

We had two boys and two girls attend Conservation Camp held at Virginia Beach in July. They were: Georgianne Maloy, Glenna Ruth Myers, Stephen Terry and Geo. Hooke, Jr. Four boys and five girls attended Holiday Lake Camp the last week in July; namely, Sandra Hammer, Toby Sweet, Neel Cabell, Phyllis Harper, and Georgianne; Sammy Ruckman, Charles Wagner, Jimmy Whitelaw, and Gary Gum. The first day of August was devoted to work at Holiday Lake helping to break up 4-H Club camp. I brought 7 boys and one leader home in my car. The 15th of August our county 4-H club boys and girls held their annual camp day at Solar, Virginia. Sixty-seven club members and five adult leaders attended the camp day this year.

Many 4-H clubmembers with livestock projects; garden, electric, and wood working, as well as homemaking projects, had wonderful exhibits at the county fair. Twelve boys and girls exhibited fat calves, fat lambs and breeding sheep flocks at the fair. Two 4-H club boys took their fat lambs to Richmond to exhibit in the fair. They were Stephen Terry and David Kiser. Their lambs did not place tops but were well up in the running. A. C. Powers and Nancy Hammer had their calves to Richmond also.

There is no advisory committee for 4-H club work. We do have an honor club that was organized during 1958. There are fourteen members. Six meetings were held during the year. We do not have an All Star organization as there are so few All Stars in this county. We do have a county council that has been very active. Five meetings were held during the year.

Achievement Day was planned for and held. Thirty-seven persons, club members and parents were present.

Six clubs observed National 4-H Sunday. Three clubs observed National 4-H club week. We account for five men and thirteen women as adult 4-H club leaders. There are ten junior young men leaders and sixteen junior young women leaders.

Boys and girls in 4-H club work were busy all through the year with their regular meetings, their planning meetings and their project work.

Many of our county 4-H boys and girls had the opportunity during the year to attend camps and short courses out of the county. June 4 Highland County club members represented the county at the annual 4-H club short course held at V.P.I. They were: Georgianne Maloy, McDowell, Paige Mary Gutschall, Monterey; Mary Judy Swecker and Douglas Gum, Blue Grass. Mary Judy was a winner in State Leadership competition. Miss Maloy was honored by membership in the 4-H All Stars.

of
The second week in July our 4-H honor club made up/our older 4-H club members were invited to attend a week-end camp by the Augusta County Honor Club that was held at Camp Albermarle. Those who attended were: Mary Judy Swecker, Georgaine Maloy, Betty Jean Colaw, Phyllis Millenax, Frank Ritchie, Owen Millenax, Julian Folks, and David Kiser.

were held every second Tuesday of each month to continue with planning. Sub-committee groups held many meetings during the year.

The fair the past year was the most successful one held yet. All three days the weather was exceptionally good fair weather. More people attended the fair than ever before.

My job as County Agent was to help with writing news articles, to visit and help adults and youth with exhibits and to help with exhibits on the first day of the fair. I also served on the livestock committee, the crops and garden vegetable committee, the grounds committee and the ribbon committee.

Our county fair is considered one of the best agricultural fairs in the area. We hope that it will continue to be so.

VII. 4-H Club Work

Statistical Information - In studying all available statistics and reports and working with the Superintendent of Schools, it is decided that there are 836 young people in Highland County of 4-H club age - 10 to 21 years. Of course, 836 young people of that age is not absolute. The figure is one derived on and is only approximate. There are only 613 boys and girls of school age registered in the Highland County Schools. Only two counties in the State have a smaller number. Of this number 201 were enrolled in 4-H club work during the past year. This is 24.4% enrollment of the youth of age. Enrollment has picked up in numbers from a low 126 members in 1955. Number of members enrolled that completed their project work; there were 542 projects carried with 412 completions or 76.1% completions. There are 12 different clubs in the county.

making recommendations for fertilizer and lime. I also make recommendations in seeding practices and varieties of seed to be used. Sixty-three soil samples were taken for landowners so that reasonable recommendations for fertilizer and lime requirements could be made.

