More non-rural residents are asking for agricultural information and bulletins, as well as identification of insects, weeds, and diseases. This is in addition to the regular requests received from farmers.

The objective of the Extension Work in Spotsylvania is as follows:

To aid in diffusing among the people of the county useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and homeeconomics, and to encourage the application of the same.

The object of 4-H club work in Spotsylvania County, which has been stated by the State 4-H Club Agent, Dr. W. E. Skelton, is as follows:

"To assist in the development of boys and girls into useful and desirable citizens. Under useful is where we teach project work and how to make a living. Under desirable is included leadership, personal development and citizenship."

2. The Free Lance Star

A daily newspaper in Fredericksburg which goes into 80% of the farm homes of the county is the Free Lance Star. Each Monday the paper carried a Farm Page. The agents use this to a great advantage in carrying news releases of meetings and other information.

The agent assists with a farm story from the county every third Monday, of some interesting or outstanding work done by a farmer or a 4-H club boy.

XI. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

The increasing number of youth living on farms and in sub-urban areas is bringing about a change in the 4-H program. The program in Spotsylvania County has been adjusted to cope with the change.

Efficiency in marketing of livestock, especially, has been increased in Spotsylvania County during the past year, with the establishment of the Fredericksburg Fat Cattle Sales, the second Annual Yearling Sale, and the continuing of the Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale.

The agent has played a part in educating the consumer on the quality of eggs, as well as the producers.

The agent is still receiving calls for assistance from non-farm residents who were originally contacted as a result of the Bangs Program in 1958.

4. All Star

The ages of our All Star members are at such a varied degree, that it has been difficult to stimulate their interest enough to organize a county chapter. From 1942 to 1952, no club members in the county were taken into the All Star Chapter. In fact, just two boys have been taken in since 1942. This has made such a gap in ages, interest, that all attempts for a county organization have been futile. Our only hope is to build up an enthusiastic group of young All Stars as we go along, and then try to organize a county group.

Our All Star Members are very willing to serve as 4-H Club leaders, to furnish transportation to county events, and to assist with training officers at our Fall Planning Meeting.

IX. YOUNG ADULT

Two young men from the county attended the Leadership Camp at Virginia Beach.

X. COUNTY PUBLICITY

The local newspapers and radio station have been very cooperative in releasing information to the people of the county. They are as follows:

1. W.F.V.A. Radio Station, Fredericksburg

The Spotsylvania Agents are on every third Saturday at 12:15 P.M. on the Farm and Home Program.

One 4-H Boy attended older youth camp at Jamestown, and one boy attended Conservation Camp at Virginia Beach. We also had two 4-H boys to attend Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake.

3. County 4-H Council

Our Spotsylvania County 4-H Club Council is composed of the officers of the fourteen organized clubs in the county, plus our 4-H leaders, who serve in an advisory capacity. This group directs the 4-H activities in the county, and plans for special events, such as attendance at Jamestown 4-H Camp, Conservation Camp, trips, contests, observance of National 4-H Club Week, and other items of general interest to club members.

We usually plan for two meetings a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. At the fall meeting we reorganize our Council, set up goals and objectives for the year, and plan for special events. At the spring meeting we check up on general progress of the work, and plan for summer activities.

Our 4-H club officers are trained for their particular jobs at the fall meeting. Awards and pins for outstanding work are also given to club and county winners at this meeting. 4-H club leaders assist with the training of the 4-H club officers.

The Spotsylvania 4-H Club exhibit at the Fredericksburg Fair was the work of members of the 4-H county council. They met and decided on an exhibit which was displayed and won first place in strong competition with four other counties.

B. Other Activities

1. American Institute of Cooperatives

The highlight of the 4-H program was the out-of-state trip to the American Institute of Cooperation at the University of Illinois. Edward Steckler, Sammy Spangler, Tommy Thorburn and Allan Thorburn, 4-H club members from Spotsylvania, and the agent were among a group of more than 1,200 young people and professional workers, from 39 states and 10 foreign countries.

Each young person was assigned to a special discussion section. Tommy Thorburn was one of the group to give a speech on "What Cooperatives Mean to My Community."

One day was spent visiting nearby farms selected to show typical livestock and grain operations where young people are participating actively in the farm operation. On their way home, the Spotsylvania group stopped at the Southern States hybrid corn plant at Muncie, Illinois.

