

VIRGINIA

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS,
County Agricultural Agents

Annual Report 1942

index		page
1 e 3.56	Livestock grading, standardization	7-9, 22
1 e 3.59	Wool pool.	10
4 b 1.4	Dairy cattle; purebred stock. . .	22
4 L 1.4	Swine; procuring purebred stock .	22
4 L 2.1	4-H breeding-pig clubs	30
* 8 a 2.641	Neighborhd.ldr.systems;organizatn	4-5, 19
8 b 4.1	Program correlation; State.	20
8 e 3	Specialists.	21-23
8 e 5.1	Agric.Adjustment Agency.	6-7, 20
8 e 5.9	Farm Security Administration . .	20
8 e 5.20	Soil Conservation Service.	20
8 e 5.22	Tennessee Valley Authority . . .	11, 20, 30-31
8 e 6.8	Commercial firms	30
8 h 3.71	Adult result demonstration . . .	11
18 a 2	Cattle; blackleg.	8
18 f 5.2	Sheep parasites; internal	9-10

fel 16

REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

ANNUAL REPORT

1942

B. A. Warriner, District Agent
Southwest Virginia

Pages 1-17

K. P. I. Agricultural Extension Division

J. B. Bruce 18-25
J. D. Hutchinson Jr.) 26-31
J. H. Quisenberry
W. L. Doughtrey 32-38

Progress made in meeting the outstanding supervisory problems connected with the improvement of extension work in counties.

One of the biggest problems we have had this year has been finding men to fill the positions of those called to military service. Of the total number of men called to service from the Extension Service of Virginia, which is fifty-eight at the present time, twenty have been called from the Southwest Virginia District. Our Assistant Director, Mr. C. A. Montgomery, has been right on the job all the time and with his able assistance, we have succeeded so far in keeping these vacancies filled with competent men. I think we will be in a position to carry on for the duration fairly satisfactorily and should be in good shape when the war is over, as I am making arrangements with the boards of supervisors to give their county agents leave for the duration. When the war is over these well trained agents can return if they care to do so, as it is thoroughly understood by their successors that their employment is only temporary. The county boards of supervisors have cooperated with us wonderfully well and they are doing all they can to assist us with the solution of our problems.

Another problem that has caused me a great deal of concern during the past two years and especially the past few months is the vast number of new duties that the county agents are being called upon to do. We are not kicking, neither are we trying to find an excuse for not doing these many new things we are being called upon to do, but the thing that is worrying me is how we are going to find the time to give

to the emergency jobs and do a good extension job at the same time. I think the most outstanding progress made toward the solution of this particular problem was the setting up of the county boards of agriculture. Where these boards have been properly organized and the community and neighborhood committees are functioning efficiently, the county agents are finding it much easier to do the extra jobs and at the same time carry on a reasonably good extension program. The county board of agriculture is a wonderful help to the new county agent.

Adjustments in supervisors responsibilities, plans, and procedures to meet the war emergency.

Because of the emergency programs that have been necessary as a result of the war effort, I have been compelled to alter my plans and cut down on the number of visits made to the county agents, especially the experienced agents. I think every extension worker fully realizes that we can not do business as usual so we are trying to do things of first importance first. We fully appreciate the part that food will play in winning this war; therefore, we are giving considerably less time to many of our regular extension projects and concentrating our time and attention on the "Food for Freedom" program. I believe my greatest responsibility at the present time is to assist the county agents with conducting the necessary educational campaigns to thoroughly acquaint the farm people with the agricultural situation and the absolute necessity for meeting their 1943 production goals. Many of the farmers do

not seem to realize the seriousness of the situation in which we find ourselves today and one of our many jobs is to take this information to the community and neighborhood committeemen so that they in turn may take it to the farmers and present it in such a way that the farmer will see this situation from the same angle as we see it. Never before in the history of the United States has there been a greater necessity for the agricultural workers and the farmers to tax their wits and their muscles than there is today. We know that the farmers job of producing the food and fiber necessary to win this war with less labor, less farm machinery and less nitrogenous fertilizer for field crops is a tremendous one, but it is a job that must be done. Now is the time when we must have real team work. The agricultural workers and farmers must devise new and easier ways for doing things and the farmers will have to help each other when necessary.

In the mining sections of Southwest Virginia there is, of course, a limited amount of agricultural land but practically all of the families of these miners can get enough land to grow a garden. I have given considerable time to this garden project this year and I have also spent three weeks in the field with the Extension Vegetable Specialists, discussing the garden project with the county agents and also with the gardeners who will put on the garden demonstrations. One of the most difficult jobs we have is to convince these people that it is going to be increasingly difficult to purchase canned goods from the stores.

