

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

BRUNSWICK

County

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Brunswick County - 1962

Local Leadership

There are two hundred forty different leaders in the county.

One hundred seventy-eight serve as adult leaders and sixty-two work with 4-H Club members. They serve as sponsor, organizational, committee, program development, project, and special interest leaders.

One hundred seventy-one adult leaders attended sixteen training meetings. There were eleven meetings with one hundred eighty-three 4-H leaders in attendance. Adult leaders conducted thirty-three meetings with three hundred ninety-one persons attending. Two thousand forty-four 4-H'ers attended seventy-seven meetings conducted by leaders.

Four leaders attended the 4-H Leaders Association, and one attended a training meeting; five were delegates to the State Short Course and the Wildlife Conference. All of these activities were held at Virginia State College, Petersburg. They attended and participated in the district 4-H activities.

The adult leaders are largely responsible for carrying on the Extension Program in the communities. Leaders planned and aided in the execution of all community, county, district and state activities.

The accomplishments made by the families in the county, to a large extent, has been through the organization and cooperation of leaders.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Agricultural Production,
Management and Natural Resource
Development
Phase: Farm Management - Record Keeping

Farm families are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the high cost of production. Many farmers are at the cross-road as to their future in agriculture. In most instances, farm management appears to be the problem.

One way to better management is a good farm record program. This can be achieved by training families to keep records. Have them understand the importance of good records in making studies of their farm business. Assist families in identifying needs, problems and opportunities, and to make adjustments. Encourage families to make decisions in light of needs, desires, resources and abilities.

Office counseling, visits, county and community training meetings were used to encourage families to keep records.

To promote good record keeping, five families enrolled in the Electronic Farm Record Program sponsored by the Economics Department, V.P.I., Blacksburg. Training was given the families in recording items of income and expense on mail-in record sheets. Each month the mail-in record sheets were checked before being analyzed. Quarterly business analysis were discussed with the families to assist them in making necessary adjustments. Four of the families were enrolled in 1961 and completed their 1961 analysis early in 1962.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Agricultural Production,
Management and Natural Resource
Development
Phase: Farm Management - Record Keeping,
(cont.)

The annual farm business analysis revealed that flue-cured tobacco farmers who raised beef cattle lost money on the cattle enterprise. There were large investments in machinery and equipment. The cost of repairs and feed was very high on most farms. Families keeping brood sows raised small litters of pigs. Yields were below average on one flue tobacco farm.

Strong points revealed in the analysis were low labor cost, good man equivalent hours, fair return on investment and diversified income.

Approximately one hundred families keep records based on the requests for record books. They were trained to record items of income and expense in their books.

The record keeping program provides a source of information to families in making adjustments in farm business, future planning, reporting income taxes and maintaining an up to date farm inventory.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Agricultural Production,
Management and Natural Resource
Development
Phase: Agronomy - Flue-cured Tobacco

Flue-cured tobacco is the main cash crop in the county. Approximately 5,019 acres are grown annually. According to a report from the ASCS Office, the yield and quality of flue-cured tobacco grown on farms with small allotments are below the county average. A large number of the growers fall in this category.

The tobacco program was designed to assist small flue-cured growers in producing higher yields of quality tobacco. It aims to develop techniques and skills in following recommended practices.

Four Managing Your Tobacco Plant Bed Demonstrations, two Fertilizer and two Crop Rotation Demonstrations were conducted on six farms. Visits were made to help farmers with problems in tobacco production. Radio talks were presented on tobacco production.

Tobacco plants were plentiful although most farmers seeded beds late. Those who followed good crop rotation and planted desirable varieties produced good yields of quality tobacco. Farmers using higher rates of fertilizer than recommended, increased production and quality. This was due to the unusually rainy season.

Farmers harvested crops too early which resulted in large quantities of immature tobacco. The application of excess amounts of M.H. 30 lowered the quality of tobacco.

Sixty-six people were trained in the grading and marketing of

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Agricultural Production,
Management and Natural Resource
Development
Phase: Agronomy - Flue-cured Tobacco,
(cont.)

flue tobacco by R. R. Gordon, USDA Tobacco Specialist. He stressed the importance of keeping tobacco separate according to type, quality and color.