2. Jamestown Camp and Short Course

Thirty-four 4-H club boys, two junior leaders and the agent attended the District 4-H Camp in July at Jamestown. The interest has been very high and the agents have to limit the number each year to their quota assigned by the camp.

Two boys attended the State 4-H Club Short Course at Blacksburg.

The winners for 1959 were as follows:

1st	$25.00	Kenneth McLeod
2nd	20.00	Douglas Carr
3rd	15.00	Larry Martin
4th	10.00	Carlton Sims
5th	5.00	Douglas Sims

4. Electricity

This project was carried by members of the Spotsylvania, Sr. 4-H club. Assisting the agent at club meetings were representatives of the Virginia Electric and Power Company of Fredericksburg, and the Virginia Electric Cooperative of Bowling Green, Virginia.

The agent and a 4-H club member attended the 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond on August 29 and 30.

5. Poultry

The precentage of completions increased in poultry this year over last year. This goes along with the trend of the increase in this area of producing eggs. The assistance given these boys by the local hatcheries has stimulated new interest in the project.

6. Tractor Maintenance

Mr. A. B. Brown, a local leader, attended a two-day tractor training meeting in Culpeper. He "spark-plugged" this program in the county. This was the second year that an organized 4-H tractor project has been conducted in the county. The programs were conducted in the shop at the local high school, with tractors furnished by farmers in the vicinity.

A. 4-H Projects

1. Dairy

Six club members exhibited ten head of dairy cattle at the Fredericksburg Fair. This was not only the largest number, but also the best quality animals exhibited within the past six years. Three members went on to the district show, and one to the state fair. The dairy committee members are showing more interest in club members with dairy projects and individual members have assisted with the location of better calves for 4-H club members. This interest, along with the assistance from the Extension 4-H Dairy Specialist, W. H. Patterson, has given the county the best 4-H dairy program it has had in recent years.

2. Forestry

Forestry was offered as an over all project to the elementary school clubs. They had tree identification, uses of wood, along with quizzes consisting of true and false, fill in and choosing correct words. The new record book was a great success. This book helped bring about the high completion on the project of 165 out of 179 enrolled. Twenty-two boys planted 500 tree seedlings each.

3. Swine

The 4-H pig chain, sponsored by the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, is the key to the interest shown in this project.

VIII. 4-H CLUB WORK

The agent is limited with time during the year; therefore, 4-H club work was offered in the form of club projects to each club. Where there were individuals in the club who were interested in a particular project, the agent would work with that member outside of the regular 4-H club meetings. This proved very successful, in that it was more practical and completions were greater. The limited time for club meetings in schools could not be satisfactorily used to discuss a variety of projects taken by individuals. The agent, without the aid of an assistant, tried to offer the boys of the county a program that would benefit all.

There were eight boys' clubs in the county in 1959 with 199 boys enrolled. The projects were as follows:

Projects	Members enrolled	Completing
Potatoes	3	3
Bees	2	2
Swine	32	23
Garden	56	38
Corn	8	6
Poultry	8	8
Dairy	21	18
Rabbits	5	4
Forestry	179	165
Electricity	42	27
Entomology	5	4
Tractor Maintainence	16	11
Baby Beef	3	3
Small Grain	5	3
Soy Beans	1	1
Strawberries	3	3
Junior Leadership	13	10

There were thirteen consignors from the county consigning 297 head to the Annual Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale.

K. C. Williamson, Associate Extension Animal Husbandman, was speaker at a county-wide meeting on marketing livestock which had an attendance of thirty-five.

George Allen, Extension Animal Husbandman, discussed sheep marketing at an area meeting in Fredericksburg. This was attended by more sheep growers than any other sheep meeting that has been held for Spotsylvania County. As a result of this meeting, a sheep committee was organized in Spotsylvania County. The members of this committee served as directors for the Fredericksburg Area Wool Pool, where over 10,000 pounds of wool was marketed from this area. The committee accepted bids for the wool and decided where to market it.

on January 27, 1959, with an attendance of over sixty-five. Principal speakers were G. D. Kite, Extension Agricultural Engineer and J. H. Strickler, Associate Extension Agricultural Engineer from VPI. Food Processing and Handling Facilities was discussed by Tom Stuckey, Agricultural Engineer from the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

VII. MARKETING

The commodity committees, especially Livestock and Poultry have had as one of their primary goals - Marketing. At the county-wide meeting on Poultry, this was the topic. The feed dealers have cooperated in assisting newer egg producers in the selling of their eggs. This has brought about a better quality product.