3. Virginia State Forestry Department

During the year I served on the county forestry committee. The purpose of this committee was to encourage the planting of more tree seedlings in Highland County and to promote the Governor's Plant More Trees program. Pine seedlings were obtained for four 4-H club members for planting and at least ten adults.

I attended SCS and ACP meetings with forestry people in helping to make recommendations for forest tree plantings. I helped with two tree seedling planting demonstrations. I attended one meeting of area county forestry committees that was held at Warm Springs during September, and attended the forestry course given to County Agents during our annual Extension Conference held at V.P.I. the third week in August. We hope to get a few 4-H club boys started in Christmas tree plantations during the spring of 1959. A few boys have said that they would like to do some of this kind of planting.

4. Southern States Monterey Cooperative

In the spring of 1958 I helped Southern State Monterey Cooperative with their opening day program.

5. Fair Association

Officers for the 1958 fair were elected. The last three days of August were again selected as the time of our 1958 fair. Regular meetings

2. A.C.P.
3. Forestry Service
4. Southern States Cooperative
5. Fair Association

1. Soil Conservation Service

At the beginning of the year I was appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee to serve on the Board of Supervisors for the Mountain District which includes the counties of Alleghany, Bath and Highland. Other members of this Board were Mr. W. R. Hicklin, McDowell, Virginia, Mr. Robert Cleek, Solar, Virginia, Mr. W. F. Francis, Covington, Virginia, and Mr. Richard Durham, Millboro, Virginia. I was elected to serve as Secretary for this group.

During the year regular monthly meetings were held, the most of them at the Midway Coffee Shoppe near Hot Springs, Virginia, this place being the near central place for all concerned. Several other meetings were attended other than regular meetings of the Board. On January 6, 7 and 8 Mr. Hicklin, Mr. Francis and I attended the annual meeting of State Board of Supervisors held in Roanoke, Virginia. Monday, March 17 Mr. Hicklin, Mr. Cleek, Mr. Francis, Mr. Hicks and I attended a district meeting of Boards of Supervisors held at Harrisonburg, Virginia. On Monday, April 21 the same four of us took part in a tour of the South River Watershed Water Compoundments in Augusta County. The days devoted to regular monthly meetings and the days spent attending state and area meetings during the year amounted to 19 days of this Agent's time.

2. County A.C.P. Committee

The County Agent works closely with the County A.C.P. Committee in selecting practices, help in selecting county committees, and in

4. Dairying

Dairying in Highland County is somewhat of a minor enterprise. Yet there are some who depend on their milk sales considerably. There is a trend toward more dairying and rightly so, when the sale of milk will net some cash during a period of low beef cattle and sheep and lamb prices. Work has been done during the past two years in cooperation with the Carnation Milk Company representative. Routes have been extended, wintertime production has almost doubled in volume, more people are selling milk and those who have been in the business have increased their production.

During the past year five producers have installed milking machines. The dairy committee continued with area meetings with producers to explain better management problems, and to encourage more wintertime production. To help with the different series of meetings, we had representatives of the Carnation Company as well as the Virginia Extension Service.

During the past year ninety-one milk producers were helped in one way or another with their problems pertaining to dairying. The days spent was work in the selection of breeding animals, locating breeding animals that could be purchased, controlling parasites, working with the Carnation Milk representatives and a few producers on better relations. One meeting was held with the dairy committee during March to see whether or not it would be possible to continue with our artificial breeding program in the county. The first year we had so little interest in the breeding program that we had to discontinue it.

5. Work With Other Agencies and Organizations

1. S.C.S.

2. Highland County Wool Pool

The county wool pool committee met on two occasions, during May to decide whether or not to have a wool pool and how it would be handled. Many of our regular wool pool consignors had voiced their thinking that they would not consign their wool and take an advance payment, most wanted to sell their clip outright.

