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1955

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

FOR

SUSSEX COUNTY

VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1, 1954 to NOVEMBER 30, 1955

H. H. WRIGHT
LOCAL FARM AGENT

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PREFACE

This report is an attempt to relate some of the most outstanding phases of the work of the agriculture extension program in Sussex County. It will show what the advisory board, neighborhood leaders, demonstrators, 4-H leaders, and the local farm agent attempted to do and the techniques employed in doing the job. It will cover a period of work from December 1, 1954 to November 30, 1955. The material will be presented in three phases: The planned work, methods employed in reaching the goals and the results obtained.

Through result and method demonstrations, tours, field meetings and farm visits and the over-all farm program information was spread to the people by the leaders, all showing improved methods in agriculture and home economics. The three major objectives set up by the advisory board for a long range program are: 1. To increase the farm income so as to improve the standard of living; 2. To improve the farm land through better soil conservation practices; and encouraging a variety of foods for the diet.

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Work with 4-H members will be included in this report also, but does not differ in objective, but rather in approach.

We are indebted to the United States Department of Agriculture, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia State College, Hampton Institute and various other agencies and county officials for the cooperation and assistance given us in many ways. We are especially appreciative of the assistance given by the state agent, district agents, and other farm and home agents for their

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County Extension Organization

County Agricultural Advisory Board

Members.....	72
Men.....	37
Women.....	35

County Advisory Board Committees

1. Executive
2. Agronomy
3. Pasture
4. Livestock
5. 4-H

County Junior 4-H Council

Members.....	80
4-H Boys.....	20
4- H Girls.....	40
Men.....	5
Women Leaders.....	15
Junior Leaders: Boys.....	6
Girls.....	6

County 4-H Leaders Association

Members.....	32
Men.....	5
Women.....	15
Junior Leaders: Boys.....	6
Girls.....	6

Community Clubs

Members (men).....	40
Families.....	40

Extension Leaders (less duplication).....

Men.....	42
Women.....	50
Boys.....	20
Girls.....	40
Demonstrators.....	34

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County Agricultural Advisory Board

The County Agricultural Advisory Board is the organization responsible for organizing and carrying out the cooperative extension work in agriculture and home demonstration work for Negroes in Sussex County. The board also assists the agents with the overall program. The community club members, 4-H members and the local and neighborhood leaders assist in dispersing useful information and improved practices to other farm people.

The Advisory Board is composed of farm men and women from the fourteen organized communities. There is a membership of seventy-two persons. The organization meets two-three times annually. At the regular fall meeting, the past years work is reviewed and the program of work is revised as needed. At the spring meeting, the new plan of work is outlined with changes as needed. Usually one or two call meetings a year is held to take care of other responsibilities of the board, concerning other extension activities.

The following committees are within the board: executive, agronomy, livestock, pasture and 4-H. These committees work on their special interest problems and plan work that will improve the living condition of farm people in the county. Of course, these committees work in cooperation with the advisory board.

The county Agricultural Advisory Board is also represented in all other extension organizations. In many instances it helps to finance certain activities of other extension organizations in the county.

County Situation

According to the 1954 Census, Sussex County consists of 317,440 acres of land of which 57.4% is in farms. The overall average value per farm is \$12,954.00. The average per acre value is \$90.36.

There are 631 Negro operators working about 60,000 acres of land. Of these, there are (1950 Census) 206 full owners working 15,311 acres; 184 part owners working 13,285 acres; 412 tenants working 31,473 acres and 207 croppers working 11,907 acres.

peanuts, corn, cotton, tobacco, livestock, poultry, etc.

Peanuts are the largest cash crop in this county. Tobacco, cotton, soybeans and livestock would probably come next with Negro farmers.

There are an increasing number of Negro farmers becoming interested in the production of beef cattle and hogs on a larger scale. We hope to increase the production of livestock proportionately, as we are able to increase the acreage of our permanent pastures.

Project Activities - 1955

Pasture

There is a great need for more improved pastures in Sussex County. Several farmers ran short on pasture this summer. As a result, they were forced to sell a portion of their livestock at greatly reduced prices.

The County Pasture Committee met in January, 1955. We first discussed the situation and then worked out some objectives. The objectives included: plant more improved pastures; renovate old pastures; lime and fertilize pastures according to recommendation at all times; plant more winter and summer grazing; plant and graze more cover-crops and give all grazing land proper management.