The first slaughter calf sales in Virginia were held in Spotsylvania County. This years sale received an average of over $18.00 per head more than in regular sales. This is strictly a farmers organization cooperating with the Extension Service, the State Department of Agriculture and the local livestock market for one purpose: To see that farmers get market prices for their cattle, and to help farmers understand and utilize the best possible sales techniques in selling their cattle.

Six farmers consigned sixty-three head to the second Annual Fredericksburg Yearling Steer Sale.

in getting pine seedlings set in the county. Two 4-H club boys attended Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake, which is operated by the Virginia Division of Forestry.

The extension secretary takes calls for the Chief Forest Warden and the District Forester.

6. Division of Schools

The school board and superintendent have been very cooperative in permitting 4-H club meetings to be held in the schools. They have also been most cooperative in permitting the Extension Service to use their school buildings for educational meetings. They also furnish two buses each year for transporting 4-H club members to Jamestown 4-H Club Camp.

VI. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

The farmer has become more conscience of the cost of labor saving equipment and construction. This has brought about the need of the extension program to include more information on available farm plans.

The Virginia Angus Field Day was held in the county during the summer. Part of the program was a visit of a newly built pole barn from plans furnished by the agent from V.P.I. There was an exhibit of plans which are available from the Extension Service on livestock shelters and equipment for this area.

A meeting on New Engineering Information for Increased Farm Profits was held at the Community Center in Fredericksburg

2. Farmers Home Administration

The agent cooperated with the area supervisor in conducting a tour including five dairy farms in the county.

3. District Soil Conservation Service

The agent is secretary of the Tri-County organization of Spotsylvania, Stafford and King George, which sponsored the following projects:

A. Water Resources edition in the Fredericksburg paper.
B. Sponsored Conservation Week.
C. Held monthly meetings to discuss farmers' needs.
D. Two school teachers attended Conservation Short Course at William and Mary.

4. Farm Bureau

The Farm Bureau has been very cooperative in backing every program that was sponsored by the extension service.

The Farm Bureau sponsored a picnic in cooperation with the Home Demonstration Clubs on the county. About one hundred and fifty Farm Bureau families attended the picnic.

The Farm Bureau made available a scholarship to help defray expenses of a boy to attend the State 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg.

T. T. Curtis was the speaker at the fall meeting of the Spotsylvania County Farm Bureau.

5. Division of Forestry

The county and state forest service have been very helpful

F. Other Projects

1. Fredericksburg Fair

The agent served as superintendent of Farm Crops at the fair. The agent assisted the fair with swine and sheep shows, as well as assisting farmers and 4-H club members in preparing their exhibits.

2. Farm and Home Development

Work with the Farm and Home Development Program has progressed rather slowly in our county.

Our first step was to explain the program to our Board of Supervisors, and to our County Home Demonstration Committee. The Executive Committee of the County Home Demonstration Committee agreed to serve in an advisory capacity in helping select our families.

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. A. S. C.

The agent has assisted the A. S. C. Committee in setting up their years work and met with them in seeing that it was carried out. The agent used theses practices as much as possible when putting on demonstrations. The agent held one educational meeting at Partlow. The agent attended three called meetings of the committee to establish a Soil Bank Base for fifty-seven farmers. This was the fourth highest for any county in the state.

due to the fact that a number of part-time farmers in the county are very much interested in the improvement of their home grounds.

Landscape notes are distributed to forty interested home owners.

3. Vegetables

The vegetable garden newsletter prepared by the V.P.I. Horticulture Department is being mailed to seventy-five families in the county each month.

E. Entomology

The majority of farmers top dressed their alfalfa with heptachlor mixed with their fertilizer. This proved very successful in controlling the alfalfa weevil. It also forced the farmers to top dress their crop.

The information for the control of the Alfalfa Weevil was in great demand. With up to date information received from VPI, the county agent was able to give timely recommendations that were used very successfully by growers of alfalfa. The majority of the farmers who grow alfalfa have spray rigs. These rigs are now being used more and more for weed control, since heptachlor can be purchased already mixed in fertilizer.

A considerable amount of time was spent on home visits to residents of newer subdivisions on problems on insects and diseases to flowers, shrubbery, and vegetable gardens.

production. The number of farmers going into this type of operation has been on the increase. Consequently, the number of birds kept for layers has increased.

One new cage layer operation with a capacity of about 2,800 birds was begun during the year. The cages were installed in a Grade A dairy barn.