They seem to disregard the forecast that the movement of some foods may be restricted next year beyond a radius of five hundred miles from their point of origin. This means, of course, that these people must grow more of their food if they are properly fed. A Victory garden campaign was put on last spring which was a great success. The result of this campaign was more good gardens than I have seen any one year in the twenty years I have worked in the territory.

Progress to date in establishing the neighborhood leader system for complete and quick coverage of all rural families on wartime programs.

Every county in the district has been divided into communities and the communities into neighborhoods and men and women chairmen and committeemen have been either elected or selected for each community and each neighborhood. We try not to call on the county committeemen any more than absolutely necessary because with the scarcity of labor, with gasoline rationed and tires about worn out, they have to make a real sacrifice when they are called upon to contact their neighbors. However, taking all these facts into consideration, the jobs that have been assigned them have been well done in most cases. I think a very large part of the success of the Victory garden program can be directly attributed to the community and neighborhood committeemen. The program to control the high cost of living was another job well done by the community and neighborhood committeemen. I have tried to get some definite information relative to the number of farm families contacted in this

program but was unable to do so. What information I did get, however, indicated that approximately seventy percent of the rural families were contacted. There are twenty-one counties in the Southwest Virginia district and reports have been received from twenty of them. The twenty agents report 224 communities with 2165 committeemen. As a result of the gasoline and rubber shortage, we discovered that we did not have a sufficient number of neighborhood committeemen, so we have attempted to correct this by getting each neighborhood committeeman to select an assistant. The additional committeemen make it possible for each committeeman to have not more than ten or twelve families for which he is responsible. If this can be done, and I believe it can, it will not put a burden on anyone and if necessary the committeemen can contact the families for whom they are responsible on foot. This system of contacting the rural people is working fairly well in most of the counties and I believe it has wonderful possibilities if it is properly handled, but the effectiveness of the organization can be severely handicapped if meetings are called with no definite objective in view or if the committeemen are called upon to do too many things. These committeemen are as patriotic as any people I have ever known and in most cases the jobs that have been assigned them have been well done. Recently I talked with a woman who is a member of a neighborhood committee in Grayson County, and she told me she was responsible for fifteen families and she walked to the homes of each one of them for the purpose of warning them of the dangers of inflation and to inform them of the best known methods of prevention.

Of all the State and Federal agencies operating in the Southwest Virginia district, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has received the greatest amount of cooperation from the Extension Division. One of our first jobs this year was to assist with the educational campaign in connection with the 1942 production goals. We realized that our first job was to familiarize the representatives of all State and Federal agencies with the agricultural situation and the 1942 production goals so that they in turn could take the information to the committeemen and farmers and present it in such a way that the farmers would see the necessity for meeting these goals. Meetings were held in every county in the State to which were invited the members of the county boards of agriculture, which includes representatives of all the State and Federal agencies operating in the territory, and the county and community Triple A committeemen. At these meetings the agricultural situation was carefully outlined, the goals were explained in detail and methods for reaching these goals were stressed. I believe an exceptionally good educational job was done as the farmers met practically all of these goals. Another valuable service rendered the AAA by the Extension Service was the encouragement of the farmers to carry out improved agricultural practices. The county agents report that 32,709 farmers in the Southwest Virginia district carried out improved agricultural practices in 1942. The practices carried out were as follows: 8365 livestock, 9133 farm, and 20,018 soil practices. Of all the jobs in which the Extension Service has cooperated with the Agricultural

Adjustment Administration the registration of trucks for certificates of war necessity has consumed the greatest amount of time. For several weeks the county agents and the extension secretaries did little else except make out applications for the truck operators and when the certificates of war necessity started coming in, the owners of the trucks were not satisfied with their allowances so for the last few weeks the county agents' offices have been crowded with farmers and other operators of trucks hauling 51% or more of agricultural products asking for assistance in filling out appeal forms.

Major Achievements of Agents in Counties.

I have heard Director Hutcheson say that if every farmer in Virginia would follow the same production and marketing practices as those followed by the best farmers, there would be no trouble about meeting our production goals. For a good many years now we have been trying to improve the marketing practices of the small producers and we have made considerable headway, especially in cooperative marketing of livestock and wool. The agents report that 891 producers marketed cooperatively in 1942, 21,847 head of livestock. By this method of marketing the value of this livestock was increased \$27,711.40. The educational advantages of this method of marketing cannot be stated accurately, but they have been outstanding. All of these animals are sold according to grade and this grading has had a very stimulating effect on the purebred business. When a farmer brings his lambs or his calves to the grading pens and sees them put in the lower grades because they plainly show lack of breeding and finish, he does not lose much