In the second meeting of the county committee the County Agent was designated to go to Harrisonburg and talk with Mr. John East who was then general manager of the United Wool Growers Association and to Mr. Keithly who was then assistant general manager, to see whether or not we could not have some agreement whereas our wool pool could be sold through the United straight out to some manufacturer. I made two trips to Harrisonburg to try and work some plan, but was unable to reach any kind of agreement.

The committee then decided to offer our pool for sale to the highest bidder. The wool pool was sold so that \$.45 could be paid the producer for clear tied wool, lesser grades at lower prices, of course.

On two wool pool take up days, June 12 and 13, 83,509 pounds of wool was handled that brought the producers a total of \$39,748.44.

To announce the dates and time of take-up and the prices that would be paid letters were written to each of our previous consignors. Two wool pool write-ups were done and made in the Highland Recorder. The Recorder carried a paid advertisement for three weeks stating the date, time, and prices that would be paid. Burns Motor Transport hauled the wool to its destination in eight van loads.

parasites was done in all parts of the county. Sheep numbers are on an up trend. It takes a better job of management by all to keep flocks in a healthy condition.

The committee sponsors our sheep show at the county fair. The past year more flocks were exhibited than ever before. The quality was especially good.

1. Commercial Ram Sale

Our county sheep committee in cooperation with the Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association, sponsor a commercial ram sale each fall. This county, being one of the highest populated sheep counties in the State, we feel that our commercial sheep people should have an opportunity to buy the better purebred rams. The sale also gives our purebred sheepmen an opportunity to sell their rams.

Our sale each year is the last one held in the State that is sponsored by the Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association. Because of the fact that this sale is a late sale, it is hard to get our consignors to hold their rams for this sale. This year we had 18 rams consigned to the sale. Only nine were at the sale. The nine rams averaged \$68.87, which is a below average for the State sales. The County Agent's job in this line of work was to arrange for the date of the sale, advertise the sale in the Highland Recorder and send hand bills of the sale to people on our ram sale mailing list. Also I made arrangements for the auctioneer and had panels ready to pen the rams separately.

Three special cattle sales were sponsored by the county committee in cooperation with the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association. In the three special sales, 2091 head of cattle were sold; 523 yearling cattle sold on September 21 for a total of \$102,755.50. September 30, 935 Hereford calves sold for a total of \$139,804.00, and on October 21, our second calf sale, 633 calves brought \$89,674.60. In three sales, cattle producers sold \$332,244.10 worth of cattle.

All three sales were most successful. Those who had cattle consigned were well pleased with what their cattle brought. My job as County Agent was to arrange for meetings, to make plans for the sales, to do advertising on the county level, to order special hip tags, to arrange for additional help in penning cattle, to help buyers secure trucks and to work up records to present to newspapers.

The special sales of cattle is an educational program as well as it is that producers realized more money for their produce. All people benefit by the sales as they more or less establish a price. People that are helped most are those who have only a small number of cattle. Not enough to draw a prospective buyer to their farm. They can bring their calves to the sales and sell them in big groups the way most buyers want to buy them.

A. - 3. Sheep Project Work

Committee members for work pertaining to sheep production are: H. C. Lunsford, chairman; H. B. Hooke, B. L. Armstrong, W. B. Folke, Jay Hamer and Carl Armstrong. During the year demonstrations on drenching for internal parasites and dipping and spraying for external

Members of the beef cattle committee inspect the cattle and select for the sales. They see that cattle are dehorned, properly vaccinated for shipping fever and black leg.

Following our State regulations for animal health conditions, our sales are operated under Plan II of the State regulations. Where heifers are sold, all cow herds from which calves are consigned must have a clean TB and Bangs test. Our nearest practicing veterinarian, Dr. Preston Givens, who lives in Warm Springs, does practically all of this work for our farmers.

All Highland County producers of beef cattle and consign to the special Highland County sales, are members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association. The dues paid the Virginia Association is \$.50 per head for each animal sold in our special sales. The past year \$1045.50 was paid to the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association as our part in the promotional program of these sales.

In March, this year, an animal meeting was held for our beef cattle producers. Mr. Curtis Mast, Beef Cattle Specialist, V.P.I. and Mr. K. C. Williamson, Marketing Specialist, helped us in a meeting of beef cattle producers.