C. Forestry

1,200,000 pine seedlings were purchased from the State Nursery for planting in the county.

The agent aided farmers with assistance from VPI Forestry and the Virginia Division of Forestry on programs of various organizations and radio programs.

The agent secured fourteen thousand pine seedlings for 24 4-H club members. They were planted and had a high percent of survival; in fact, one boy only, had below average.

D. Horticulture

1. Fruits

There are no commercial orchards in the county; therefore, the agent's calls on large fruits are confined to several county residents with a few trees.

The number of families in the county growing small fruit is increasing.

2. Landscaping

The agent is receiving more and more calls on this subject,

assisted the association with their breeding problems and also helped with educational information to the farmers. There are ten herds in the association with over fifty cows depending entirely on the association for service. The artificial breeding program is well established and has been most helpful to the small dairymen in improving the herd while they are trying to increase their number of head.

b. Fredericksburg Dairy Herd Improvement Association

The local supervisor continually submits his monthly report and receives supplies from V.P.I. through the county agent's office. This arrangement is functioning better than in previous years.

Two dairymen have become members of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association during the year, making a total of thirteen in the county.

P. C. Hatch and Sons are well pleased with the results of the new system of DHIA-EDPM Program, which they started during the year.

5. Poultry

Twenty-six people attended a poultry meeting in the county conducted by Dr. Paul Seigel and Dr. Herbert Seigel, with the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and Denver Bragg, Associate Extension Poultry Husbandman, VPI.

The commercial feed companies have held meetings with the idea of getting more farmers to go into quality egg

and the price of cull dairy cattle is satisfactory.

Eight dairymen, the local inseminator and the county agnet visited the Artificial Breeding Center at Rocky Mount, as well as three dairy farms in the area. These farms had cattle sired by bulls from the stud.

Six dairymen and the agent participated in the Annual Dairymen's Convention and Breeds Meeting at Roanoke.

The dairy committee cooperated with the Livestock and Agronomy Committees in planning and conducting a meeting on "New Engineering Information for Increased Farm Profit," which was held in Fredericksburg.

All of the producers shipping to Washington and Norfolk have had bulk tanks. As of June all shippers to Fredericksburg were required to have them.

A Dairy Farm Tour was held during the month of June featuring the following:

1. The effects of Tile Drainage
2. Alfalfa killed by improper cleaning of spray drums
3. Herringbone Milking Parlor
4. A pole barn 40' by 120' (without center poles.)

Sixty-five copies of PEEP AND MOO are mailed to dairymen each month.

There are two organizations that have been a tremendous help to dairymen in the county. They are:

a. Artificial Breeding Program

The association has been very successful. The agent

Ten farmers, which constituted a majority of the sheep growers in Spotsylvania county pooled their wool. The representatives of United Wool Growers handled the payments much better than in 1958. The growers consider this a very successful way of marketing the wool for the county.

3. Swine

The number of hogs has been about the same for the past ten years, with the trend to more of a market type animal.

The price of market hogs dropped during the year, thereby, decreasing the demand and price for baby pigs. There is much interest in the so-called "pig parlor" operation at this time.

The 4-H pig chain project has increased the number of better sows in the respective communities where they have been placed.

4. Dairy

Dairying has been the most consistant type of farming in the county. There are forty-three Grade A Dairies in the county. The county is located in the center of three major milk markets, Richmond, Fredericksburg and Washington, D.C. It is the major income for farmers in the county.

From the fall of 1957, we have had one of the best growing seasons in the county than we have had for years. The supply of milk has reached its demand with the dairymen receiving reduced prices for milk this fall; therefore causing dairymen to suffer considerable hardship. They are culling closer,

temporary silos.

The problem of harvesting different mixtures has been overcome by the use of better forage harvesters, that have been developed in recent years.

Two demonstrations were given on the use of Liquid Nitrogen on small grain with excellent results.

Wood soybeans were grown in the county for the first time, by two farmers who had an outstanding yield and quality.

The county had an erratic growing season with periods of wet and dry weather. The corn yield turned out much better than was expected, but soybeans were below average.

B. Livestock

1. Beef

The agent spent considerable time working with the feeder calf sale committee in inspecting the calves for the Fredericksburg and Richmond Feeder Calf Sales. Thirteen consignors from the county sold over 290 calves in the 1959 Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale. A total of 1,583 calves were sold in this sale. The average per hundred was $29.00. This was below 1958, but above the state average.