time in finding out where he can find a good ram or a good bull and he also begins looking for improved methods of feeding and management. I think one of the best demonstrations of this fact is what has happened in Lee County relative to the feeder calf sale. About three years ago this sale was started and the calves brought a fairly satisfactory price, but the county agent and the sales committee were not satisfied with the quality of the calves consigned so they got out considerable publicity on the value of better bred bulls and better methods of handling and feeding calves and also the importance of grading the calves and selling them according to grade. On the second of last October, which was their third sale, 664 calves were graded and sold according to grade. They averaged about 450 pounds and sold for an average of \$51.20 per head. Buyers from seven states attended the sale and two carloads were purchased by cattlemen from Indiana. The beauty about this method of marketing is that the producer who consigned only two or three calves received just as much per pound as the man who consigned sixty, provided the calves were of equal quality. Another outstanding piece of work carried out by the county agents was the large number of farmers they got to vaccinate their calves for the prevention of blackleg. With the demand there is at present for meat there never was a time when it was more important to save all meat animals possible than now. The agents report that 9,191 farmers vaccinated their calves for the prevention of blackleg. The number of calves vaccinated was 55,841 and the total value of the calves saved by vaccination was \$425,944.00. The

number of purebred animals purchased deserves special mention because it furnishes proof of what is being done to improve the breeding of the Southwest Virginia livestock. 2541 purebred animals were brought into the territory in 1942. A large percent of these animals were sires, which means that the quality of our livestock will be greatly improved. About the first cooperative marketing job done in Southwest Virginia was marketing lambs and the volume has continued good in spite of the fact that auction markets have sprung up in quite a number of the Southwest Virginia Counties. I am sure that the main reason why cooperative marketing of lambs has continued to be so popular is because the producers have consistently improved the quality of their lambs by increasing the uniformity, better methods of feeding and docking and castrating. 4455 lamb producers docked and castrated their lambs this year. 75,246 lambs were docked and castrated, which brought the farmers \$56,001.87 more than they would have brought if they had not been docked and castrated.

The treatment of sheep for the control of internal parasites has become quite extensive during the past few years, especially the phenothiazine treatment. Just a comparatively few years ago a few producers treated their sheep but this practice was largely confined to the best producers; however, the improvement in the flocks due to treatment was so convincing that you rarely find a sheep producer now who does not treat his flock. The county agents report that 5270 sheepman

treated their flocks in 1942. The number of sheep treated was 124,616 and the increased value of the flocks due to treatment was \$83,156.80. Another interesting thing is the shift that has been made from the bluestone treatment to phenothiazine treatment. A few years ago practically all of the sheep men were using the bluestone treatment, but the reports for 1942 show that the bluestone treatment was used on 32,087 sheep while 92,529 received the phenothiazine treatment.

Another good cooperative marketing job carried out by the county agents was the cooperative marketing of wool; 3150 wool producers pooled their wool and marketed it cooperatively in 1942. They sold 46,429 pounds of wool and they report that the increased value of this wool due to marketing cooperatively was \$17,074.34. For quite a number of years we have been stressing the importance of good farm management and it begins to look now as if our efforts are beginning to bear fruit. The agents report that 4933 livestock men adopted improved methods of feeding livestock in 1942. 1859 poultry producers paid more for their baby chickens than usual in order to get a stronger and healthier bird. 17,681 farmers used some lime on their farms; the amount of lime used was 234,104 tons, which was applied to 147,863 acres. 28,621 tons of fertilizer were also used as a result of Extension recommendations. The adoption of these improved practices is very gratifying to me because I firmly believe that whether or not we meet our production goals for 1943 will depend upon the kind of farm management put into practice. If the right kind of management is used, I have no doubt about most of the goals being reached.

I am very proud of the progress that has been made with the Extension--T.V.A. program. The agents report 1695 Extension--T.V.A. demonstration farms and the operators on 1629 of these farms are keeping records. These demonstrations have figured prominently in the expansion of the AAA fertilizer program. Observations made on Extension--T.V.A. demonstration farms have been responsible for many a AAA participant taking his payment in phosphate.

My activities in connection with Extension--T.V.A. work this year have been confined largely to working toward making each unit demonstration farm an outstanding demonstration. Now that the County agents have so many new duties it is almost impossible for them to supervise demonstrations as they used to do, but if they will devote a reasonable amount of time to the T.V.A. Demonstrators they can do a much better job than we did before the Extension--T.V.A. Program was launched, because the entire farm is taken into the picture now instead of demonstrating one thing as was the case a few years ago. As I have said many times before, the T.V.A. demonstrations give us the best opportunity we have ever had for building up an outstanding Extension program. In the first place, we have a group of hand picked men to work with, men who were selected because of their interest in their communities and their managerial ability. These characteristics combined with T.V.A. phosphate cannot help but produce results. I hope to see the day when we will have an Extension--T.V.A. Demonstration farm in every neighborhood of every county in the Tennessee Valley watershed.

