
NARRATIVE REPORT

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

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INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATION

Extension work is an orderly and purposeful educational program planned and implemented by local people for farm and home betterment and community improvement. This program should be built by the people according to their specific needs with maximum participation on the part of the people. Said program to be planned, promoted, executed, sustained and owned by the local people. We have a program in simple fashion when we have both long-range and short-range goals and objectives and a sufficient organization of our resources to reach them.

The quality of farming now being done is quite impressive. Not only are the farmers building up the fertility of their soil, improving their crops and livestock and raising their level of living but they are approaching farming from a business management point of view. Farmers are keeping records of yields and expenditures. Farm people who have the potential for good living and the farming know-how especially among the owners of family size farms, see a promising outlook. The above is apparent in expanding fields of high yielding crops and improved livestock grazing and improved pastures. Nutrition is uppermost in the minds of farm families, both with food and feed.

More and more shabby housing is being replaced by attractive homes with hot and cold running water, comfortable furniture and deep freezers adequately laden with meats, fruits and vegetables.

Even the drought which has parched their pastures has not discouraged them. What they had learned about conservation farming had to be pressed into use. Difficulties which have come about because of droughts and declining farm prices made the teaching of agricultural agencies more meaningful. Over the years agents have been stressing recommended cultural practices, well prepared seed beds, use of liberal amounts of recommended fertilizers, rotation and improved breeds of plants and livestock.

Tenants and croppers are finding it increasingly difficult to remain in agriculture in the face of mechanization, acreage allotments and the lack of the know-how needed.

Interesting facts about Southampton County farm situations: Changes indicated below took place in the past five years. There are 216 fewer farms. The average size of farms has increased 15 acres. The average value of farms has increased from \$7,600.00 to \$14, 141.00. 9,448 acres previously planted to row crops are in permanent pastures. 7,276 acres have been seeded to annual crops for livestock consumption. Corn crops have increased 5,240 acres. Acreage and production of all small grains have increased. Peanuts have been cut 9,140 acres. Cotton has been cut 6,063 acres. Again per acre yield increased. Watermelon increased from 23 to 422 acres. Tractors have practically doubled. Corn pickers have increased from 98 to 373. Combines have practically doubled. Telephones in farm homes have increased from 191 to 364. 533 additional

farm homes have televisions, 800 with water under pressure and 677 additional home freezers.

Research information is being made quickly available for farm people. This information is being presented in an understandable and stimulating manner. Local leadership is making a worthwhile contribution in a changed farming situation.

No longer are farmers attempting to mine the land in order to improve their standard of living. Constant low yields resulting from poor stands caused by poorly prepared seed beds and faulty seeds are being avoided. With advances in modern sciences in disease control, the ancient superstitions with the moon as a guide is rapidly disappearing. Farmers are having their soil tested for the purpose of increased yield at economical cost.

Mechanization is changing the farm picture. Families purposely grow a beef, a hog or broilers to be deep frozen for the family's consumption. Acres of land previously seeded to row crops are now in permanent pastures. Other additional acres are seeded to annual crops for livestock consumption.

Building and repairing homes, farm buildings, fences; purchasing and repairing farm machinery, adding conveniences and time saving devices in homes and records of home and farm activities are definitely a part of the farm management program. With labor saving devices in the home and on the farm, families find added pleasure in relaxing. Farm families have been stimulated to a growing participation in educational

meetings and other agricultural agencies.

With the present production shortage in crop yields because of adverse weather conditions and the declining farm prices, farmers are quite confused. They are in dire need of sound advice. They are being encouraged to use all the know-how available; to consider all recourses in producing maximum crop yields with the most economical expenditures; to plant acres out of cultivation to supplement cash crops and to provide crops for livestock consumption; to get the maximum profit from their gardens; to conserve surplus for future use; to take the best care of farm machinery for more efficient performance; to cut expenditures for excess recreation and to be over cautious in creating additional obligations.

STATUS OF COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION:

Extension organizations in the county are: County Advisory Board with a membership of seventy-two families, nine organized communities with a membership of four hundred three families, Junior 4-H Council of a hundred seventeen members and the Agronomy, Livestock and Forestry Committees with sub-committees of soil management, crop management and better markets. Leaders in the above organizations plus other local leaders of the county play an important roll in sponsoring extension activities.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD:

The County Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, is a

member of the State Advisory Board which meets annually. The County Board is the governing head of the county's extension activities. It has to do with sponsoring the community live-at-home work in the county.

This board approves of plans of all committees, meetings planned for, fairs, tours, rallies, picnics, Achievement Day programs and elects delegates to the State Advisory Conference.