2. Sheep

Over 10,000 pounds of wool was pooled at the third annual Fredericksburg Wool Pool in cooperation with United Wool Growers.

the Virginia Division of Forestry and the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair Association.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

1. Forage Crops

There are two major soil divisions in the county. The Eastern part; Coastal Plain and the Western part, Northern Piedmont. These western soils are heavy clay loams and are well adapted to farming.

Over two hundred and seventy soil samples were sent to VPI for analysis for all types of major crops, particulary alfalfa. The recommendations from the results of the soil samples were discussed with each farmer and usually followed rather closely, especially on alfalfa seeding by new farmers.

The goal of seeding three hundred acres of alfalfa was exceeded, due mainly to the excellent weather conditions we had in the fall of 1959.

Allan Kates, Associate Extension Weed Specialist, conducted one demonstration for control of thistle. The thistle was killed, but whether or not it is the most economical method of control is still to be determined.

Silage is being used more than in the past as a result of the information received by the farmers through the commercial concerns, as well as the agent, on the use of trench silos and

The first sale of finished cattle to be held in the state was held in Fredericksburg in 1957. These sales have continued making a market for the farmers who are feeding a small number of animals.

Poultry layers have continued to receive a great deal of attention from feed dealers during the past year. The amount of capital and the land required has helped promote this in the county, as well as the poultrymen being part-time farmers.

Sun cured tobacco is limited in the county to the South-eastern part of the county where there are fourteen allotments of twenty acres.

There are four hundred and twenty wheat allotments in the county. Wheat, corn and soybeans are the main cash crops. Local large graineries have had an important bearing in the production of these crops.

III. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The agent has had full cooperation this year from the Agricultural Committees of the Chancellor, Partlow, Spotsylvania, and Belmont Puritan Clubs. The Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Other agencies that have contributed to the Extension Service in the county are the Farm Bureau, The A.S.C. County Committee, the County Board of Supervisors, Tri-County Soil Conservation Service, Vocational Education Department, Farmers Home Administration,

about forty-six percent of the total. Cattle and calves rank second with about 21 percent of the total. Poultry, which includes eggs, chickens and turkeys, accounts for 12 percent of the total value of farm products sold. Crops have been declining in importance for many years and now provide only 10 percent of the total. Forest products are large sources of income on many farms and now supply about 6 percent of the total value of sales.

Almost three-fourths of the county's area is wooded, and farms contain nearly 80,000 acres of woodland.

Thirty-eight farms with a total of 2,296 acres of crop land were placed in the Conservation Reserve (Soil Bank). The total annual payment to the owners is $33,452.

In recent years the number of residential and part-time farms has increased rapidly, and the 1954 Census of Agriculture classified about 75 percent of all farms in these two groups. Such farms are those that sold less than $250 of farm products, and those with value of sales of $250 to $1,199 and operator either reporting 100 days or more of off-farm work, or reporting other income exceeding the value of farm products sold. Most of these farms produce much of their food requirements.

The Feeder Calf Sale in the Fredericksburg and Richmond area continues to be an important market for selling feeder calves.

I. INTRODUCTION

During the year of 1959 there were three Extension employees in Spotsylvania County. They were the Home Demonstration Agent, Mrs. Louise Cooley; Stenographer, Miss Beatrice Sorrell and the County Agent, R. W. Nash, Jr. The Spotsylvania Extension Service office is located in the old Spotsylvania jail. This building was remodelled and has three rooms; one for the home agent, one for the county agent, and one for the secretary, which serves as a reception room.

II. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Spotsylvania County, 413 square miles, lies mostly in the Piedmont Plateau with its Eastern corner in the Coastal Plain. In 1954, land in farms totaled 134,858 acres, 51 percent of the county's area of 264,320 acres. According to the 1954 census of Agriculture, there were 1,082 farms, which averaged 124.6 acres in size. Land in farms has been slowly declining since 1945 when 167,022 acres were recorded, and number of farms has dropped 26 percent from the 1,465 farms that year.

The topography is generally rolling, except for a small flat and low area adjacent to the Rappahannock River, east of Fredericksburg. Elevations vary slightly from about 50 feet in the east to more than 400 feet on the western side.

Agriculture is still important in the county's economy, although there are more people employed in manufacturing plants. Milk is the principal source of cash farm income and now supplies

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL Agent
Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

1959

SPOTSYLVANIA
County