Another thing we are working toward is to bring the home into this picture also. It does not matter how deeply interested the farmer is in improving and building up the fertility of his soil, he cannot get maximum results. To get the best results we must arouse the interest of the farmer's family and get their cooperation, especially the wife, and I do not know of a better way to get her cooperation than to have some improvements made in the home. Farm products are bringing a good price now and we are encouraging the farmers to pay off their debts first and then make their homes more comfortable instead of investing in more land. These improvements in the living conditions of the farm homes will do more to keep the young people on the farm satisfied than anything I know of.

When everything is taken into consideration I think the county agents did a good Extension job this year and at the same time they did not neglect our war program. The twenty-one agents report that they spent 703 days on the food program, 416 days on the farm defense program and 564 days on other defense activities.

SUMMARY OF COUNTY AGENT WORK IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

1942

Livestock

1. Number of men shipping livestock cooperatively					<u>891</u>	
2. Number of livestock shipped:						
	lambs	<u>19,006</u>	cattle	<u>2479</u>	hogs	<u>162</u>
				Total	<u>21,847</u>	
3. Increased value due to cooperative shipping					<u>\$27,711.40</u>	
4. Number of men vaccinating for prevention of blackleg					<u>9191</u>	
5. Number of calves vaccinated					<u>55,841</u>	
6. Total value of calves saved by vaccination					<u>425,944</u>	
7. Number of animals treated for other diseases					<u>11,152</u>	
8. Value of treatment of livestock for other diseases					<u>\$44,524.00</u>	
9. Number of men purchasing purebred animals					<u>1268</u>	
10. Number of animals purchased:	sheep	<u>606</u>	cattle	<u>1049</u>		
	hogs	<u>800</u>	horses	<u>44</u>	Total	
					<u>2541</u>	
11. Number of farmers docking and castrating lambs					<u>4455</u>	
12. Number of lambs docked and castrated					<u>75,246</u>	
13. Increased value due to docking and castrating					<u>\$54,001.87</u>	
14. Number of men treating sheep for stomach worms					<u>5270</u>	
15. Number of sheep given this treatment:						
	bluestone	<u>32,087</u>	phenothiazine	<u>92,529</u>	Total	
					<u>124,616</u>	
16. Increased value of flocks due to treatment					<u>\$83,156.80</u>	
17. Number of men pooling wool in county					<u>3150</u>	

18. Number of pounds pooled	<u>468,429</u>
19. Increased value of wool due to pooling	<u>\$17,074.34</u>
20. Number of farmers assisted in using improved methods of feeding	<u>4933</u>
21. Number of farmers assisted in obtaining better strains of baby chickens	<u>1859</u>
22. Number of farmers assisted in making specific improvements for wildlife	<u>180</u>
23. Number of families assisted with butchering	<u>945</u>

Farm Management

24. Number of farmers carrying on improved agricultural practices	<u>32,709</u>
25. Number and kind of improved practices:	
Livestock Management	<u>8365</u>
Farm Management	<u>9133</u>
Soil Management	<u>21,018</u>
26. Number of men using lime	<u>17,681</u>
27. Number of tons purchased	<u>234,104.75</u>
28. Number of acres limed (all land)	<u>147,863</u>
29. Tons of lime used as a result of Extension recommendations	<u>147,011</u>
30. Tons of fertilizer used as a result of Extension recommendations	<u>28,621.1</u>
31. Number of Extension-TVA demonstration farms	<u>1695</u>
32. Value of Extension-TVA fertilizer received	<u>\$164,649.39</u>
33. Number of Extension-TVA area demonstrations	<u>295</u>
34. Acreage covered by Extension-TVA demonstrations	<u>307,690.5</u>

35. Number of Extension-TVA demonstrators keeping records	<u>1629</u>
36. Percentage increase growth on pastures due to triple superphosphate treatment	<u>36</u>
37. Percentage increase growth on pastures due to triple superphosphate and potash treatment	<u>15.5</u>
38. Number of farmers doing pasture improvement work other than with Extension-TVA phosphate	<u>13,303</u>
39. Number of tons of lime used for pasture improvement	<u>63,103</u>
40. Number of tons of fertilizer used for pasture improvement	<u>13,009.4</u>
41. Number of acres of pasture treated	<u>95,230.8</u>
42. Number of farmers assisted in growing certified seed	<u>246</u>
43. Kinds of certified seed grown: corn <u>28</u> wheat <u>11</u> oats <u>9</u> rye <u>2</u> Legume <u>2</u> barley <u>7</u> potatoes <u>1</u> soybeans <u>4</u> tobacco <u>1</u> clover <u>5</u>	<u>70</u>
Total	<u>70</u>
44. Total number of farms reached in 1942 for the first time	<u>4897</u>
45. Number of farmers using hybrid corn	<u>901</u>
46. Number of farmers assisted in strip cropping	<u>936</u>
47. Number of farms assisted in contour pasture work	<u>279</u>