STATE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday and Thursday, September 7 and 8, agents and farm delegates from Southampton attended the State Advisory Board Meeting in Cumberland County. Theme of the meeting was that, the strength and stamina of a country are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land. The group toured farms and farm families told their stories of merits and values accomplished by using correct farming methods under the guidance of the extension agent.

AGRONOMY COMMITTEE:

Tuesday, March 29, District Agent S. E. Marshall and Agronomy Specialist H. P. Lacey met with a group of farmers, vocational agriculture and veteran teachers in Courtland at which time information was given on recommended fertilizers, methods of applying the same, seeds and cultural practices. Methods were discussed and outlined for getting said information to neighboring farmers in an understanding and stimulating manner. Committee appointed vowed that they would use

practical methods in getting information over to other farmers, as visitation, meetings, while shopping on Saturday, church meetings and other such places. Judging from participation the committee's results were commendable.

CORN:

Members of the Agronomy Committee carried out recommended practices with their corn crops and succeeded in getting a number of neighboring farmers to do the same. Results were favorable. Farmer Joe, of Zuni Community, and a member of the committee, who has over the years produced above average yields, made the observation that if farmers follow recommended practices given by the agricultural extension service, they will always profit from the same.

PEANUTS:

Because of adverse weather conditions, extreme drought followed by a period of excess rain, peanut yield is out this season. Farmers carrying out recommended practices find their yields are still above the average of the season. Problems of this nature force farmers to put into use what they have learned about conservation farming.

For the most part peanut fields have been seeded to rye grass for winter grazing and the vines stored for livestock consumption.

PASTURES:

The quality of farming is apparent by the acres of

improved pastures. The trend of grass land farming is conspicuously obvious in the farm management program. Demonstrations vary in size from one to sixteen. We have eighteen demonstrations consisting of seventy-two acres. Good management including rotational grazing is stressed. Farmers are learning that good pastures are the sources of the most economical feed. Visits to State College and Holland Experiment Station proved good teaching in pastures.

SMALL GRAIN:

Eleven farmers are conducting demonstrations with small grain. A total of eighty-two acres is being used. In a number of cases the small grain is followed with soybeans to be harvest. Barley and oats are used for supplement in feeding out February pigs with excellent results.

GARDENS:

Farmers are still making possible supplement in their diets with fresh vegetables. They conserve vegetables, fruits and juices that they might use out of growing seasons.

POULTRY:

Eight poultry demonstrations are being conducted. Mr. Dean, Specialist from Blacksburg, visits these demonstrations semi-annually at which time he inspects, offers criticisms and scores the flocks. With liberal amounts of eggs, milk, butter and vegetables there are fewer bills and improved health.

HOGS:

Hog raising is a major enterprise here. Twenty-two demonstrations with a total of 1064 hogs are being conducted. A number of our farmers are members of County, State and National Purebred Swine Breeders Associations.

Selection, feeding, breeding and sanitation share in responsibility for farmers' success in this enterprise. In selecting, records and performance of preceding generations are important. Crib feeding, weaning, castration and treatment against diseases and worms are necessary for a thrifty herd.

In 1950 our farmers established a County Purebred Swine Breeders Association. The Association sponsored four meetings and two sales annually. Quality of improved breeds in expanding herds is reaching a new high. Farmers are no longer contented with uneconomical scrub hogs. They boast with pride of their registered stock. Around 360 bred gilts and 120 young boars have been sold in the county since the establishment of this organization. This sale program has offered satisfactory outlets of improved stock to farmers of this county.

During the past six years breeders of the county have consigned hogs on fairs in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. They have also consigned hogs to purebred sales in Southampton County, Smithfield and Suffolk with commendable success.

THE T. B. McCLERNY FAMILY:

The T. B. McClerny family of Wakefield community, Southampton County, is doing a superior job of profitable farming on a plot of 127 acres. The excellence of their farming, homemaking and citizenship resulted in their being presented a plaque for an excellent job in farm management by the State Advisory Board.

T. B. McClerny, his wife, and their four children (Bernard 13, Martha 11, Portia 7 and Junius 5) are healthy, strong, congenial warmhearted folks. The main business on this farm is growing an excellent herd of purebred spotted Poland China hogs.

All buildings on the farm have been constructed recently except the home and work shop. The home has been completely renovated. All other buildings have been constructed by T. B. and Bernard.

McClerny is a member of the State Board of Directors of the Purebred Swine Breeders Association. His breeding stock consist of 16 sows and one herd boar. His boar is one of the best in Virginia. His sows farrow February and September. Around 130 pigs are saved each farrowing.