As a means to help farmers learn to produce and manage good pastures, on May 2, 1955, we had a pasture tour, which took us to three of our most outstanding pasture demonstrations. We visited farms belonging to Mr. M. C. Parham and Mr. Lawrence Taylor of Hunting Quarter Community and Mr. Joe Newsome, Jr., of Booker Community. Pastures belonging to Mr. Newsome and Mr. Parham consisted of ladino clover and orchard grass. Mr. Taylor's pasture consisted of a mixture of crimson clover and rye. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Parham's pastures received 500 lbs. and 1,000 lbs. of 2-12-12 fertilizer per acre, respectively. Mr. Newsome's pasture received 1000 lbs. 5-10-10 per acre in split applications.

These pastures were in their peak of production. Lawrence Taylor was grazing 80 head of hogs on his winter pasture. These hogs were also being fed a 20% protein hog feed, minerals, and water, free choice. Livestock were thriving well on all pastures visited on this tour.

Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Petersburg, Virginia, was also with us. Mr. Marshall spoke to the group on pasture management. I think the group was greatly benefited by Mr. Marshall's address.

On Friday, July 22, 1955, a pasture field meeting was held on Mr. Luke Cooper's farm of Littleton, Virginia. Mr. Cooper has 18 acres of ladino clover-orchard grass, consisting of two pastures, nine acres each. He had 31 head of cattle, including calves to graze, with no hay at that time. These pastures received 1,000 lbs. per acre of 5-10-10 fertilizer in February and 800 lbs. per acre of lime. Mr. Cooper's cattle kept these pastures grazed too close and he was forced to sell eight head, because of a shortage of feed.

Farmers attending this meeting learned that it does not pay to place too many cattle on too few acres.

As a means of increasing gains, Mr. Cooper built salt boxes with sheds over them and placed them in each of his pastures. He then bought 100 lbs.

farm and home use.

The corn yield on some farms in this county is above 80 bushels per acre, but the average corn yield in this county is 40 bushels per acre.

To aid this situation, at a meeting of the agronomy committee on March 30, 1955, Mr. M. P. Lacy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute Associate Agronomist, told our farmers how to grow more corn per acre by the use of more fertilizer, better varieties and better cultural practices. Mr. Lacy and Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent, also of Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, talked to the group on Crop Varieties and Cultural Practices.

At a later meeting, A. D. Curley of Little Mill Community; L. Taylor of Hunting Quarter Community; Joe Newsome of Booker Community; Whitt Urquart of Newville Community; Watt Bailey and B. B. Jones of Piney Grove Community; and Peter Ford of Jarratt Community agreed to plant corn demonstrations. All these demonstrators selected recommended hybrid varieties, prepared the land, planted, fertilized and cultivated according to Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations. These farmers used an average of 125 lbs. per acre of Nitrogen and 90 lbs. per acre each of Phosphoric Acid and Potash. Most of these farmers also turned under a fairly good cover-crop before seeding corn. A total of 80 acres of corn was involved in these demonstrations.

On August 30, 1955, a result demonstration tour, was held. Four corn demonstrations were visited during the tour. The other three was seen at field meetings.

On the tour, we visited the A. D. Curley farm, the Newsome farm, the Urquhart farm and the Taylor farm. Thirty-five farmers saw these demonstrations. All our corn demonstrations were excellent this year. The average yield for corn demonstrations is estimated to have been between 80 and 90 bushels per acre this year.

In addition to field meetings and tours, circular letters, bulletins, news articles and personal contacts were made in connection with corn production. Thirty farmers saw slides on "Fertilizer Uses and Yield Increase For Virginia."

The results of work with corn production this year and previous years can easily be seen throughout the county. Farmers prepared land better and used more fertilizer than in previous years. Most of our corn demonstrators planted their entire corn crop as a demonstration, using only recommended practices. Farmers have been taught by this agent and members of the agronomy committee, to think in terms of available plant food per acre, instead of the number of pounds fertilizer used. Farmers were also taught the amount of plant food needed to produce certain crops and how to figure out the amount needed. The agronomy committee members has been very helpful in this respect. This committee has been very helpful with the overall agronomy program in this county.

Next year we plan to work along the same lines in getting more farmers to grow more corn on fewer acres.

Cotton

Quite a few cotton growers got a boost in production this year. The cotton situation was getting pretty bad, because farmers got such low yields over the past few years.

To combat the situation this year and to improve yields, three cotton demonstrations were set up in three different communities. Two acre demonstrations were established on A. D. Curley's farm of Little Mill Community, M. C. Parm's farm of Hunting Quarter Community, and Joe Newsome's farm of Booker Community.