C. M. Leach, Field Representative, Virginia Electric Power Company, gave four demonstrations on Having Good Light When Sorting Tobacco.

Six farmers purchased recommended light fixtures to aid in grading.

Observations were made at tobacco sales to determine the way farmers had graded and marketed their tobacco.

Farmers realize that they must follow recommendations if they are to produce higher yields of quality tobacco. They are doing a better job in grading and marketing tobacco.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Extension Home Economics
Phase: House Furnishings

Many homemakers decorate their homes on a limited financial budget. Their homes could be made more attractive and liveable if they developed some knowledge and skills in interior decorating.

Fifteen leaders were trained by Miss Katherine Habel, House Furnishings Specialist, V. P. I., Blacksburg. She stressed the part that colors play in making the home more attractive. Color is found everywhere. Homemakers should have a plan before beginning to decorate. Miss Habel advised against the use of too many different colors and designs. She also advised the homemakers to give thought in selecting, using and hanging pictures in the home.

These leaders gave or assisted in giving 19 demonstrations to 297 club members. The agent gave nine demonstrations to 130 homemakers on Beauty in the Home; stressing accessories and arrangement of furniture.

Homemakers are able to realize that their homes can be made more attractive by re-arranging furniture and accessories or by removing accessories, furniture and pictures that cause clutter.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Extension Home Economics
Phase: Foods and Nutrition

Homemakers conducted a project on Basic Foods Preparation For Better Flavor, More Nutrition and Variety. This project was to help homemakers who often get tired of planning and preparing three meals a day.

Mrs. Mary L. Thompson, Associate Extension Food Specialist, trained fourteen leaders in Varieties in Yeast Breads, Preparation of Meats, and Fish and Seafood Main Dishes. She prepared the following dishes: Sally Lunn, ten shapes and kinds of bread from one batch of yeast dough, meat pie with mashed potato topping; steak, using chuck roast, and Salmon-Cheese Biscuit Roll.

The agent trained twelve leaders in preparing Vegetables All Family Can Enjoy and Fruits in Salads and Desserts. She demonstrated preparation of Spanish Lima Beans, Pungent Beets, Apple Surprise and Peach Salad.

Fifty demonstrations were given to 763 women by the leaders and agent. Families have now developed a taste for some foods that formerly were refused. New ways are being used in preparing foods to add variety in taste. Homemakers who felt they could not afford to serve steak are doing so by using meat tenderizer on chuck roast and similar cuts of meats.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: 4-H and Other Extension
Youth Programs
Phase: Career Exploration

There are limited job opportunities in this area for youth. They leave, seeking employment, only to find that they are not qualified for many jobs. These youths have no knowledge of career opportunities nor the potentialities in the labor field. In many cases, individuals have not been trained to meet the requirements to gain employment. Many of these young people have dropped out of school before graduating from high school.

To aid youth in gaining knowledge and skills that will help them make wise decisions in the choice of careers, the Career Exploration Project has been started. It is also hoped that it will stimulate senior 4-H members to re-enroll.

Two hundred junior and senior James S. Russell High School students are enrolled in Career Exploration Project, Unit I. Prior to the beginning of project training, conferences were held with the principal and guidance committee. Dr. George T. Blume, Associate Sociologist, V. P. I., Blacksburg, conducted a leader planning meeting and leader training meeting. He outlined the eligibility and benefits of the project. Visuals were furnished leaders as teaching aids in conducting the project.

Other methods used in initiating the project included radio broadcasts on "Youth Faces the Future"; news articles, discussions with adult groups and circular letters.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: 4-H and Other Extension
Youth Programs
Phase: Career Exploration (cont.)

The project cannot be evaluated as planned. Time has not permitted studies and observations to determine capabilities of youth in finding and holding jobs after completion of project.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: 4-H and Other Extension
Youth Programs
Phase: 4-H Adult Leaders Association

Work had been done with approximately 23 organizational and 42 project adult leaders individually. Some of the leaders had been attending county council meetings, but there was no organization of 4-H adult leaders in county-wide planning and training. There was lack of cooperation among the different clubs in the county in carrying out county-wide activities and events. Several leaders who had been attending the State Leaders Conference expressed a desire to organize a County Leaders Association.