Marketing

48. Give name of commodities and amount of each marketed through Federal Surplus Marketing Administration	
apples <u>56 cars</u>	Total <u>56 cars</u>
49. Total amount received by producers for surplus commodities shipped	<u>130,649</u>
50. Number of private marketing and distributing agencies and groups assisted	<u>44</u>

51. Number of special farm product merchandising programs assisted with	<u>16</u>
52. Number of programs relating to marketing services and cost of distribution assisted with	<u>11</u>
Youth.	
53. Number of 4-H clubs in county	<u>151</u>
54. Total membership of clubs; boys <u>1174</u> girls <u>2130</u> Total	<u>3304</u>
55. Value of products sold by club members	<u>\$40,408.63</u>
56. Number of nutrition or health clinics organized through efforts of Extension	<u>28</u>
57. Number of older rural youth groups organized	<u>5</u>
Credit	
58. Number of emergency crop and livestock loan applications made and approved as a result of Extension work	<u>460</u>
59. Amount of loans granted	<u>\$5068.72</u>
60. Number of farmers assisted with farm income statements for tax purposes	<u>263</u>
General	
61. Do you have a county board of agriculture	<u>21 yes</u>
Number of communities <u>238</u> Number of members <u>2387</u>	
62. Number of program planning meetings held	<u>308</u>
63. Attendance at these meetings	<u>6497</u>
64. Number of homes served with Rural Electrification Administration current	<u>2004</u>
65. Number of miles of Rural Electrification Administration lines built in county	<u>1181.2</u>

66. Have you organized the professional workers in your county 20 yes; 1 no

67. Number of farmers assisted with farm labor problems 3312

68. Number of farm families assisted in installing of
sewerage 14 heating 15 storage space 535

Defense

69. Days spent on national defense activities:

(a) The food program	<u>703</u>
(b) The farm defense program	<u>416</u>
(c) Other defense activities	<u>584</u>

18

NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

J. G. BRUCE, DISTRICT AGENT

1942

Unlike the annual reports submitted in the past, this report will deal with the organization of our farmers, the cooperation given and received from other agricultural agencies for the benefit of the farmers, and the anticipated outlook in the furtherance of the War Effort by our farmers. The counties in this district are: Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Culpeper, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Franklin, Goochland, Halifax, Henry, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward.

With the ushering in of the new year, the United States found itself confronted with World War II. The Extension Division realizing its responsibility in a "total War" began immediately to seek closer cooperation among all government agencies working in the interest of agriculture in the State. Through the combined efforts of representatives of Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, Farm Security Administration, Agriculture Adjustment Administration, Extension Division, Welfare Department and the Department of Education, County Agricultural Boards were organized to cope with the many agricultural, social, and educational problems confronting each county.

Assisted by our rural organization specialist, Prof. B. L. Hummel, from the State College, meetings of county workers were called early in the year. Each county was divided into communities including roads, schools, stores, and churches. A man was recommended as the community chairman and a woman as the co-chairman. The county workers were then paired off and requested to interview the recommended chairmen and co-chairmen and secure their consent to become representatives of their communities and members of the County Agricultural Board. The chairmen and co-chairmen of all the communities within the county comprise the County Agricultural Board and represent the voting strength of the county, with the County Agent serving as secretary.

The counties were further divided into neighborhoods within the communities. These neighborhoods were composed of from 12 to 20 families with a man, chosen by the County Agricultural Board, as the neighborhood committeeman and a woman as the co-committeeman.

The goal of the County Agricultural Board, the community, and the neighborhood, is to bring to every farmer the realization that this war is his war and that his contribution to the war effort is to produce as much food, feed, and livestock as possible and, at the same time, to conserve all farm products and exercise economy in every way so that not only this country and her Army may be fed but the countries which our Army frees from Hitlerism maybe fed.

The government agencies working for the interest of the farmers are serving in an advisory capacity to the County Agricultural Board and the two groups working together are an invaluable asset to any county. They have divided the work to be done as follows: 4-H Club, Soil Conservation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Farm Security, Agricultural Adjustment, and farm tours in cooperation with the State Experimental Stations and County Experimental Stations. These agencies, through their combined efforts are bringing about a well rounded program in agronomy, agriculture engineering, horticulture, livestock, dairying, poultry, and forestry, which results in better marketing and added income for the farmer.