These demonstrations were planted during the second week in May. A good seed bed was prepared. Coker's 100 wilt resistant were planted and the seeds were treated. A fair stand came up. These demonstrational plots received a total of 30 lbs. nitrogen, 60 lbs. phosphorus and 60 lbs. potash per acre. They were side-dressed after chopping with 14 additional lbs. of nitrogen and potash, giving a total of 44 lbs. nitrogen, 60 lbs. phosphorus and 74 lbs. potash per acre.

These demonstrations were cultivated regular and shallow.

Boll wevils were not too much of a problem this year. Very few was found during the early squaring season. For this reason, only two applications of Toxaphene were used to control boll wevils.

Thirty-five farmers saw these demonstrations while on a result demonstration tour August 29;

In addition to the above mentioned tour, a field meeting was also held with good attendance. Farmers also received bulletins, circular letters, two news articles were written and personal visits to farmers were made and the latest production methods for cotton was discussed.

As a result of work done with cotton this year and previous years, cotton yields were increased slightly this year. I think, however, that part of this increase may have resulted because of less boll wevil infestation this year.

All cotton demonstrations did well this year. I feel that cotton fertilization and other cultural practices were improved this year throughout the county. One farmer, through not a demonstrator but a good cooperater, reported having made $1\frac{1}{2}$ bales of cotton per acre on a two acre plot this year.

For 1956, we plan to continue along the same line in the production of cotton as this year, with the exception that we will include any new ideas that may be developed by Virginia Agricultural Extension Service.

Peanuts

The 1954 peanut crop average was much lower than the 1953 crop average, on some farms.

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For 1955, this agent, with the aid of the agronomy committee and other farm leaders in the county has put forth much effort to increase peanut yields.

The agronomy committee, with this agent's assistance, set up 10 peanut demonstrations. There were at least one demonstration in each district. Some districts had as many as three. All demonstration peanuts were treated with Arason, land prepared well before seeding, an average of 10 lbs. Nitrogen 60 lbs. phosphorus and 60 lbs. potash per acre were used on all demonstrations, the land was limed according to needs for peanuts, 300-400 lbs. per acre plaster were used, all but two demonstrators used 50 lbs. per acre of sulphur in two applications of 25 lbs. per application and all demonstrations were cultivated in accordance with Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations.

The main objective for these demonstrations were to teach more farmers how to grow peanuts according to Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations and increase their present yields.

On August 30, 1955, 35 farmers saw these demonstrations. They saw the results of good planning and cooperation on the part of the demonstrators. The demonstrations, at that time, showed up very well.

Later in the summer and early fall, we got a tremendous amount of rain in this area. In many instances peanuts came off bad in the field at harvesting time. One could find 15-20 peanuts lost from a two-three plant cluster, in several fields. Peanuts were drowned out in several spots in many fields. In my opinion, peanuts in this area had little too much rain just before and during the harvest season.

Despite the wet fall and loss from shattering in the field, most farmers are averaging 16-18 bags per acre and they are selling from 11¢-14.5¢ per pound. All result demonstrations did well, too. They averaged 18 bags per acre. The wet fall was pretty bad on peanuts in this area.

In addition to field meetings and tours, peanut farmers received 400 copies of the bulletin "Larger Yields and Better Quality Peanuts." They also received circular letters, personal visits and about 40 farmers saw slides on "Fertilizer Uses And Yield Increases For Virginia."

As a result of work done on peanut production this year and past years, farmers are using more fertilizer, lime, plaster and sulphur. An increased number of farmers are having soil tested. I do not know of any farmer who did not treat seed peanuts and cotton this year. Farmers are aware of the fact that they can not grow good peanuts without following good practices. Too, peanuts being their biggest cash crop, farmers will put forth special efforts to produce a good crop of peanuts. They are very eager to learn how to grow more peanuts and the results can be easily seen through out the county.

Next year we still plan to conduct result demonstrations along with

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other established means of helping farmers with the production of this crop. We shall continue to urge farmers to produce peanuts in accordance with recommendations outlined in Cir. 43, "Larger Yields and Better Quality Peanuts."

Tobacco

Tobacco farmers are located mostly in the western part of Sussex County. Our biggest problem is in getting more farmers to grow recommended varieties and rotate tobacco. Their control measures of insects and diseases improved over last year. There is no problem in getting them to use proper amounts and analysis of fertilizer. Another big problem is in getting farmers to learn how to properly assort and grade tobacco on the farm before going to market. Many of our farmers loose heavily at the market as a result of improperly assorted tobacco.