After this meeting county committee members were elected for the year. For the Blue Grass District; Geo. R. Swecker, Leonard Hammer and W. C. Rexrode were elected; Stonewall District; B. L. Armstrong, Lewis Shumate and Ray Eagle; Monterey District; Roy Robertson, Jay Hammer and Leonard Bratton. This group works in cooperation with the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association.

agricultural leaders in Highland County in the death of Mr. W. R. Hicklin. Mr. Hicklin had been a member of the County Board of Supervisors for a number of years. He helped organize the Mountain Soil Conservation District and was appointed a supervisor of the District by the State Committee, and served on the Board of Supervisors until his death. He was also a member of the county agronomy committee. Mr. Hicklin was well known throughout the State in agricultural circles and a staunch leader in agricultural policies in this county.

A - 2. Beef Cattle Work -

Knowing that the production of beef animals, the capital invested and the profits received from the sale of beef animals is the largest item in farm economy in this county, more time is spent by the Extension Agent along this line than any other single thing. The livestock committee is a most active committee.

During the year, spraying of animals for external parasites demonstrations were held, although most farmers do this work now. The demonstrations are for those who yet have not started the practice. There are many portable spraying machines in use, and at least five custom spraying machines.

All kinds of demonstrations pertaining to good management practices were carried out in all parts of the county during the year. The main objective of the committee is organizing for sales of beef cattle. During the year a yearling cattle sale was planned for and held. Two calf sales were planned for and held. All of these sales were held by Highland and Bath County producers cooperating .

were advised of these recommendations by form letter. Trends and recommendations were written up in our county newspaper. Committeemen worked with their neighbors.

The best demonstration we had in Highland in 1958 was mother natures demonstration on our well managed pasture and hay lands. The past year there was plenty of rain fall during the early part of the season. The fields that had been well taken care of by liming, fertilizing, and reseeded were easily recognized. The hay crop in this county the past year was probably the highest tonage produced for many years.

Alfalfa fields seeded during the past few years produced exceptional. Most owners were able to harvest three and four crops.

The committee sponsored no organized tours during the year. On several occasions the county agent and others accompanied outsiders on sightseeing tours. Often we have people drop by who want to tour our county and see our type of agronomy agriculture.

We continue to recommend Narragansett variety of alfalfa for seeding in Highland because we believe it is the best adapted for our high elevation. For corn hybrids; Wisconsin 355A; Va.-126 and Ohio K-24 are recommended.

As County Agent I had attended a meeting in November 1957 with Agronomy Specialist, Mr. W. W. Lewis and County Agent Lester Dalton and Jack Coperhaver at Warm Springs, Virginia. From this meeting I learned some new practices and some newer recommended varieties. All of this I reported to the county agronomy committee.

During the year we had the loss of one of our most valuable

figures that there is one beef animal for each 4.9 acres. Yet on that 4.9 acres there are two and one-half head of ewes and their lambs, plus some dairy animals, some hogs and some poultry. Highland County is the third largest sheep producing county in the State with 16,230 head. We generally recommend to people to keep one ewe for each head of beef stock. Here it figures two and one-half head of ewes for each beef animal.

After studying data and trends, the committee decided to follow this line of work for the coming year.

1. To continue to help with lime, fertilizer, and seeding demonstrations.
2. To continue testing early maturing varieties of corn hybrids for their adaptability so that recommendations can be made to those who wish to grow corn. The new Virginia Hybrid #126 that was tested last year shows possibilities of being a well adapted variety for this county. Provided the seed can be obtained this variety will be tested or demonstrated again this year.
3. The committee will sponsor a program to encourage land owners to grow more alfalfa. The program will be called "one acre of alfalfa on each farm for each buck flock." A buck flock is 20 to 25 head of ewes. A little alfalfa grown on each farm will help winter the sheep flock in better condition and will also help the dairy cows that get some good hay do a better job of winter milk production.