The County Agricultural Board is keeping the farmer advised not only on improved

(2) 70
agricultural practices but on civic activities as well. For example, the National Defense Program, the County Civilian Defense Program, the Victory Garden Program, the Scrap Iron, Rubber, Brass, and other potential war materials, Labor Canvass, War Bond Canvass, and the Transportation Program, were presented and promoted with the aid of the Board members.

The plan of work, sponsored by our specialists on a scientific basis very largely outlined through the leadership of Professor Hummel, is a most practical working organization.

The Soil Conservation Service is growing and becoming more popular. We have 13 of 16 counties in this district engaged in these demonstrations which have served more than 1000 families. The SCS program seems to be an extension of the work started by the State College, Experimental Stations and the many demonstrations held throughout the State. The SCS is making surveys of the farms relative to topography; recommending contour cultivation, strip cropping and meadow strips; classifying the types of soils; arranging rotations with the recommended crops to suit the various soils; recommending the proper fertilizers, lime, grass seeding, permanent pasture, and giving instructions in the care of forests. These farms make attractive demonstrations.

We now have 12 counties with 236 Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrations who have received from its beginning up until August 1, 1942, 1939 tons of TVA phosphate to be used in pasture improvement and for treatment of legum crops. This high analysis phosphate comes to the farmer if he will pay the freight costs, apply the phosphate, and keep an accurate record of his entire farm operation. This latter proviso results in a farm management and cost accountant project that is of great educational value to the individual farmer and others.

The Farm Security Administration, in spite of serious handicaps, has made a good job of handling their clients and they are making a better selection of their E. R. clients with the aid of the County Committee. Their TPA clients seem to have been well chosen and their accomplishments are marvelous. We have been able to get a fair percentage of these TPA clients on the TVA program and they are making good.

The Agriculture Adjustment Program has been a great stimulus to the farmers of this State. Because of the soil conservation program and allotments, a high percentage of our farmers have been able to participate in our agronomy program and the Extension Division has been able to introduce new and improved methods which have made these farms outstanding Extension Division demonstrations. A marked increase can be noted in the use of phosphate, lime, cover crops, and legums. Although the demand is greater, the AAA will not be able to bring to the counties much more lime than last year because of the acute labor shortage and lack of transportation facilities. With all the handicaps and many difficulties, this program has grown in popularity and probably is doing more to build up the soils in this State than anything that we have done so far.

The Extension men in this district feel very proud of the cooperation which they have received from all of the government agricultural agencies. To an outsider, the SCS, FSA, TVA, AAA, and the Extension Division would seem to be just one big progressive agricultural program functioning as a unit.

21

4-H Club Program. Our 4-H Club work as outlined to us by Mr. Gordon A. Elcan, State Club Agent for the Boys, and Miss Hallie L. Hughes, State Club Agent for the Girls, has resulted in a better quality of work with marked improvement in its organization. Many of the Clubs are learning to meet the emergencies caused by shortages of labor on the farms. The definite program conducted by the boys and girls has done much to increase the food and feed for the nation. It is bringing about better cooperation, better production, and conservation on the farms.

Agronomy. We all realize that poor land produces poor people, therefore in order to help the people financially we must help them to enrich their soils. This we have tried to do through the work of all of the agencies described above and we accepted as our outstanding advisers the State Agronomist, Dr. T. B. Hutcheson, and his staff of ^{extension} agronomy specialists and the agronomy specialists under the other government agencies operating in this State. This has enabled all of us to teach the same agronomy program which is largely recommended as follows: (1) A study of the soils of each farm. (2) Recommendation of best crops for that particular type of soil with the proper use of lime, fertilizer, etc. (3) Production of crops suited to the available markets. The result has been that the farmers have been able to improve the fertility of their soils, check erosion, adopt better rotations, secure large yields of cereals, hay crops, and establish permanent pastures which enables them to carry livestock comparable to their farms.

Our Agronomy Specialist, Mr. W. H. Byrne, and our Crop Improvement Secretary, Mr. F. S. Grubbs, have given unstintingly of their time and have helped the farmers to secure certified seeds. Steady improvement has been made in saving the legum seeds, such as, red clover and lespedeza each year. Many of these seeds are certified through the Crop Improvement Association after they have been cleaned and thoroughly tested. The hybrid seed corn is coming more and more into its own and the record made this year is excellent. Improved strains of wheat, barley, oats, and rye are steadily being developed. The pasture improvement, however, is the most outstanding accomplishment of the agronomy program in my district.