To combat that situation, two tobacco demonstrations were set up on the farms of Charlie Neaves, Stony Creek, Virginia and Peter Ford of Jarratt, Virginia. These demonstrations were grown from the bed to harvesting and curing according to Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations. More than 150 farmers saw these demonstrations while on a tour of result demonstrations in August, 1955, and other field meetings.

On September 19, 1955, Mr. Roy K. Gordon, U. S. D. A. Tobacco Specialist from North Carolina, conducted a tobacco grading demonstration on Mr. James Melton's farm of Jarratt, Virginia. One other demonstration was unsuccessful because of bad weather.

Mr. Gordon took several sticks of tobacco from different curings and placed them on a table before himself. He then assorted and graded it, explaining as he went along and allowing persons to ask questions at will. He then allowed several persons to assort and grade some tobacco and he assisted as needed. He also taught them the importance of and how to use the "Daily Tobacco Market Price Report."

This was a very successful meeting. Nineteen farmers attended it.

To further aid tobacco growers of this county this year, each tobacco farmer received bulletins on Plant Bed Management, Varietal and Fertilizer Recommendations, Providing Proper Light For Grading Tobacco and The Foreign Tobacco Market and You. This last bulletin furnished very easily understood information on preparing tobacco for market. Tobacco farmers also received several other good bulletins on tobacco production and personal contacts by this agent regarding same.

We plan to use the same procedure next year with tobacco farmers, with more emphasis on rotation, proper varieties, better insect and disease control, proper fertilization and a better job of grading on the farm before going to market.

Soybeans

Soybeans are grown on many farms in this county. They are very easily grown. But small farmers sometimes have a hard time getting them harvested at the proper time; thus, many farmers lose several bushels due to shelling off in the field. For this reason, a farmer will not plant them, in many instances, unless he has or can get means of getting his crop harvested.

Our main objectives on soybean production are to help farmers to select the proper variety for his farm and to fit his individual situation, as far as harvesting is concerned. We also encourage farmers to fertilize and cultivate soybeans according to recommendation.

Every year this agent sends out fertilizer and variety recommendations for all crops, including pastures. This agent also helped farmers this year with the production of this crop through farm visits, result demonstrations, circular letters, field meetings, one news article and bulletins. Thirty-seven farmers also saw film slides on "Fertilizer Uses and Yields for Virginia."

Results of work done with soybeans this year is not too widespread; however, demonstration soybean yields are slightly higher than most other farmer's beans. This agent, along with the agriculture leaders are planning a more extensive program for soybean production next year. Farmers need to use more fertilizer, precede soybeans with a good cover-crop and control insects and diseases.

Forestry

There are not a great deal of forestry improvement work going on in this county among Negro farmers. Many of them will thin pine stands and cut saw timber according to recommended practices. But this agent have only succeeded in getting two farmers and two 4-H boys to plant 1000 pine seedlings. However, I hope to get more pine seedlings planted this winter.

To improve the forestry situation in Sussex County this year, a forestry improvement meeting was held on September 15, 1955 on Willie Winfield's farm of Stony Creek, Virginia. C. Edward Gill, Associate Extension Forester, gave a most interesting and helpful discussion on forestry improvements. The discussion was held on a wood lot needing improving. The purpose of this meeting was to encourage more farmers who are interested in woodland improvement, to do scarifying on a larger basis, where possible.

Mr. Gill explained to the farmers all the methods of forestry improvement, including scarifying. He also explained to farmers a proposed plan and gave approximate figures of expense to farmers, for having larger acreage of woodlands scarified. He (Mr. Gill) also told farmers they might receive from the government in the form of A. C. P. payments a refund of up to 80% of the total cost of the scarifying operation, and the actual cost to the farmer might not be more than about \$5.00 per acre.

Farmers present agreed that the plan was good. Most of them wanted to know more about the program from a standpoint of scarifying.

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Hardwood seemed to have been the problem with most farmers present. Five farmers attended this meeting.

Mr. Gill agreed to visit the county at a later date and examine some of the suggested woodlands, where scarifying may be done on a large basis. He is scheduled to visit woodlands of Willie Winfield, J. D. Stith and G. C. Farham in December, 1955, and make recommendations.

With the cooperation of the local forester and extension foresters, this agent plans to continue working closely with farmers of this county in forestry improvement work.