With newer varieties of alfalfa and better seeding practices the growing of this legume is much more successful than it used to be.

After the committee decided on its recommendations, county people

VI. Project Activities

A. Work of Agronomy Committee

Members of the agronomy committee this year were: R. L. Aldridge, W. R. Hicklin, Leonard Hamner, Robert Glegg, Terry Hicks, and Lewis Shumate. The agronomy committee met to study the county data and trends in regard to things pertaining to agronomy in January 1958.

By using census figures for 1939, 1944, 1949, 1953 and 1954, we found that corn acres had dropped continuously during the period. In 1939 there were 1966 acres in corn as compared to 950 acres in 1954. Yield per acre has increased from 36.8 to 45.8 during the period. All small grains - wheat, oats, barley, rye, and buckwheat acreages decreased along with corn, especially wheat acreage, 1314 acres in 1939 compared to 340 acres in 1954. All hay crops had increased in acreage. Alfalfa acreage in 1939 was 19 acres compared to 617 acres in 1954, and 647 in 1955. With clover and timothy there was a little increase. Old meadow hay land acres increased some. Poultry numbers have increased enormously during the past few years.

Beef cattle census figures are surprising. In 1939 there were 6335 head of beef animals in Highland. In 1954 there was 8336 or a 2000 head increase in number during the 15 year period. The 2000 head increase in beef cattle number is being cared for on practically the same acreage of pasture and hay land. This proves that the use of lime, fertilizer and seeding practices carried on by our land owners has certainly helped in that we have better pastures and hay. In figuring the number of beef animals on hand and the acres of pasture and hay land it

C. Short Time Planning Committee:

1. Highland County Rabies Control Committee

County organization for Extension work is practically the same as it has been during recent years except improve on to some extent. We have added a sub-committee working under the sheep committee named the Wool Producers Committee. This committee was named to handle all affairs pertaining to wool pool work and the sale of the pool. The work of this sub-committee is good. The work done will be discussed later.

A second new committee that was used during the past two years was the Forestry Committee. Our forestry committee was founded four years ago in cooperation with the State Forestry Service. The committee is active and has done some outstanding work.

7. County Agent's Report

At the first meeting of the County Board of Supervisors held on the first Monday in January 1958, I gave a report on the work I had done as County Agent during the year 1957.

The editor of our county newspaper listened in on part of the report that I made to the County Board of Supervisors. Later Mr. Pritchard, the editor, asked me to allow him to use parts of my report in the county news. For eight weeks, through January and February, parts of my report to the County Board of Supervisors were published in the weekly newspaper.

From this I had many inquiries and requests for copies of my annual report. Statistics I had reported seemed most interesting to county people as well as some living out of the county. I was asked to make a talk on parts of my last year's report to three civic groups during the winter which I did.

The tourist trade is a source of farm income for many farm families, especially during our hunting and fishing seasons.

Highland is recognized as being an ideal wildlife county. Hunting and fishing provide many hours of entertainment for many people.

IV. Organization

Extension Organization to Handle the Program

The principal governing body for the Extension program is the County Board of Agriculture. This Board was formed, probably ten years ago, and is still intact with the addition of new members. The Board, at this time of its organization, was made up of three people from each of the ten communities and the addition of personnel representing several different organizations. The Board can be called on when some phase of the Extension program arises and needs the decisions of this governing body. During 1958 a meeting of the County Board of Agriculture was not held. Special interest committee organizations and short-time planning committees have helped plan the work this year. Our special interest committees are active and very necessary in carrying out the Extension program.