Agricultural Engineering Program. As our agriculture program has progressed, we have been able to recognize the very profitable work done by the agriculture engineers. On the farms on which surveys have been made, the engineers have either terraced or set up farm strip cultivation on the contours of the land and have taken care of the emptying of the water down the valleys by use of meadow strips. Lands which have been so badly eroded that it was not profitable to try to redeem them through rotation of crops, the engineers have recommended for forest programs. In supporting the above work, we have been able to retain the services of the county agriculture engineer in Campbell County for at least one half of his time. In Patrick County, the county agent and his assistant are still constructing terraces, contour farming, and building some meadow strips. Halifax, Pittsylvania, and Franklin are also continuing the work of laying off terraces, etc. In Campbell County, through the leadership of the County Agent, W. S. Walker, his assistant, is probably the most outstanding example of the real benefit of keeping an agriculture engineer on the payroll of any county in my district. They have done wonderfully well in laying off terraces, building meadow strips and private roads. Through the cooperation of the vocational agriculture teachers, the farmers have been encouraged to bring in farm machinery that needed repair to the school shops and these instructors have done an excellent job of repair work.

Horticultural Program. The horticultural farmers have suffered over a long period of time but they are beginning to come back into their own with an excellent crop of peaches bringing a nice price and a good crop of apples which sold slowly in the beginning but are now bringing excellent prices. Through the able assistance of Prof. A. H. Teske, our Extension Horticulturist, and his assistants, much good work has been done in the cultural improvement of the orchards by the use of proper fertiliza-

tion, cover crops, legume crops, pruning, and spraying. A good deal of attention was also given to the thinning, picking, pecking and storing of the fruit as well as cooperation with the horticultural societies in presenting the best recommendations for handling the orchards, preparing the fruits, and marketing it.

Gardening. Under the leadership of Prof. L. B. Dietrick, Garden Specialist, the Garden Program has been extended in an instructive way through the county agents, the home agents, representatives of the various government agencies, community chairmen, and neighborhood committeemen to almost every home in every county. "The Victory Garden of every Farm", "The Year Around Garden", served as slogans for creating interest in gathering, marketing, canning, and drying every available vegetable. The Home Agents have done especially fine work on this program.

Livestock. Of the 16 counties in this district, 15 grow tobacco as one of their cash crops. Although the farmers had to grow their tobacco on an allotted acreage under the AAA program, they received more money for their crop. Therefore having more land on which to produce other crops and improve pastures, and more money with which they could buy livestock, there was a marked increase in the amount of livestock in the tobacco territory, as well as in the county which does not grow tobacco. We were able to place a much larger number of pure bred sires and dams and have started more cow herds. To enable these farmers to sell their high grade feeder calves, a number of livestock sale pavillions were built and through the efforts of our Livestock Specialist, who made arrangements in cooperation with the county agents and the farmers, the stock was tested, graded and offered at public auction to the feeders who wish to buy them. This resulted in good sales for the farmers.

The increase in sheep has not been satisfactory, however, we have had wonderful success in selling the wool through the Cooperative United Wool Growers of Boston, Mass. represented by Mr. E. A. Keithley of Harrisonburg. These sales have increased annually and proved very satisfactory. Nearly all of the lambs in the tobacco territory have been sold cooperatively through the cooperative, Lamb Pool Association, organized by the county agents. These have proven more successful this year and the lambs in the tobacco territory have sold for just as high prices as any of the lambs in the Southwest, the Valley, or Northern Virginia.

Swine. Our livestock specialists have given the best of cooperation in getting the number of swine increased which has resulted in a probable increase of 30%. We have had wonderful success with the Cow-Hog-Hen Program sponsored by Seers, Roebuck Company through the 4-H Club boys in every county. The efforts of this particular project have brought 157 registered sows and 28 registered boars into this district. 75 of these sows have farrowed two litters of pigs and they, along with the 72 sows put out this year, will farrow again in the Spring which will be about 144 sows farrowing spring pigs. It is hard to estimate the number of fat pigs that have been raised by the 4-H Club boys and sold to the meat markets. It is my opinion that the adults have increased their hogs through this section in a comparable way with the club members.

Dairying. Our dairy program outlined by our Extension Specialist, has done a most successful job during 1942 in this territory. We have placed 25 registered Guernsey bulls in Halifax, 18 in Pittsylvania, 8 in Patrick, 6 in Charlotte, and 18 in Franklin. The counties of Franklin, Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, Charlotte, Campbell, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Goochland, Fluvanna, and Culpeper, have also put in a number of Holstein, Jersey, and Guernsey registered bulls. Much work has been done in teaching the farmers how to grow and handle their cattle to enable them to receive the highest production and the most economical returns from them. This district has endeavored to do all possible to meet the goals set up by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

(5)

23

Poultry. Our poultry specialists have not had the cooperation from the county agents that this project deserved due to the fact that other war work completely absorbed the time, however, with the assistance of the club agents and others, a vast amount of improvement has been made in this field and we predict that this district has more than increased the number of poultry and eggs to meet the goal set by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Forestry. Our forestry specialists, in cooperation with the other government agencies and with the assistance they could get from the Extension Division, have made some very profitable demonstrations in planting and thinning the forests. It is much to the regret of the District Agents and the County Agents that more time could not be given to this valuable project.