Livestock

Livestock production in this county is increasing proportionately, as we are able to increase feed. There are five Negro farmers in this county with small beef cattle herds.

The production of hogs is also increasing every year, despite heavy losses by cholera and pneumonia. Several farmers sell around 100 head of hogs every year.

1 - Hogs

grow adequate meat for home use and several farmers sell 50 - 100 head per year, despite losses from cholera and pneumonia.

The biggest problems of hog production in this county are providing adequate feed and controlling parasites and diseases. According to reports from the State Laboratory at FRED, Virginia, many hogs die in this county as

For this reason, this agent, by many different means, has been encouraging farmers to provide grazing for hogs the year 'round, along with ample amounts of grain, protein supplements, salt, minerals and plenty of water.

Lawrence Taylor of Route 2, Stony Creek, Virginia, our most outstanding hog demonstrator, will sell about 400 head of hogs by Christmas, 1955. He has four acres of Ladino Clover-grass pasture, provides winter grazing and will hog down a total of 15 acres of corn and soybeans this year.

On May 2, twenty Sussex County farmers visited the Taylor farm and saw his hog demonstration. At that time, he had 54 head of hogs grazing a two acre clover pasture and 80 head grazing a winter pasture of rye and crimson clover. To help these hogs to keep healthy and grow fast, in addition to pasture, they are fed a 20% protein hog feed, minerals and salt free choice and plenty of water. Water is piped to pastures from the house and pumps are installed in other pastures.

2 - Beef Cattle

There are four Negro farmers with small beef cattle herds. Namely, Luke Cooper of Littleton, Virginia, 23 head with 18 acres of Ladino Clover--orchard grass pasture; J. W. Davis of Newville Community, with 12 head and 18 acres of Ladino Clover--tall grass pasture; E. E. Jones of Piney Grove Community and Ernest Massenburg of Hooker Community, also own small herds of beef cattle. All these farmers are improving their herd and feed supply, and also increasing same. They are seedling more permanent pastures and providing more winter and summer grazing. E. E. Jones of Route 2, Waverly, Virginia has a mixed herd of eight cows. He is in the process of switching from dairy to beef cattle through breeding. He is also improving his permanent grazing lands and planting more winter grazing. These and several other farmers fertilize clover crops and graze them during late fall and early spring.

On Friday, July 22, 1955, a pasture field meeting was held at the Luke Cooper farm, Littleton, Virginia. Sixteen farmers attended this meeting and visited three of Mr. Cooper's pastures. The most important lesson learned by these farmers was that it does not pay to place too many cattle on too few acres of pasture.

With no hay on hand at that time, 31 head of cattle, including 11 calves, had grazed 18 acres of ladino-grass pasture from March 1- June 15. On June 15, Mr. Cooper was forced to sell off eight head of cows because of insufficient feed. Twenty-three head of cows are still grazing his pastures. These cows have not seriously damaged Cooper's pastures, but at the time of this meeting, farmers present saw a definite need of at least 10 more acres of good pasture.

Mr. Cooper has built two large salt and mineral boxes with a roof over each and placed one in each pasture. He also has a large water hole dug in one pasture and plans to have one dug in his other pasture in 1956. The total cost of the water hole was \$320.00. He received a refund through the A. S. C. Committee of \$258.00. The water hole only cost him \$62.00.

Mr. Cooper was feeding a mixture of one part salt, one part ground limestone and three parts bone meal in one half of the mineral box and salt alone in the other side of the box.

Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent and Mr. M. T. Carter, Superintendent of Virginia State College Experiment Station was also on hand. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Carter spoke to the group on Pasture Management. Mr. Marshall also made some very interesting remarks on pasture management. This was a very successful meeting.

3 - Dairy Cattle

Several farmers, though not dairy farmers, are producing adequate milk and butter for family use and selling milk and butter on a small basis. The extension agents are trying to get more and better pastures established, improve and increase herds, so as to improve farm living from the sale of whole milk.

Livestock production is on an increase in this community. All families produce an adequate meat supply for home use and most families produce adequate dairy products. One farmer, Lawrence Taylor, sells from 350-400 head of hogs annually.

Three of these farmers conducted result demonstrations on their farms this year. Lawrence Taylor and Will Massenburg conducted peanut and corn demonstrations and Mansieu Parham conducted pasture demonstrations (permanent and temporary) and a cotton demonstration. Lawrence Taylor also conducted a hog and winter pasture demonstration. All these farmers used recommended fertilizer and cultural practices for all demonstrations. Approximately 250 farmers saw these demonstrations at field meetings or on tours, at different stages of maturity.