Special Interest Committees are:

- O A. 1. Agronomy Committee
- 2. Beef Cattle Committee
- 3. Sheep Production Committee
 - a. Wool Producers Committee
- 4. Dairy Committee
- 5. 4-H Club Council
- 6. Forestry Committee

- B. Organizations that help with the Extension program:
 - 1. Blue Grass Ruritan Club
 - 2. McDowell Ruritan Club
 - 3. Bolar Ruritan Club
 - 4. Monterey Lions Club

county. The two counties that have larger numbers are much larger counties in area. The Highland County ACP Office made subsidy payments to 522 applicants or producers of 99,169 pounds of wool in 1957 to the amount of \$18,981.78. The subsidy program also netted Highland County producers \$9,399.68 on lamb wool for that year. From these figures we surmise that Highland County sheep producers sold 100,000 pounds of wool in 1958. Roughly 83,000 of this was sold on a cooperative basis, or 83% in 1958. Our Highland County pool paid \$.45 per pound for clear tied wool. The pool had been sold direct to a manufacturer.

It is interesting to note that only four farms in Highland County have a wheat allotment acreage. Of course there is no peanut, cotton or tobacco acreage. Only subsidy payments realized by Highland County farmers is with wool.

The number of animal units per acre, 4.6 acres, per animal unit is high as compared to other counties. The animal units per acre of cropland is low at .9 acres, due to the fact that a lot of our farm acres are brush or cut-over land. We account for this figure that our livestock is graded for a longer period of time, cutting down the period of winter feeding.

Aside from being a beef cattle and sheep producing county, other farm enterprises make up a large proportion of the economy. There is a definite trend toward dairying, poultry production, and forest products income. This includes the production of maple sugar products which is a minor item, yet this is the only county in the State that has this in any amount worth mentioning.

Population of people in county - 1955 census - - - - -	4069
Total land acres in Highland - - - - -	266,240 acres
Proportion of land acres in farms - - - - -	55.4%
No. of farms in county - - - - -	570
No. of farms in county 1950 census - - - - -	607
Average size of farms 1955 census - - - - -	258.9
Average size of farms 1950 census - - - - -	232.2
Proportion of land in cropland - - - - -	17,703 acres
No. acres in alfalfa in cropland - - - - -	647 acres
Proportion of land in pastureland - - - - -	91,144 acres
Proportion of land in woodland - - - - -	113,190 acres
Land for road, buildings, lots and worthless land - -	44,203 acres
Animal units per acre pastureland - - - - -	4.6 acres
Animal units per acre cropland - - - - -	.9 acres
No. of adult beef animals 1955 census - - - - -	8336 head
No. of breeding sheep 1955 census - - - - -	16,230 head
No. of dairy animals 1955 census - - - - -	2332 head

In studying the statistics for the county we find that our population of people is decreasing each year.

Population 1950 - - - 4841

Population 1955 @ @ @ 4069

The size of the average farm is larger - 1950 - 232.2 acres

1955 - 258.9 acres

This is the third largest sheep producing county in the State with 16,230 mature sheep or breeding sheep. It is the most populated sheep

III. Highland County Agriculture

Highland County is often referred to as the Little Switzerland because of the mountainous terrain, cool summer weather, never-falling springs and streams and green pastures. Highland County is appropriately named because of its high elevation, its high ridges and mountains. The County's western border follows the crest of Alleghany backbone - a mountain which rises in southwestern New York and ends in Western Virginia. Much of Alleghany Mountain is above 4000 feet in elevation. In the valleys the elevation is 2500 feet to 3000 feet.

Hightown is a crossroads village on a crest in the richest valley in the county. The post office here is at the highest elevation of any post office in the State. From this crest in the valley at Hightown the water flows northeastward through the Potomac river system while the water to the south flows to Jacksons River and on to the James.

The county is noted for its wonderful blue grass pastures, its beautiful scenery and cool summer weather.

In agriculture it is classed as a livestock economy county as most of the income is derived through the production of beef cattle and sheep.

We have here some figures pertaining to the county compiled from the most recent statistics. Statistics vary but little in a one year period. The statistics for Highland County in this report are practically the same as for 1957 with a few changes and additions. The figures I have used are compiled from three different sources. Each source of statistics varies somewhat, but in studying the three, a medium is derived upon.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

_____ E. B. JONES, JR.

Name

_____ COUNTY

Agent

Title

_____ **Assistant Agent**

_____ **Assistant Agent**

_____ **Assistant Agent**



1958

_____ HIGHLAND

County