Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

1955

S. D. Woods
agent

assistant agent

Buchanan
county

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

BUCHANAN COUNTY

1955

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ADDRESS: Grundy, Virginia

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III. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Buchanan County farming is carried on for the most part by the women, children, and men too old to work in the mines. Not more than one farm out of ten in the county support the people who live on it. The primary industry in the county is mining the coal from the mountains.

The mountains in the greater part of the county are entirely too steep for cultivation or even pasture. For the past several years land that was cleared and put in pasture before the mining operations came into the county in the thirties is going back into timberland. Old fields that were in pasture eight or ten years ago are now grown up in native, poplar, white oak, linden, and other varieties of hardwood timber.

The coming back of the timber is a good economical factor in Buchanan County since this steep land should never have been cleared in the first place. The woodland in the greater part of the county is again coming down to the small streams. The Forestry Department is doing a good job keeping the fire out of our forests and eventually this young growth of timber will prove a big asset to Buchanan County.

As estimated above, at least nine out of ten of the twenty-one hundred farmers, or part-time farmers, and the head of the family works in the mines. These men earn from fourteen to twenty five dollars per day, and by producing their vegetables, milk, and pork on the farm are able to maintain a high standard of living.

The primary industry, mining, in the county has been going good in 1955. The 432 truck mines and the 15 large operations have been

running full blast this year. The Norfolk & Western Railroad Company is pulling more coal from Buchanan County than it did during World War II. A businessman remarked the other day that business in Buchanan County is one-fourth better this year than anyone expected it to be. This general prosperity is affecting everyone in the county. The majority of our part-time farmers drive good cars and have their homes furnished with good equipment.

There are an estimated twenty-five hundred gardens in Buchanan County. These gardens are grown on the small bottoms along the creek and many are on the hillside. Each farmer and part-time farmer grows a little corn, potatoes, and other truck crops. On some of the mountains where there are a little flat land, the farming is more extensive. For example, Clyde McGlothlin, who lives on Fletcher's Ridge, works in the Keen Mountain mine. Clyde has eight children and all of them in school except two. Clyde McGlothlin grows about four acres of hybrid corn and has twenty acres of pasture land. He grows a good garden, plenty of potatoes, and other vegetables to feed the family. He also grows .6 of burley tobacco. With Clyde McGlothlin's wages from the mines, supplemented by the food grown on the farm, he is able to clothe his family of ten, buy school books, and maintain a reasonably high standard of living. The most substantial people in Buchanan County are the people who are part-time farmers and part-time miners.

IV. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs

Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee

Mobilization Committee	Drought Committee
4-H Club Council	Woodcliff Garden Club
ASC County Committee	4-H Leaders' Organization
County Board of Agriculture	Buchanan County Fair Committee
Buchanan County Forestry Committee	One Community Improvement Organization

Pasture Improvement Organizations

V. MAJOR PROJECTS IN 1955

AGRONOMY

A. Situation

According to the 1950 Agriculture Census, there were 10,816 acres in cropland in Buchanan County. There are in Buchanan County 325,120 acres. This is only three per-cent of the land in the county which is farmed. This figure shows how little of the land is in cultivation. The main field crop in the county is corn with 5,537 acres. There are only 14,290 acres in pasture. It is assumed that the remainder of the 10,816 acres of cropland is in garden, potatoes, and other truck crops.

The problem of the people in Buchanan County is to produce more food on the limited acres of land suitable for cultivation. The grocery bill of the people in Buchanan County is enormous. A part-time farmer who grows his food at home can maintain a higher standard of living. If a surplus is produced on a farm, there is a ready market for farm products in the town of Grundy and the nearby mining camps.

Most of the corn, potatoes, and other crops are grown on the sides of the mountains. The labor involved in farming an acre of land in

Buchanan County is very great. For the most part, the farming is done with a mule and bull tongue plow and with hand hoes. There is some farming in Buchanan County which is done altogether with hoes. The steep land is dug into corn, beans, and other crops and a plow is not taken into the field since the land is so steep.

Farm labor in the county costs the farmer from $.75 to $1.00 per hour. Consquently, the farming is confined to what the women and children and the farmer, or part-time farmer, himself can do. A big proportion of the farming is done by the women, children, and the father, when he is not working in the mines. The land in Buchanan County is productive and although small acreage is planted, the crops are very good.

The three thousand cows in Buchanan County do not have enough pasture. There is no stock law and at least one hundred to fifteen hundred of these cows roam up and down the creek beds and roadsides getting what grass there is available. A few run on open range and in the woodland.

B. Goals

The people in Buchanan County need to produce the greatest amount from their truck patches and small acreage of corn. Since the labor required to farm one acre in Buchanan County is so great, the production must be high in order to pay the farmer a net return.

C. Methods

The County Agent, through farmer's meetings, radio programs, and newspaper articles, has emphasized to the farmers in the county the

value of using adapted seeds, adequate fertilizer, and proper cultivation. The County Agent working through the various seed dealers in the county has had these dealers to order the new kennebec potato, hybrid seed corn, and 10-10-10 fertilizer as recommended by the Blacksburg Experiment Station. The County Agent has also insisted on the fertilizer dealers in the county keeping nitrate of soda and the majority of the farmers side dress their corn with nitrogen when it is about knee-high. The County Agent has also worked very closely with the ASC County Committee and has gotten his recommendations adapted. Several meetings have been held in connection with the ASC County Committee and the Soil Consveration Technician over the county. Newspaper articles have been written about each ASC practice adapted by Buchanan County. At least ten radio programs, during the year, were given on the value and how to establish good pastures.

D. Results

The majority of the farmers and the part-time farmers in Buchanan County are using eight hundred to one thousand pounds of 5-10-5 fertilizer under adapted hybrid corn and then side-dressing with fifty to one hundred pounds of nitrogen. This side dressing is done when the corn is knee-high since the soil in Buchanan County is sandy and this late application of nitrogen is more efficient. By using a heavy application of fertilizer and nitrate of soda, many of the farmers are producing from fifty to seventy-five bushels of corn per acre. The farmers in the county have almost universally adapted the new kennebec irish potato. This potato has a high produce and the quality is excellent.

Over fifty acres of alfalfa and orchard grass were seeded in the spring and fall of 1955. At least two hundred acres of ladino clover and orchard grass was seeded this season. Kentucky 31 Fescue and ladino clover was sowed on several acres of old pasture which was fertilized with ASC 2-12-12 fertilizer. The net results of the agronomy program in Buchanan County is that our land is producing more and a better quality of corn, potatoes, hay, and pasture. Also, there is not near enough improved pasture established, good demonstration plots of ladino clover and Kentucky 31 Fescue are established over the whole county.