Most children of club age are members of the local 4-H Club. The majority of the club members completes their project or projects every year.

Through continued efforts to follow a very rigid agriculture and home improvement program of work, the people of this community look forward to a reputable amount of progress every year.

For 1956, we plan to follow the farm and home development approach in this community. We feel that by so doing, we can do a more effective job of helping farm and homemakers in this community.

The score sheets for the Community-Live-At-Home Work was changed this year. As a result, we shall be able to show more exactly, the condition and improvements made by each family.

The name of the program was also changed. It is now called The Community Improvement Program, instead the Community Live-At-Home Program. As stated above, the program is taking on the farm and home development approach. We feel that we can more effectively carry out the aims of the program by incooperating the farm and home development approach.

Farm and Home Unit Demonstration

Our Farm and Home Unit Demonstration is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Neaves, Sr. of Route 1, Stony Creek, Virginia. This farm is located $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Stony Creek, Virginia on State Route 40.

The Neaves farm consists of 35 acres of land in cultivation and 31 acres in woods. Mr. Neaves have 2 acres of improved pasture. The family also rents 13 acres of land $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away.

Presently, the Neaves farm does not produce as much as it should in crops nor livestock. Every possible effort is being made to correct this situation.

In January, 1955, both the farm and home demonstration agent visited this family. We discussed work done last year and revised their program of work for 1955, considering the needs and what they thought they could accomplish in 1955.

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In the farm program, Mr. Neaves used only recommended varieties, correct amount and analysis of fertilizer and cultivated in accordance with Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations. All crop yields were better this year than last year.

The livestock program is not as good as it could be on the Neaves farm. Mr. Neaves does not have sufficient pastures for increasing his livestock production. He planted two acres of ladino grass pasture this spring, but the number of hogs, cows and goats on hand to graze this/^{and}four more acres of woodland pasture, was just too much. The grass and clover mostly died during the summer.

Soil conservation practices were improved over last year. Tobacco was rotated and cover-crop have been seeded on all tobacco and peanut land. A portion of the cotton and corn land has been seed to a cover-crop.

The Neaves farm, also have several small gulleys farming in some fields. With the aid of thw S. C. S. Tedhnecian, Mr. Neaves plans to terrace a portion of his land where needed and plant some sod water ways. No work has been done on this project yet, but it is planned for the near future.

The home department has been taken car of by Mrs. G. C. Jones, Home Demonstration Agent in her narrative report.

In addition to farm and home visits, this family was helped through bulletins and circular letters. The farm and home agent worked very closely with this family. They have one boy, Charlis Neaves, Jr. and one girl who completed projects this year. Charlis, Jr. also serves as a Jr. 4-H club

For 1956, we plan to include this family in the farm and Home Development Work. We feel that by so doing, we will be able to be of greater service to this family.

Farm and Home Development Work

The Farm and Home Development Work started in this county this year. Thus far, we have assisted two families in working out programs for their farm and home according to their needs and abilities. These families are the Samuel Spencer family of New Hope Community and the Kylor Reed family of Little Mill Community. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Reed is around 45 years old each.

The Spencer family owns their farm and the Reed family rents theirs. The Reed family has plans to buy the first farm that is available to them.

This new phase of the extension program is gaining in its effectiveness on these two farms. We have plans to increase the number of families worked with using this approach next year.

4-H Club Work

Four "H" Club Work in Sussex County is carried on by the Adult Leaders' Association and the 4-H Junior Council, with the assistance of the agents.

4-H Activities

The 4-H Jr. Council met three times this year. Some of their activities were the reviewing of accomplishments for 1955 and the approval of a plan of work for 1956. Other accomplishments of the Jr. Council and Leaders Association have been reported under 4-H work. New officers and Jr. Leaders were also trained. Adult leaders are sometime trained individually.

New officers were also elected for 1955-56. They are as follows: President, Virginia Mason; Vice-president, Inez Spencer; Secretary, Minnie Walker; Treasurer, Charlie Neaves, Jr.; and Reporter, Josephine Parham.

This agent, with the aid of four club members, completed the erection of six 4-H Club Welcome Signs at county lines on U. S. 301, 460 and State Route 40. These signs were sponsored by the 4-H Jr. Council, individual clubs, the County Advisory Board and local businesses. These signs are 2' x 3', made of 16 gauge steel with vitreous procelain green and white enamel, baked until fused with steel. The signs are white with green lettering and emblem. They are bolted to 4" x 4" pine posts that have been treated with "Penta", a wood preservative, and painted white.

