to the staff. As an additional service, farm planning program, along with soil maps are provided each farmer who apply for service. Three additional farm ponds were build and numerous fields were terraced during the year.

SMALL GRAIN

Small grain is used almost exclusive for home consumption and live-stock feed. Small wheat allotments have open the avenue for larger seeding of oats and barley as a stock feed. Small grain, since it is not a cash crop, has not gained the importance it should have among small farmers, therefore cultural practices are limited in the county. The average yield still remains around 25 bushels per acre.

TOBACCO

Tobacco is the king still among the small farmers. The introduction of aromatic tobacco has gained some favor and popularity among a few of the farmers.

The adoption of new and different varieties has done much to reduce diseases and aid in developing a better market product. Tobacco (flue-cured) will always remain the bright spot in Southside Virginia until industry move in with better opportunities for the small farmers.

4-H CLUBS

The 4-H Clubs have suffered much for the need of leadership. The real importance of leadership to 4-H Club boys and girls has not been as significant to adults as it might have been. There are a few devoted parents, but not enough for the vast number of children who are interested and could benefit from the training.

By what rule of thumb can the progress of 4-H Clubs be measured? What are some of the deciding factors in determining whether 4-H Club work is good for young boys and girls? How can the leadership ability and the need for additional training be determined? The question - where do we go from here?

There has definitely been a decrease in interest and participation during the year. The re-organization of 4-H clubs had its advantages and disadvantages. One of the advantages is that only those interested returned.

The disadvantage is that a large number will be without the benefit of 4-H Club training. Where should the line be drawn?

LEADERSHIP

There is a quality found in individuals known as leadership. This quality may be stimulated, initiated or cultivated. Some of the attributes of good leadership are: the ability to accept suggestions and criticisms, to agree and disagree with the same amount of enthusiasm, to pave the way by making known what is good for others to follow and by precept and example.

The leadership in Mecklenburg has knowledge of the previously mentioned characteristics, but other forces tends to retard the growth and development of full cooperation. It is true that leadership throughout the county is very good, but more is needed if progress is to continue upward.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The factors involving public relations in the county are:

1. Adverse conditions
2. Demands of society
3. Information

- 4. Getting the job done
- 5. Cooperation
- 6. Understanding the other fellow
- 7. Personal contact
- 8. Respect for authority

The public relations program, no matter where it is found, is no larger than the people involved. Each individual must play his role. Public relations is only the individual in action.

.....
.....