2. POULTRY

A. Situation

According to the 1950 Agriculture Census there are 35,476 chickens in Buchanan County. These chickens are kept by at least one thousand farmers and part-time farmers. The average size flock of chickens is thirty to thirty-five. Ten or twenty farmers and part-time farmers keep one hundred or more laying hens.

At least one-half of these chickens are hatched under hens each year. The remainder one-half is ordered from hatcheries and bought from local stores who handle baby chicks each spring. Very few baby chicks are purchased in early March and the majority are purchased in late April or May.

There are far too many mixed breed of chickens over the county. The chickens that are hatched under hens do not get their start until

May or early June. Consequently, these pullets which are kept by the farmers do not come into laying until January or February of the next year. Because of the seasonal production in January and February, eggs are at a low price. Many of these chickens are not grown rapidly enough and if records were kept, the farmer would find that his flock of chickens loses money each year.

B. Goals

1. To get more of the farmers and part-time farmers of the county to keep a small flock of high-bred chickens to produce eggs for their own use and to sell on the local market.

2. To improve the poultry houses over the county by getting those who repair or build new houses to follow VPI plans.

3. To increase the quality of all the chickens in the county by insisting that the farmers and part-time farmers order their chickens from reliable hatcheries.

C. Methods

The County Agent has established ten or twelve good laying flocks over the county. Ten or twelve farmer's meetings on poultry were held in the early part of 1955. At these meetings the advantage of keeping high-bred chickens was discussed and a moving picture shown on the care of farm flocks. The "Peep And Moo," originating at the Agricultural Extension Department, is mailed to twenty farmers each month. Thirty-five farmers are sent each issue of "Poultry Hints For Tomorrow's Poultrymen."

The County Agent is called upon to do considerable personal service with poultry. Better methods of taking care of poultry is discussed with the individual farmers and his wife on farm visits.

Bulletins on how to care for poultry are handed out in the County Office and at meetings held over the county. The twenty-two 4-H Clubs over the county held one meeting each on the care of poultry during the year. These children are handed bulletins on poultry and asked to take them to their parents.

D. Results

The Sears, Roebuck Foundation furnished one thousand New Hampshire Reds to the Buchanan County 4-H Clubs in March of this year. Nine boys and one girl took one hundred chickens each and grew them under the supervision of the County Agent. The roosters were sold and these 4-H Club members and families have kept the pullets. These demonstrations are in every section of the county. At present, these pullets are shelling out the eggs and the 4-H Club boy's projects are showing a profit. There are twenty family flocks of one hundred laying hens and two commercial flocks. These poultrymen ordered their chickens early and have had them in the laying house since early September. Since eggs are now bringing around $.60 per dozen in this section, these people are making some money from their laying flocks. One small commercial producer who has 250 white leghorns has bought one hundred individual coops and is trying this method of producing eggs. When I was at his place last, the pullets had just gone into the laying house and were not producing too high. This commercial poultryman is evidently making money since he built a new house this year and bought the individual coops.

More of the farmers who are keeping only twenty to thirty laying hens are keeping one breed. It is the County Agent's aim to get more

back yard flocks established throughout the county. He also intends to work more closely with the small commercial producers and have them to follow VPI instructions on caring for their flocks. Buchanan County needs more fresh eggs produced locally and the County Agent is trying to bring this about by getting a better quality of chickens and more chickens in the county.

VI. MINOR PROJECTS

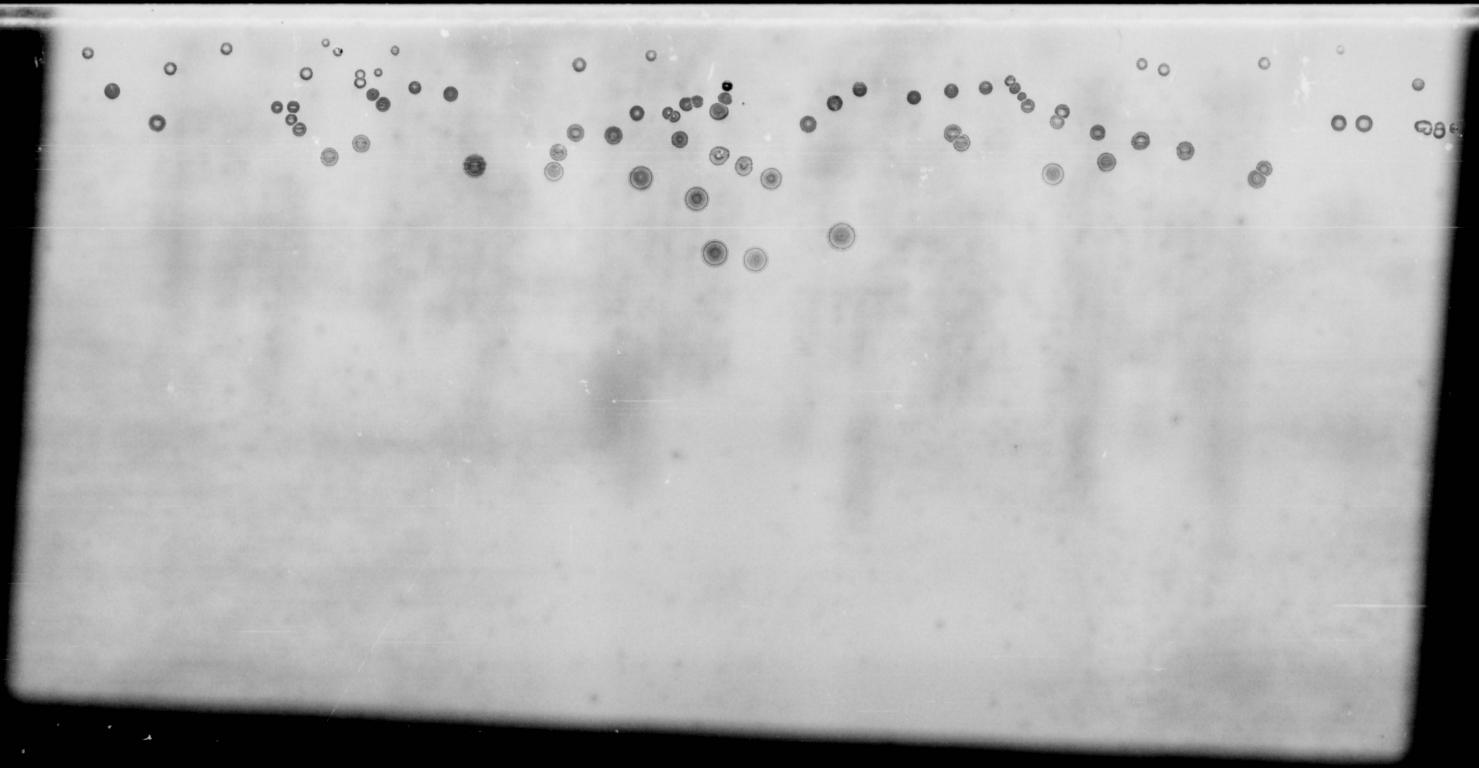
1. DAIRYING

A. Situation

The three thousand cows which are kept by the farmers and part-time farmers in Buchanan County do not have enough pasture. These cows are very vital in furnishing milk for at least twelve thousand children of Buchanan County. At least one-half the cows in the county are of nondescript breed and are not suitable to be kept as milk cows. There is not enough hay or roufage produced in the county for the milk cows and stock cattle.