T. B. has visited sales in Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Ohio and bought top hogs and in so doing built up his herd. The major part of the herd's replacement is raised on the farm. There is a well equipped farrowing house including an office which is laden with ribbons.

McClenny consigns hogs to fairs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. He also consigns hogs on purebred sales in the county, Smithfield and Suffolk.

McClenny's entire farm is tile drain, home and barnyard well lighted and water under pressure. Water is piped more than a hundred yards to pastures.

Mrs. McClenny gets a world of work done in the home in a relatively short time. Practically all equipment is electric and there are numerous time and labor saving devices. One door of the kitchen opens into the pantry with shelves laden with vegetables, fruits and juices. Mrs. McClenny grows around 60 cockerels each year for the deep freeze. She deep freezes an entire pork and major parts of an entire beef.

Both Bernard and Martha are 4-H members. For the past three years Bernard has raised pigs separate from the main herd to consign to the market hog show and sale sponsored by the meat packers of this area. His three spotted Poland Chinas won reserved champion at the sale in '54. This fall, along with his father, Bernard consigned hogs on Richmond's Fair.

Peanuts and watermelons are the cash crops grown on this farm. The farm is completely mechanized.

The key to the McClenny's family success has been the team work as a family unit on their farm and with their neighbors in improving their community.

JUNIOR WORK

Monthly meetings present opportunities for sharing research findings with 4-H members and leaders, satisfying their hopes and ambitions. Club members and leaders are conscientious in planning and implementing their activities.

In the Junior Work, judging and demonstrations are used as incentive to stimulate interest in participation, to the end of personal development. Citation and awards are used to motivate them.

Uniforms, caps, emblems and the like keep them mindful of belonging to a large group. With projects in crops and livestock an attempt is being made to teach principles in cultural practices that individuals might grow into successful farmers and business men and women. Participation in managing projects develops in the Juniors a pride of ownership and a development of the individual.

We have 13 organized 4-H clubs with a total of 996 boys and girls. Of the 326 boys enrolled in project activities, 264 completed them.

Parents have begun looking beyond projects, the chicken, the calf, and the pig to the development of the individual. They like seeing their children out front. Juniors and leaders are planning activities that are giving more fullness to the community.

4-H Club Week:

During 4-H Club Week one new club was organized. Leaders and members of eight of the thirteen clubs of the county sponsored special programs, observing National 4-H Club Week. Six of the clubs presented programs during regular meetings. Two clubs presented night programs.

The programs consisted of the meaning of the 4-H Clubs, the purpose of the Week, progress reports, poems, songs, skits, club motto and pledge. Leaders, parents and friends participated.

4-H members made posters which were displayed in windows of business places. As a result of a membership campaign, we have an increased enrollment of ninety-two members. 4-H record books were checked. These programs further acquainted the public with 4-H activities.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY PROGRAM:

The county Achievement Day Program was held Saturday, October 22 in the 4-H building in Courtland. 4-H members displayed samples of vegetables, farm crops and livestock.

Farm Agent Lancaster of Hanson County, along with agricultural workers of the county, judged the farm crops and vegetables. Farm Agent Powell of Mecklenburg County judged the livestock and showmanship of the Juniors.

4-H members in the form of a fashion review, modeled attires for various occasions.

JUNIOR MARKET HOG SHOW AND SALE

Tuesday, October 18th Vocational Agriculture instructors and Farm Agents presented their annual junior market hog show and sale with N F A and 4-H members at the Fair Ground in Suffolk. This program is sponsored by the meat packers of this area.

Southampton County club members, Robert Bernard McClenny, Miss Carol Joe and Lemuel Warren, Jr. consigned a pen of three hogs and two singles respectively. Bernard won 4th place with his pen of three. Carol and Lemuel Jr. won Champion and Reserved Champion respectively with their singles. Upward of 100 hogs were exhibited and sold on the occasion.

Bernard also exhibited hogs at the Rural Exposition Fair in Richmond, winning creditable prizes.

Adult leaders played an all important roll in helping these clubbers fatten their hogs for showing. They also trained them to show their animals. Parents and leaders were present in large numbers to witness the performance of the youngsters.

STATE MEETINGS:

Delegates and leaders participated in both the 4-H Short Course and the Wildlife Conference. 4-H activity is a family affair which comes about through scientific methods of production and marketing and finding new ways of reducing cost and improving quality; unified efforts for the good of all.

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○ All are taught the principles of learning by doing. Learning the importance of responsibilities is essential and awards are only earned by work well done. In the clubs the members are trained to live and work with others in a spirit of co-operation for better understanding, stressing personal health and safety.