For National 4-H Week, 10 of the 12 organized 4-H clubs arranged for their March meeting to be held during National 4-H club week. They all had special programs and eight clubs made displays and posters and placed them in windows of school buildings and business. There were some very attractive displays and posters made.

For Rural Life Sunday, 10 of the 12 organized clubs took full charge of church service in their communities. Ministers and other church members and officials cooperated 100%. Ministers spoke on subjects relative to "The Power of Faith." They centered their speech around youth and 4-H club work. All services I attended was very good.

The following club members attended the State 4 - H Short Course at Virginia State College this year: Marion Brown, Hawks club; Maude Blakes, Yale club; Lucretia Spencer, New Hope club; Shirley Taylor, Yale club; Teaner Flowers, Stony Creek No. 2 club; Ruth Mason, Plank Road club; Matthew Minnicks, Stony Creek No. 1 club; and Mrs. Mason Epps, New Hope club leader.

The following club members received State Awards at the Short Course in 1955: Maude Blakes, Achievement, Sheaffer Pen and Pencil Set; Lucretia Spencer, Dairy Foods, 17 Jewel Gold Wrist Watch; Essie L. Reed, Food Preparation; \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond and Certificate of Honor; Shirley V. Taylor, Frozen Foods, \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond and Certificate of Honor; Inel M. Spencer, Health \$25.00 U. S. Bond and Certificate of Honor; and Minnie B. Walker, Leadership, Sheaffer Pen and Pencil Set. Matthew Minnicks participated in the State 4-H Tractor Operator's Contest and won eight quarts of motor oil.

Essie L. Reed, one of our State Awards Winners, attended the 4-H Regional Conference in Washington, D. C. in 1955. On her return she made several excellent

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reports of her trip to her local club, 4-H Jr. Council and at the 1955 4-H and H-D Achievement Day. She was given a very good book and a film strip, covering all the activities of the group while at the Regional Conference and places they visited. This film strip has been shown to several groups.

The following club members attended the 1955 Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College: Sallie Scott, Lillie Taylor, Laura Taylor and Mrs. Hazel Eure, leader

Boys and girls attending both the State Short Course and State Wildlife and Conservation Camp received lots of valuable information and had a wonderful time. At the following meeting of their local clubs, they all made very good reports to their fellow club members and friends.

As a result of work accomplished in 1954, we had a total of six State 4-H Awards Winners, one of which attended the 1955 4-H Regional Camp held in Washington, D. C. All have been mentioned above.

On April 4, 1955, a 4-H Tractor Maintenance Club was organized at Stony Creek, Virginia. At the first meeting night, the group saw a movie titled "Tractor Safety" and heard a speech on tractor safety, by Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent. Nine boys enrolled in the class.

The club held classes at Parham's Garage, Stony Creek, Virginia, twice weekly. They covered classes on Tractor Safety; What Makes An Engine Run and Operator's Manual; General Lubrication and Oil for the Engine and Hydraulic System; Clean Air for Your Engine and Mixing Fuel and Air; Ignition and Cooling Systems for Engines.

Instructors for the class was William Parham of Parham's Garage, Charlie Burrow and M. Briggs of Tyus Equipment Company of Stony Creek. These men were college trained automotive mechanics with several years experience with farm tractors and equipment. They did a great job of instructing this class and we are very grateful to them, Tyus Equipment Company, which furnished new tractors fully equipped and E. L. Minnicks, a local farmer who allowed us to use his tractor.

As a result of assistance given to individual farms, farmers are using more lime and phosphate, planting more cover-crops, improved pastures and having Soil and Water Conservation plans made for their farms. Some farmers are also improving their farm woodlands by the use of recommended practices.

For 1955, we decided to change our plans in order to get more farmers out. On October 14, 18 and 21, A. S. C. meetings were held at New Hope School, near Sussex Court House, Jefferson School, Jarratt, Virginia and Sussex County High School, Waverly, Virginia. The purpose of these meetings were to familiarize farmers with the 1955 A. S. C. Program. At each meeting, we had representatives from the county A. S. C. Program, S. C. S. and Forestry Service. Farmers responded well at all three of these meetings.

As a result of these meetings, more farmers took advantage of the opportunities offered in the 1955 A. S. C. Program. Seventy-nine farmers attended these meetings.