B. Goals

The County Agent has strived over the years and in 1955 to get more improved pastures established for the cattle in the county. He has worked with the ASC Committee, farmers' groups, and Community Clubs to promote a better pasture and hay program in the county. It has been the aim of the County Agent to get a small plot of ladino clover and Kentucky 31 fescue established on every farm. The County Agent has worked this year, as in the past, to get more hay of high quality for the cows on the farms in the county.



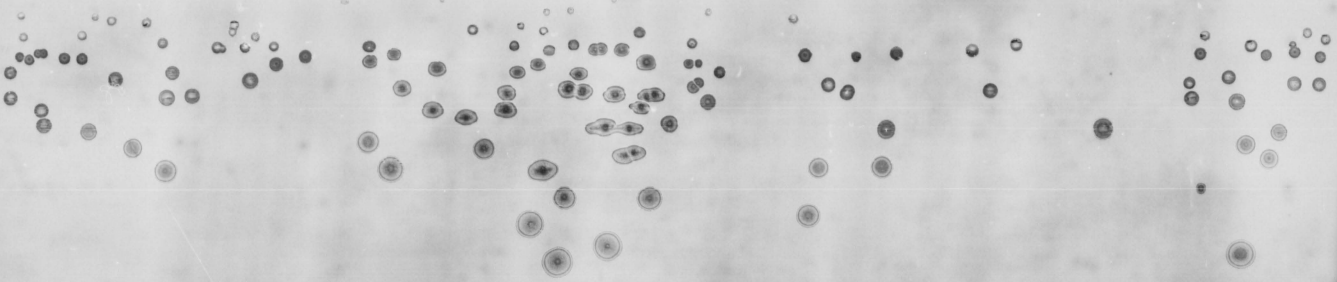
C. Methods

The Agent has devoted several radio broadcasts to the care and importance of keeping good milk cows. Four newspaper articles were devoted in 1955 to the care of the family cow. The County Agent has handed out numerous bulletins at farmer's meetings, 4-H Club meetings, and in the office on the care of the family cow and also the care of milk.

The Agent has worked closely with the ASC Committee and has personally sent several of the farmers to the committee to sign up for ladino clover and Kentucky 31 fescue.

D. Results

The County Agent has established over the years several plots of alfalfa throughout the county. These demonstration plots are causing more farmers to become interested in growing alfalfa with the results that fifty new acres were planted in 1955. More farmers in the county are keeping pure bred jersey or gurnsey cows. The result of this practice is that the children and the neighbors children to whom they sell milk are getting a better supply. A few farmers in the county are breeding their cows to high-grade dairy males and keeping the heifer calfs for replacement. It is the thinking of the County Agent that a stock law will soon be passed in the county and the milk cows will have to be kept in fields rather than roam up and down the roads and in the woodland. There has been established several improved pastures in the county and it is the aim of the County Agent to get more improved pastures established in the coming year.



2. LIVESTOCK

A. Situation

The growing of livestock for beef in Buchanan County is a very minor industry. Not over two or three farmers in the county keep as many as ten to fifteen animals. These farmers who keep ten or twelve beef animals are the farmers who live on top of the ridges and have some grazing land. The one thousand beef animals which are kept over the county are scattered in one, two, or three animals per farm over the county. Since the labor required to farm this land is so great, there is not near enough feed produced for the cattle which are now kept in Buchanan County. A number of the farmers in the county buy feed and winter some small stock in Buchanan County and during the summer rent pasture land in Russell or Tazewell County.

B. Goals

The County Agent has worked to get more pure hereford bulls in the county. He has also encouraged those farmers who have enough pasture to keep a few good grade calfs over the winter and graze them out and sell them as yearlings.

C. Methods

Working through the ASC and Soil Consveration Service, the County Agent has developed a realization among the farmer for the need of more and better pastures. Good demonstration plots in ladino clover and Kentucky 31 fescue, were established throughout the county in 1955. The VPI pamphlets on "Pasture is Your Cheapest Feed," and other pasture bulletins have been handed out in the County Agent's Office and at farmer's meetings. Several newspaper articles and radio

broadcasts have been devoted to the better pasture program. The County Agent in all of his personal contacts and home visits discusses the need of more pasture on the farms.

D. Results

As stated above, through the efforts of the County Agent, fifty new acres of alfalfa were planted this year. Also several acres of clover and timothy meadows have been planted. About twelve thousand dollars, ($12,000.00), of ASC money was used in the county and the majority of this money went to the farmer to help sow new permanent pasture and renovate old permanent pastures. The result of this program is that our pastures, as a whole, were greatly improved in 1955.

The quality of the cattle in the county has been improved this year from the result of having about twenty-five pure bred hereford bulls in the county. Two farmers have gone into the pure bred hereford business this year.

3. HORTICULTURE, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES

A. Situation

There are twenty-five hundred to three thousand gardens in Buchanan County. The food raised in these gardens is consumed as fresh vegetables and canned for winter use. The soil in Buchanan County is well adapted to gardening and a great number of the people are very fine gardeners.

Irish potatoes, which are grown on every farm, is one of the chief items of diet. Sweet potatoes are also grown extensively.

Tomatoes are grown in each garden and is an important item in the diet of these mountain people. Bunch beans and corn field beans are grown in all the gardens. Too many of the gardens in Buchanan County are left bare without a cover crop during the winter. There are too few animals in the county to furnish enough barn yard manure for the garden. Because of the shortage of tillable land our gardens are usually grown year after year on the same plot.

B. Goals

1. To get the maximum production and good quality of vegetables from our gardens.

2. To get the gardeners in Buchanan County to use the improved varieties of vegetables as soon as they are recommended by the VPI Experiment Station.

3. To furnish the necessary humus to the garden soil by growing cover crops on our gardens.

4. To keep before all the gardeners the latest information on insect and disease control.

5. To influence the gardeners to plan their gardens so that they will get the necessary vegetables needed for their families.