This organization would provide an opportunity for leadership training and strengthen the over-all County 4-H Program.

Meetings were held with the 4-H leaders who had attended the State Leaders Association to aid in creating interest among leaders. Other leaders were contacted through personal visits, telephone calls and letters. The County 4-H Adult Leaders Association was organized May 1962.

Although the organization is young, there has been an increase of interest and cooperation in county activities by the leaders.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: 4-H and Other Extension
Youth Programs
Phase: Other Activities

4-H Club Members and leaders participated in county, district and state activities.

On the county level, they took part in council meetings, National 4-H Club Week, Rural Life Sunday, picnics and tours.

On the district level, they participated in the Sweet Potato Show and Sale, Market Hog Show and Sale and home economics contest.

Fourteen members and leaders attended the State Short Course and thirteen attended the Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia.

Three 4-H Club boys participated in the Junior Market Hog Show and Sale at the Southside Virginia Fair, Petersburg. They exhibited and sold eleven hogs, three pens of three and two singles. One member was awarded Grand Champion for a pen of hogs; one member had Reserve Champion Pen and Reserve Champion Single; and one member placed second in class three pen.

Five 4-H Club members participated in the Sweet Potato Show and Sale, Richmond. They exhibited and sold fifteen bushels of potatoes. Cash awards and ribbons were given the three top county winners and ribbons for fourth and fifth places.

Brunswick County - 1962
Project Area: Community and Public Affairs
Phase: County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board is the over-all planning organization of the county. This group helps keep the people abreast of the changing trends and other important matters affecting them. It needs to broaden its scope in county and community activities.

Members of the board need to better understand its functions and purposes to participate more.

The board held quarterly meetings. The purpose, the responsibility of the organization, county problems and possible solutions of them were discussed. Committees were appointed to assume responsibilities relating to the work discussed.

The board sponsored the Annual Farmers' Conference in February. This was to inform people on the changing trends.

It sponsored community meetings to inform people on local, state and national policies affecting their welfare in agriculture, family living, leadership, and community and public affairs. Two hundred fifty-six persons attended these meetings.

Fifty members of the board participated in the program.

Brunswick County - 1962

Success Story

The S. E. Mitchell family of Brodnax realized that a home was the major goal when they started as a Farm and Home Development family in 1955. The home in which they lived was a six room log and frame house with one closet. There were no screens at windows or doors and the family was not anxious to add any because of the poor structure. Their Vision was a new home.

They were not financially able to build and had not considered all of their needs in a home. Information and resources on aid for financing farm homes were made available to the family. Background information on family housing was discussed with the family to aid in selection of a plan.

Mr. Mitchell drove a school bus and Mrs. Mitchell worked off-farm to supplement the income and add to the house fund.

The family selected house plan No. A-58 from the Virginia Agricultural Engineering Department, V.P.I., Blacksburg, and made a few minor changes. They considered having contractors do the job and had bids submitted. The prices submitted were more than the family could afford. Mr. Mitchell, having done carpentry work with local contractors, felt that he could do a major part of the work himself and save on cost.

A carpenter was hired to assist with the framing and applying the asbestos shingles. Mr. Mitchell's brother, a local electrician, wired the house. The family assisted Mr. Mitchell in the major

Brunswick County - 1962

Success Story (cont.)

portion of the construction work.

In January, they moved into a six room, insulated house with three bedrooms, living room, kitchen-dining area, family room, center hall, space for bath and five closets. Installing water and bath, painting the interior, finishing porches, building cabinets in the kitchen and landscaping the grounds are some of the future goals of the family.

Brunswick County - 1962

General Appraisal

The 1962 program was planned to aid families in better management, production, marketing, use of resources, and leadership development. It was designed to aid youth find their places in the fields of employment, and development into useful and desirable citizens.

Some of the goals, as set up, were reached while others were incomplete. The goals were reached by careful planning, good follow-up and leaders.

Some of the goals were not reached because the program was started late, the need for more planning and follow-up and trained leaders.