Farmers were assisted and instructed in the method of taking soil samples this year. More than 150 farmers received this type of assistance. More than 300 farmers were contacted in regards to cooperation and work with this agency.

Soil and Water Conservation Program

Nineteen farmers have received assistance from the Soil Conservation Technician this year for the purpose of working out a soil and Water Conservation Plan for their farms. Thirteen farmers planted grassed water ways in gullies. Mr. Luke Cooper of Littleton, Virginia had a large water hole dug in one of his pastures. He plans to have another hole dug in another pasture in 1956. The need for this type of work is rather high in this county. This agent, with the aid of the soil technician, plans to continue working together

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in the future, towards correcting this situation. Three hundred eighty contacts were made this year in connection with soil conservation work.

F. H. A. Program

Farmers were also directed to this agency for loans to buy farms, build homes and improve their present farm and home. One hundred forty farmers were contacted regarding this agency. A County-wide meeting will be held this winter with a representative of this group as guest speaker. Local Vocational Agriculture Program

This agent worked very closely with Vocational Agricultural Teachers, P. M. Morton and C. R. Alston of Sussex County Training School, Waverly, Virginia. We held three meetings together. They are always invited to bring their classes to extension service activities. They were given more than 1500 bulletins for classroom purposes this year.

For next year, we hope to be able to do more cooperative planning and working together. This agent feels that the extension service can reach and help an estimated 500 more people through this agency alone.

Evaluation

In evaluating the extension program in this county, one could hardly overlook the fine cooperation and participation of the leaders. These leaders have given freely their time, interest and cooperation to the program over a number of years and the results shown up in the effectiveness of the program. Also as a result of their result demonstrations, many farm families change from the old to the new and improved way of farming and home-making every year.

The extension program in this county has attempted to employ all the tools and techniques available to better put over its aims and objectives. In many instances throughout this report, the objectives and results have been stated.

Balanced farming with a good relationship between livestock and crops is one of the long-time objectives of the county Advisory Board. The livestock and poultry program is steadily improving as we are able to get more and better pastures established. Extra dollars coming in to the farmer are of great value, from the sale of good quality products grown on his farm.

The 4-H program in this county is steadily improving. Many 4-H boys, after entering high school, take Vocational Agriculture courses and remain in 4-H club work. Personally, I think this is a good carry-over. Many adult farmers are influenced to make changes that will improve their farm program and thus result in more money for the family, as a result of a boy or girl's 4-H project work, carried out on the family farm.

Through the cooperation with the A. S. C. and Soil Conservation Program, many farmers learned the importance of making proper use of lime and fertilizer, and many other improvement practices. More farmers are keeping check with the lime and fertilizer needs of their soils by use of the soil test. Seventeen farmers were assisted this year in drawing up soil and water conservation plans

for their farms and the soil technician has twenty-one requests for such plans. Two farmers have signed up for livestock water holes. One farmer completed this practice. Through a more extensive and effective use of fertilizer and lime, along with the proper soil-saving techniques, we hope to continue helping farm families to live better.

The County Agronomy Committee was very effective this year. This committee met March 30 at the extension office. This meeting was a follow-up of a previous meeting of the group.

At the first meeting of this group, the problems in agronomy for this county was worked out. At the March 30 meeting, M. P. Lacy, Associate Agronomist and S. E. Marshall, District Agent, assisted farmers in solving problems.

The members of this committee has worked very closely and very diligently with this agent. We feel that the overall extension program has been helped a great deal by the activities of this group.

We started the Farm and Home Development Work in this county this year. Thus far, the work has been very effective. We plan to increase this part of the work next year.

We wish to express our appreciations to all our supervisors, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute Specialists, Virginia State College, local leaders and other agricultural workers, for their cooperation in helping us to carry out this years extension program.

Another important factor we are grateful for is the addition to our extension staff of Miss Jeanette Stuart of Glade Spring, Virginia as a full-time secretary. Miss Stuart has been on the staff one month and her work in the office is most outstanding and helpful. Already we can see the extra work on the field we have been able to do as a result of having her with us. Again I wish to express our

thanks and appreciation to our supervisors and other extension personnel responsible for our having her to work with us.

Finally the extension program in Sussex County is meeting the needs of the people of the county because of the number that are served each year through this program. Constantly, information and service are flowing from the extension office to the people and from the people to the extension office. Our challenging youth program is encouraging young capable boys to make a career of farming. We have an increasing number of young farmers in this county today.