C. Methods

The County Agent held about fifteen garden meetings in various communities in 1955. At these meetings a late garden picture was shown on the care and culture of gardens. At least fifteen or twenty radio broadcasts during the year were devoted to some phases of garden problems. The bulletins on gardening from VPI were handed out to the five hundred 4-H Club children and to all of the farm men and women who attend farmer's meetings. Ten or twelve articles on gardening were written by the County Agent for the local paper.

During the farm visits of the County Agent the garden problems are discussed with the men and women of the farm.

D. Results

The gardeners in Buchanan County are using the improved varieties of vegetables in their gardens, such as: the kennebec potato, golden bantam sweet corn, Ruther's tomatoes, Fordhook 242 lima beans, contender snap beans, blue lake pole beans, and Wisconsin all-season cabbage. The farmers over the county are using at the rate of one thousand pounds per acre of 5-10-5 fertilizer. This fertilizer is plowed down in the garden and very little used in the row. Some farmers are using nitrate of soda in the garden with good effects in this sandy soil.

The quality of our vegetables in the county is improving as shown at the County Fair held in August. The vegetables are of the highest quality showing that they have had good tillage, proper fertilization, and insect and disease control. Many of the farmers over the county are using sawdust to mulch their tomatoes and other vegetables. They are following the late bulletin from the Extension Department published by J. D. Juggins. Strawberries increased in our gardens in 1955 and many of the strawberries went into the deep-freeze, which many of the farmers are buying.

VII. TURKISH TOBACCO

Our first three crops of turkish tobacco was marketed in Independence, November 22. Because of enexperience in curing, our tobacco did not bring the top price. However, I believe that the farmers who

took this tobacco are convinced that we can grow quality turkish tobacco in Buchanan County and if cured properly, it will pay reasonably good wages. One farmer who grew about one-tenth of turkish tobacco received $59.00 for his crop. We believe that with this modest beginning that more families will grow this tobacco in 1956. The three farmers who were on the market and saw tobacco which had been cured properly certainly know a lot more about curing and bailing their tobacco. A part of two crops taken taken to the market were rejected because the bails were too tight and the tobacco had mildewed.

Since the burley allotments are cut down so low, I believe that several substituent farmers can increase their income by growing turkish tobacco. We are going to try to get as much as six acres grown in Buchanan County next year.

VIII. BUCHANAN COUNTY FAIR

The Buchanan County Fair was again sponsored by the Buchanan County Chamber of Commerce. The president of the Buchanan County Chamber of Commerce appointed a Fair Association Committee. The Fair Association sold over thirteen hundred dollars, ($1300.00), worth of advertisements and worked up and had the fair catalogs printed. The Fair Association Committee used some of the money in reserve from last years fair. Over sixteen hundred dollars, ($1600.00), was spent by the Fair Association in paying premiums and other expenses of the fair.

Display, although not as large as in former years, was of excellent quality. There were over thirteen hundred individual exhibits of garden products, poultry, canned goods, sewing, flowers, and etc.

A K S A F E T Y

displayed at the fair. The Buchanan County Fair is run on a non-profit basis and all of the work is done by the home demonstration women and other voluntary help.

IX. SOIL CONSVERATION DISTRICT

The Soil Consveration District, which was formed in Buchanan County in 1954, produced some results in 1955. Six farm ponds have been constructed and one spring developed. Surveys have been made for tile in two different locations. Since Buchanan County joined the Soil Consveration District, comprising of Wise and Dickerson County, the Soil Technician has not done too much work in Buchanan County. The Soil Consveration Technician, along with the County Agent, is working very closely with the ASC program. The Buchanan County ASC program has used more money in 1955 than in any past year. The County Agent has held several farmers meetings in the spring and in the fall to explain the advantages of using ASC assistance. He has written several newspaper articles and made ten radio programs explaining the ASC share cash program.

X. 4-H CLUB WORK

The County and Home Agent carried eighteen 4-H Clubs during the year. These clubs were met by the County and Home Agent once each month during the school year. During the winter months the boys and girls carried handicraft and the boys carried farming projects during the summer.

One of the most successful projects was the chicken project carried by nine 4-H Club boys and one 4-H Club girl. The Sears, Roebuck Foundation furnished one thousand New Hampshire Reds and each 4-H Club member took one hundred chickens. These chickens were paid for by the 4-H Club members when the roosters were sold and all of the 4-H Club children have kept all, or part, of the pullets as layers. Without an exception, these pullets are laying this fall and are showing a good profit for the 4-H Club members.

The 4-H Club boys who took roasting ears projects showed some good profits. The County Agent recommended that the boys plant golden bantam sweet corn in the early spring and market the roasting ears in the local stores and to their neighbors. About one-half of the boys carried this project out and made a small amount of money.

Some extra ordinary good programs were given by all of the 4-H Clubs during the year. The Extension Secretary mimeographs programs and sends out to each club. These programs are sent to the club leaders and they are asked to use these programs or to get up a program of their own. Many of the leaders in the rural district uses the mimeographed programs sent out from the County Office. This is monotonous to the County and Home Agent going around and hearing the same program at various schools. But the programs, as a whole, are of high caliber. The 4-H Club leaders like to have programs sent from the County Office since they have very little ready material from which to build good programs.

XI. EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

The Agricultural Extension work in Buchanan County has accomplished considerable in raising the standard of living of the people. The

tobacco farmers, gardeners, and truck farmers, are using more fertilizer under their crops and are getting excellent results. There were 324,000 pounds of burley tobacco marketed from Buchanan County in 1954. This tobacco brought on the average of fifty cents, ($.50), per pound. This means that there was over $150,000.00 brought into Buchanan County from the sale of tobacco. The display of vegetables and poultry at the Tenth Annual County Fair this year show that there has been a great increase over the past years in the quality of vegetables produced. The gardeners are using the ready recommendation on seeds, incentisives, fungicides, and other late recommendations from the VPI Experiment Station. There is a renewed interest in establishing improved pastures and renevating the old pastures in the county. The farmers in the county use more of the ASC money this year because of an intensive program on pastures carried out by the County Agent.

BUCHANAN COUNTY

PLAN OF WORK 1955

FILED

S. D. WOODS, COUNTY AGENT

GRUNDY, VIRGINIA

NEW COUNTY BEGINS

BUCHANAN COUNTY

PLAN OF WORK 1955

S. D. Woods, County Agent

A. ORGANIZATION -

1. Mobilization Committee
2. County Board of Agriculture
3. 4-H Club Council
4. 4-H Club Leaders Organization
5. County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs
6. Buchanan County Forestry Committee
7. Buchanan County Key Bankers Association
8. Buchanan County Fair Committee
9. Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee
10. One Community Improvement Club
11. Pasture Improvement Organization
12. ASC County Committee
13. Soil Consveration Committee

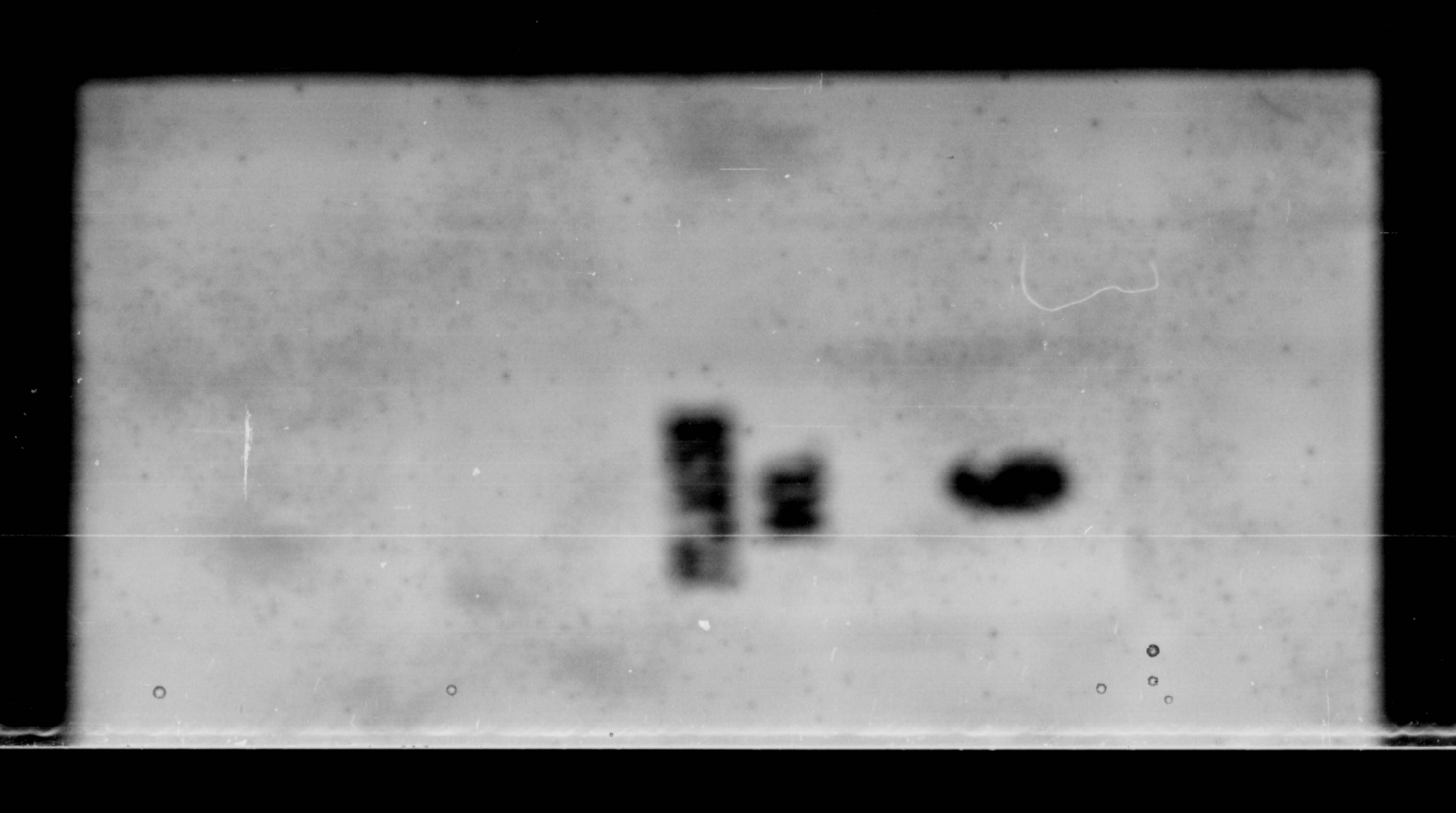
B. 1. THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTY -

Mining is still the chief industry in Buchanan County with agriculture assuming a secondary role. Besides the thirteen large operations, there are, according to the mine inspector, 832 truck mines. Most of the young, able-bodied men are at work in the mines.

Although employment is at a rather high level in the county, there are many men without work. On Mondays when the unemployed sign up, the court halls are full of men who are signing up for their unemployment. There is a spirit of uncertainity among everyone holding a job in the county, since it is believed that the pending legislation in congress may shut down a number of our non-union mines. A lot of these non-union mines are paying a considerable figure below the union scale.

The raising of food for the family has always played a big part in the food production in Buchanan County. The most of our families work at the mines and their wives and children grow gardens and truck patches at their homes. With so much unemployment in the county, there should be a greater emphasis put on home grown food in 1955.

We have a few farmers, two or three hundred, who live at very low standards and depend entirely on their tobacco, gardens,



and truck patches for a living. The part-time families who make a substantial living work in the mines, has a home in the country, keep a cow, chickens, hogs, truck, and garden. Our farm land is limited since so much of the country is in woodland and is unfit for pasture or farming. Most of the land is too steep even for pasture.

2. HOW THE COUNTY EXTENSION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED FOR 1955 -

The County Agent has met with the County ASC Committee and discussed the needs of the county. He has also consulted the leading farmers in the county and got their opinion as to the enterprise most suitable for Buchanan County. The County Home Demonstration Committee has made a rather definite plan for home demonstration work during 1955 and has given suggestions to the County Agent. The Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee has had one meeting and discussed the agriculture need of the county. From all these sources, the County Agent has compiled data and is arriving at the plan that follows:

3. GENERAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE COUNTY -

One of our big problems in Buchanan County is not having enough crop land on which to grow feed for our livestock. The 5,537 acres in corn does not produce the maximum amount of corn possible. A lot of the land in corn should not be farmed because it is too steep. There is not near enough hay produced in the county for the three thousand milk cows and young stock.

The county needs more improved pasture for the cows and other stock. We also need more good meadows to produce a high quality of hay. The land that is farmed should be handled more efficently and fertilized heavier so that the maximum production can be obtained.

There is a great need in the county for an intensive cash crop. It is the hope of the County Agent and the Agricultural Professional Workers that turkish tobacco will eventually meet this need. There are over four hundred farmers in the county who have from one tenth to eight or nine tenths allotment of burley tobacco. There are over eighty farmers who have only one tenth allotment and, of course, can not realize much cash from this one tenth allotment of burley tobacco.

4. AGRONOMY -

A. Situation:

a. The garden and truck patches do not produce the maximum amount of food because of inadequate fertilizing.

b. More improved pastures are needed since it is evident that a stock law will soon be passed in the county and the cows must be taken off the highways.

c. Although the production of corn has increased in the last few years, the production can further be increased by using adapted hybrids, plenty of fertilizer, and nitrate of soda.

d. The income from burley tobacco can be increased by persuading the farmers to plant their full allotment and use a good culture.

e. Because of the limited amount of crop land, much of our crop land must have row crops on it year after year.

f. There is not enough good hay produced in the county to feed the three thousand milk cows and other livestock.

B. Immediate, Recognized Needs:

a. To get more cover crops sowed in 1955 so that extra humus can be added to the soil.

b. To get more farmers to establish small plots of alfalfa and orchard grass meadows.

c. To increase the number of bushels of corn grown on an acre.

d. To get higher quality and a larger production from our gardens and truck crops.

e. To get more and better pastures established in the county.

f. To help the burley tobacco farmers realize more money from their alloted acreage.

g. To establish a new cash crop of turkish tobacco in the county.

C. What Will Be Done In 1955 To Meet These Needs:

a. More cover crops of rye grass and hairy vetch will be sowed in 1955.

b. An intensive drive will be made by the Extension Department to get the farmers to use more fertilizer on their gardens and under their crops in 1955.

c. The County Agent will work with all of the tobacco growers, giving them information how to sow and care for their tobacco beds, fertilize and cultivate their burley tobacco crops.

d. At least Three Farm and Home Unit Demonstrations will be conducted in the county.

e. The County Agent will work closely with the Soil Consveration Technician in making maps of three or four farms in the county.

f. At least five or six families will produce turkish tobacco in the county this year. Demonstration plots were grown last year and it was found that we can grow good quality turkish tobacco in the county.

g. The County Agent will make recommendations to the ASC Committee and the various farmers over the county on how to use the thirteen thousand dollars alloted to the county.

D. How Program Will Be Gotten To The People And When Each Job Will Be Done:

During the month of February and March, garden bulletin No. 475 will be handed out to the six hundred 4-H club children with instructions to take the bulletin home to their parents. This bulletin will be given out at all agriculture meetings held. During February and March the "Recommendation

For Seed Varieties For Virginia" will be enclosed in all the circular letters sent out over the county.

A circular letter on gardening will be sent out to the eight hundred farmers on the mailing list. Mr. L. C. Beamer, or a specialist from the Experiment Station, will be in the county during the month of March or April for a series of meetings. Seed dealers and all professional workers in the county will be furnished the recommendations for "Fertilizer for Virginia" and recommendations for seeds. Mr. G. R. Epperson was in the county in February, and all the dealers were at a meeting in the courthouse. Mr. Epperson discussed the use of fertilizer and gave varieties of seeds recommended for the county.

The County Agent will write a timely news article or column for the paper each week of the year. In this column will be timely recommendations on seeds and fertilizer, treatment of lawns, the different kinds of shubbery to use around the home, and care of poultry and livestock. On the fifty-two radio broadcasts given by the County Agent, will be timely discussions on subjects such as: preparing lawns, variety of seed to use in the garden, fertilizing gardens, adapted hybrid corn for Buchanan County, how to establish improved pastures, and other subjects. The radio broadcasts of the Agent seems to be very popular among the rural people. Bulletins recommended will be sent to those people who write in and request them.

Three Farm and Home Units will be carried by the County and Home Agent. These farm families will be selected not later than the fifteenth of March.

Several applications are now in the County Agent's Office to grow turkish tobacco in the county. About five of the most substantial farmers will be selected and the County Agent with the State Supervisor for turkish tobacco will work closely with these five farm families.

One Community Improvement Project has already been organized and at least two more communities will enter the Community Improvement Project. If there are not as many as three communities carrying this Community Improvement Project, the County and Home Agent have decided to drop this enterprise. At least six or seven circular letters carrying informative bulleting will go out to all the farmers during the year.

The County Agent acting as exofficio member of the ASC County Committee will give technical assistance to the County Committee and farmers. The County Agent is encouraging the County Committee and farmers to bring in samples of their soils and prepare to seed several plots of alfalfa and orchard grass during the first week of April. Several farmers have already decided to sow alfalfa and orchard grass since they can get assistance through the ASC program.

E. Where Field Meetings and Demonstrations Will Be Held:

a. Claude Flethcer, Venia, and Flanders Rose at Council are two of the families who the County and Home Agent will work with in the Farm and Home Improvement Unit. The other family is yet to be selected.

b. Three method demonstrations on grading burley tobacco will be held in the burley tobacco section of the county.

c. A garden contest with prizes furnished by the Leemaster Community Club will be conducted in the Leemaster Community.

d. The Buchanan County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the tenth Agriculture County Fair at Grundy in August.

e. Result demonstrations of farmers growing hybrid 645 yellow corn will be held in various sections of the county.

f. Fertilizer demonstrations using one thousand pounds of 10-10-10 under corn will be held in the Slate Creek section of the county.

g. Demonstrations on fertilization of old pastures will be carried out throughout the county. These demonstrations will be in connection with the ASC program.

h. A number of farmers over the county will demonstrate the value of growing Kentucky 31 Fescue and ladino clover. Also alfalfa for hay.

i. In the fall of 1955, Jerry Mathews will hold some tobacco bed demonstrations on treating beds with cyanamide.

j. The County Agent has placed several applications for farm ponds with the ASC Office for farm ponds and it is the hope that the Soil Conservation Service will get enough technical help to have these ponds completed this year.

k. The County Agent and the State Supervisor of turkish tobacco will have at least five or six good farmers growing turkish tobacco in the county in 1955. It is our plans to supervise all of the major steps in growing this turkish tobacco and be certain that the farmers growing this tobacco make money from their enterprise.

l. It is hope that before the year is finished that one or two good drainage demonstrations will be complete in the Breaks area of the county.

F. Who Will Cooperate:

The ASC County Committee, the Community Improvement Committee, and a group of loyal farmers over the county. The Soil Consveration Committee and Soil Consveration Technician will also cooperate with the County Agent in the above demonstrations. The twenty two 4-H club leaders throughout the county will assist in distribution of information. The Home Demonstration Clubs will cooperate in gardening and home improvement programs.

G. Goal For 1955:

The primary objective of the Buchanan County Extension Program is to raise the standard of living of our people. It is hope that this can be done by a thorough demonstration of late information from the V. P. I. Experiment Station and conducting good demonstrations in each neighborhood in the county.

It is hope that the income of our farm people can be increased by growing better burley tobacco and by initating the new crop of turkish tobacco in the county.

The Buchanan County Agricultural Extension Department also expectd to increase the spending power of the farm families by assisting them to grow more of their home food supply. Through the publicity department, meetings and farm contacts, the Extension Department hopes to assist both farm and urban families in beautifying their homes and surroundings.

H. Specialists Needed:

E. W. Mundie, Soil Conservationist
G. R. Mathews, Associate Extension Agronomist (Tobacco)

G. R. Epperson, Associate Extension Agronomist
(Corn and Small Grains)
L. C. Beamer, Associate Extension Garden Specialist
John M. Amos, Associate Extension Entomologist and
Plant Pathalogist
F. W. Patton, Associate Extension General Forestry
W. A. Turner, Associate State 4-H Club Agent
W. P. Judkins, Horticulturist
Gene S. Moody, Associate Extension Editor
S. B. Fenne, Extension Plant Pathologist
A. L. Dean, Associate Extension Poultry Husbandman
P. B. Douglas, District Agent

5. POULTRY -

A. Situation:

a. There is a good local market for poultry products in Buchanan County.

b. There are too few commercial poultrymen in the county. There are only about five or six commercial poultrymen.

c. The price of eggs are usually ten or twenty cents higher in Grundy than in farming sections of Virginia.

d. The small flocks kept by the farmers and part-time farmers do not get proper care.

e. Although the housing situation for poultry in the county has improved over the years, there is still a lot of room for improvement in laying and brooding houses.

f. One handicap in keeping poultry is the lack of range for the laying hens.

g. Too many of our poultry owners keep their hens for two or three years.

B. Immediate, Recognized Needs:

a. There is a need for more of the small poultry owners to grow replacements of their laying flock each year and dispose of their old hens.

b. There is a very pressing need in the county for better laying and brooding houses.

c. Farmers and part-time farmers keeping layers should sow more winter cover crops and provide more green range for their layers.

d. All of the people growing poultry in the county need information on brooding and caring for their chicks.

e. There should be a program in the county of vaccinating the laying flocks against fowl-pox.

f. The people who order chicks in the county should have information in regard to the best Virginia Hatcheries from which to order their chicks.

g. More people in the county must order their baby chicks early so that the peak of laying will come in September, October, November, and December when egg prices are the highest.

h. There is a need in the farming section of the county that farmers grow some feed for their poultry and supplement this home grown feed with laying mash.

C. <u>What Will Be Done In 1955 And How Program Will Be Gotten To The People</u>:

a. A list of one hundred farmers who have the greatest number of chickens will be sent each month the circular from the Extension Department, "Hints For Tomorrow's Poultrymen."

b. The Sears-Roebuck Foundation is furnishing the County Agent one thousand baby chicks for the 4-H Club program in the county. These chicks will be let out to ten 4-H Club members throughout the county and will be closely supervised by the County Agent.

c. These ten poultry 4-H Club members will be required to display three of their pullets at the County Fair which will be held in August at Grundy, Virginia.

d. The County Agent expects to have at least fifty 4-H Club poultry projects for 1955. All of these boys and girls will have a chance to display their chickens at the County Fair. They will receive timely information.

e. The County Agent plans to write fifty two or more newspaper articles during the year. At least ten of these articles will be devoted to poultry. The same will be true of the fifty two radio broadcasts which the County Agent will make during the year.

f. The County Agent will hold a series of twelve poultry meetings throughout the county during the month of March, 1955.

g. The County and Home Agent will stress poultry enterprise in the Farm and Home Units.

h. The County Agent plans on doing more visits to individual farms this year and will help each home owner with poultry problems.

D. Where Field Meetings And Demonstrations Will Be Held:

The County Agent is conducting a Sears-Roebuck Foundation Project in the county, 1955. One thousand chicks will be received from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, but more boys have made applications for chicks than the number Sears-Roebuck is furnishing. The County Agent will see the Cumberland Bank And Trust Company and get enough money to supply the other applicants with chicks. It is estimated that there will be fifteen or eighteen boys growing chicks under the Sears-Roebuck Foundation Contract.

At the County Fair, which will be held in August, very attractive prizes will be offered to adults and 4-H Club members in the poultry department.

Several culling demonstrations will be held in the spring and early summer by the County Agent in each community in the county. Poultrymen will be taught how to continuously cull their laying flocks so that this highpriced feed will not be eaten by non-layers.

A tour of the 4-H Club projects will be held in early fall and all of the 4-H Club poultry project boys will be shown what the other boys are doing. The eighty dollars, ($80.00), in prize money offered by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation will be given from the displays at the County Fair.

E. Goal For 1955:

The goal for the poultry enterprise in Buchanan County for 1955 is to have poultrymen do a thorgugh job of culling. The

County Agent is trying to educate the people who keep laying flocks to get rid of their hens over one or two years old and grow replacements of pullets. The County Agent will make an attempt to get everyone who remodels or builds a new poultry house to follow the plans from V. P. I.

6. 4-H CLUB WORK -

Twenty-two 4-H Clubs will be carried by the County and Home Agent during 1955. Twenty out of the twenty-two 4-H Clubs are organized in schools. Five of these clubs have outside leaders who come into the school once or twice a week and help the teacher-leader with the 4-H Club project. It is the aim of the County and Home Agent to get at least ten outside leaders for the 4-H Clubs during this year.

The Sears-Roebuck Foundation is furnishing the 4-H Club Department in Buchanan County with one thousand baby chicks. The County Agent is letting these chicks out to ten 4-H Club members. These 4-H Club members are to pay the price of the chicks when they sell some of their chickens. This money will be placed in a fund with which to buy chickens for needy boys and girls next year. At least twenty applications for chickens have been received by the County Agent, and he plans to go to the Cumberland Bank & Trust Company and obtain enough money, interest free, to finance these other club members.

Because of the topography of Buchanan County, many of the 4-H Club members have very little space for their projects. The County Agent is planning on buying several thousand superfection everbearing strawberries and sell them to the 4-H Club members and have them carry the strawberry project. Quite a number of the boys will carry bunch beans, sweet corn, tobacco, and tomato projects.

The County and Home Agent will faithfully mimeograph 4-H Club programs in the County Office and mail them to the 4-H Club leaders. By helping the teacher-leaders and other 4-H Club leaders with material for programs, it is believed that exdellent programs will be given each month in all the 4-H Clubs.

At the County Fair, which will be held in August, the fifty-two dollar, ($52.00), bicycle will be given to the 4-H Club Department. Each 4-H Club boy or girl who wins a blue ribbon, will have his name put in a box and a drawing will be held on the last day

of the fair, and the lucky 4-H child will receive this nice prize. In addition to the master bicycle, there will be an excellent money prizes in the 4-H Club Department.

7. CALENDAR OF WORK -

MARCH - a. Six night garden meetings at Rowe, Wolford, Big Rock, Deskins, Whitewood, and Council.

b. Lining up at least two more communities to participate in the Community Improvement Project.

c. A night meeting in Grundy co-sponsored with the Virginia Forest Service.

d. Assist at least six or eight farmers to sow turkish tobacco beds.

e. Meet with twenty-two 4-H Clubs.

f. Finish lining up all of the 4-H Club boys with summer projects.

g. Distribute baby chicks to 4-H Club members.

APRIL - a. Visit all the 4-H Club Poultry Projects.

b. Meet with twenty-two 4-H Clubs.

c. Start lining up 4-H Club members to go to 4-H Club Camp.

d. Work with the Buchanan County Chamber of Commerce in organizing the Buchanan County Fair to be held in August.

e. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

f. Work with the ASC County Committee.

g. Circular letter to eight hundred farmers on "How To Fertilize and Cultivate Gardens."

h. Six night meetings on gardening, with member from the Extension Gardening Department.

MAY a. Work with premium list and other details about the Buchanan County Fair Catalogue.

b. See that ads are solicited and catalogue compiled and sent to the printer.

c. Attend the twenty-two 4-H Club meetings.

d. Write letter to all of the 4-H Club parents asking their cooperation in carrying out the summer projects of their children.

e. Collect a deposit from all 4-H Club members who have signed up to go to summer camp.

f. Hold at least six night meetings for farmers.

g. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

h. Make personal visits to at least twenty farmers. Included in these are the Farm and Home Demonstration Units and turkish tobacco growers.

JUNE

a. Visit all the 4-H Club Poultry Projects.

b. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

c. Work with the ASC Program.

d. Make final plans for the 4-H Club Camp to be held in July.

e. Visit all Farm and Home Unit Demonstrations and turkish tobacco growers.

f. Meet with the Community Improvement Project Clubs.

g. Attend the 4-H Club Short Course.

JULY

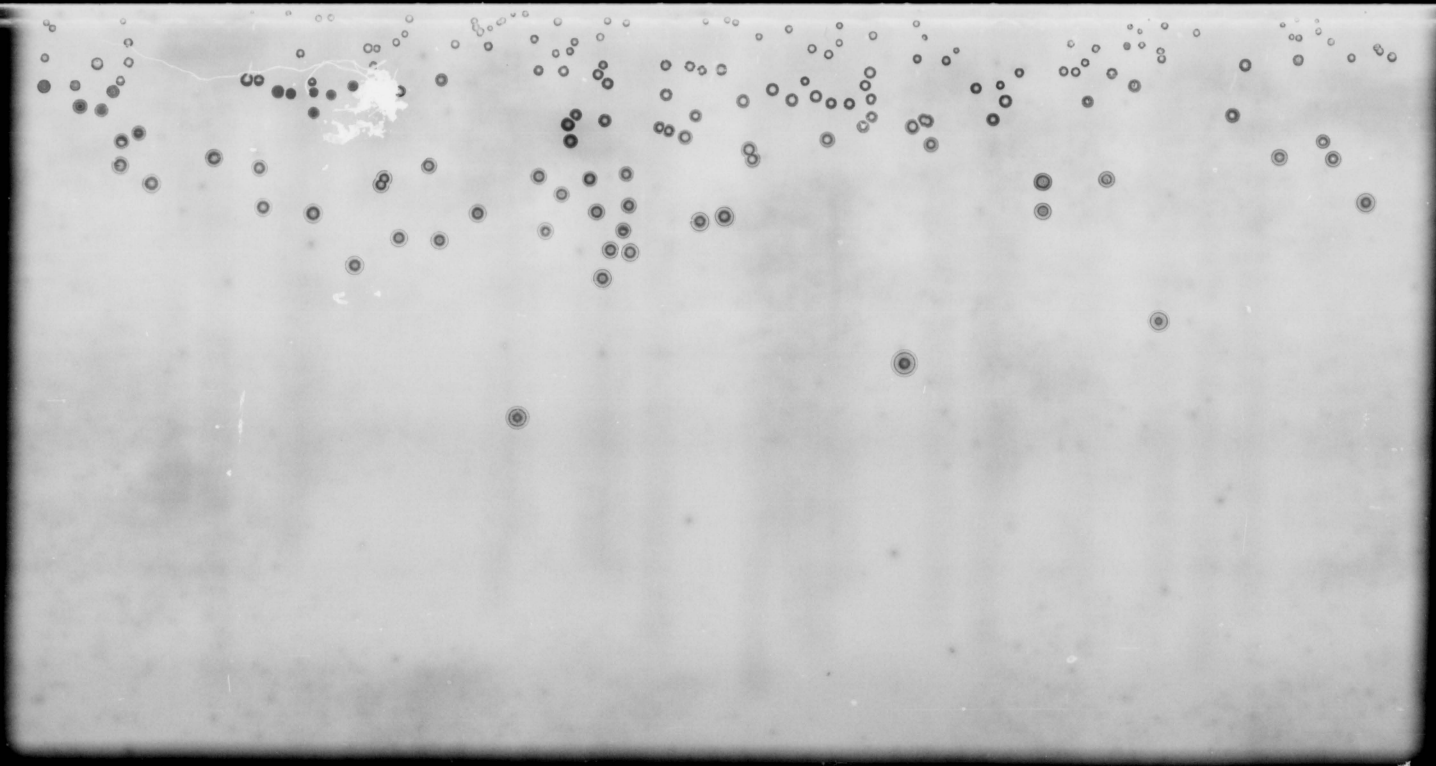
a. Attend 4-H Club Tri-County Camp.

b. Attend Institute of Rural Affairs.

c. Six poultry culling demonstrations.

d. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

e. One week vacation.



f. Show farmers how to harvest and cure turkish tobacco.

g. Advertise and create interest in the fair which is coming up in August.

AUGUST

a. Buchanan County Fair

b. Annual Extension Conference

c. Garden disease and pest control, night meeting.

d. Instructions to farmers on how to sow alfalfa and orchard grass meadows.

e. Assist with the ASC Program.

f. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

g. Twenty or more personal visits to farms and homes.

SEPTEMBER

a. Collect 4-H club record books on summer projects.

b. Attend twenty-two 4-H Club meetings.

c. Organize a few new 4-H Clubs.

d. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

e. Attend meetings and help with the Community Improvement Project.

f. Write letter to farmers in regard to sowing cover crops on their tobacco land.

g. Help a few stragglers get their alfalfa seeded.

OCTOBER

a. Farmers tour to four or five alfalfa demonstration plots.

b. Meet with twenty-two 4-H Clubs.

c. Achievement Day for 4-H Club Members.

d. Three Community Fairs.

e. Securing finished 4-H club record books from 4-H Club boys.

f. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

NOVEMBER

a. Attend the twenty-two 4-H Club meetings.

b. Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles.

c. Three tobacco grading demonstrations.

d. Series of farmers meetings.

e. Annual Report.