Surplus Commodity Marketing Association. This program has assisted a number of farmers in marketing some of their surplus commodities but it has not been used during 1942 as much as in previous years when surpluses were piling up.

Cooperative Marketing. Our county agents and other government agencies have assisted in the cooperative marketing work when and where their assistance was needed. This work has grown annually in membership, in farm commodities marketed, and in the total sales of farm products. The cooperative purchases have also made steady progress and the work is becoming more popular to the farmers who are giving more support to their association. They have saved financially, gained confidence in their cooperative, and learned how to cooperate with each other and help each other in many ways.

Rural Electrical Association. This project has been brought to the farmers through a great effort on the part of the Extension people and others, however, it has brought more satisfaction, brighter smiles and more joy than anyone could imagine. It is the pleasure of the writer to pay special tribute to the State Department of Agricultural Engineers who have worked diligently to promote every division of this work in the homes and on the farms.

Office Work. The county agent, during the last several years, has assumed a somewhat different role from the one originally outlined. Instead of being the man who was trying to "sell" new and improved farm methods and practices, he has become the coordinator of all farm activities within the county. The county agent is the farmer's adviser. To be a success in this role, he must, of necessity, spend a major portion of his time studying the organization of not only the Extension Division but of all the other government agencies working within the county as well. The above sketch of the accomplishments of the Extension Division in my district reflect the hours of hard work and study contributed by all the agents.

(6) 24
This district has lost to military service six county agents and ten assistant agents. With this much turn over in the last two or more years, we have been hard pressed to secure and train agents and assistants to fill their places. We are now in need of at least two assistant agents to give us a bare representation of the work which we are trying to do. Almost without an exception, we have been able to keep up the local county appropriations and we anticipate some increases. The 16 county agents mentioned below are aided by 7 assistants who give their time to 4-H Club work, livestock work, and agricultural engineering.

O. B. Ross
Amherst County

A persistent worker. Made wonderful progress in locating purebred Angus sires and dams. Does a fine work in horticulture.

R. B. Hudgins
Appomattox County

Hard worker, probably does more personal work than he should. Has succeeded in correlating all of the governmental agricultural agencies and has been instrumental in inducing the farmers to take advantage in a profitable way of all help available. Good all-round agent and well liked.

R. S. Ellis
Buckingham County

Outstanding in securing the confidence of the people and is getting across to the people a big job for a large number of farmers. His high technical training coupled with his practical experience in operating his own farm attracts the attention of the entire county.

Charles Ellis
Campbell County

Good coordinator of government agencies, vocational agriculture, and home agents. His county has made outstanding progress in agricultural engineering, soil building, etc.

H. E. McSwain
Charlotte County

The most outstanding agent in my district. Has an excellent grasp of Extension work which has been acquired largely through practical experience over a long period of service. He has been selected as Assistant District Agent and will become District Agent in the near future.

J. C. Eller
Culpeper County

A good organizer of farmers and 4-H Club work. Outstanding as a general farm adviser. Well informed in rotation of crops, soil building, livestock and dairying.

J. F. Blair
Cumberland County

Gifted in correlating efforts of all government agencies, and vocational agriculture teachers. Good in 4-H Club work. Commands confidence of the farmers.

T. A. Coffey
Fluvanna County

Has made an untiring effort to organize his farmers and correlate the activities of other agriculture agencies working in his county. A very fine 4-H Club agent.

E. W. Carson
Franklin County

Good coordinator of government agencies. Hard worker. Well informed in dairying, livestock, agronomy, 4-H Club work. Has an outstanding bull club and has put in a large number of pure bred sires and dams. Good in soil building and pasture improvement.

E. C. Truett
Goochland County

Promising young agent following a good agent who has volunteered for the Navy.

C. L. Hall
Halifax County

Very efficient. Well suited to his county. Excels in tenacity of purpose and persistent effort. Through his efforts, in organizing and correlating all government agricultural agencies, vocational agriculture teachers and his men's clubs in that county, much has been done to improve the farm practices.

M. L. Dalton
Henry County

A new agent but shows a promising future.

John B. Whitehead
Nelson County

Knows his constituents by name and handles them tactfully. Labors in a county backward in agriculture owing to the self-possessed opinions of his constituents. A wonderful horticulture agent. Good on 4-H Club work.

J. C. C. Price
Patrick County

Outstanding man for this county. Has well organized 4-H Club work, AAA, TVA. A trained horticulturist with practical experience and is doing a fine job in this line. Well informed in livestock of all kinds. Made special effort in getting better bred dairy cattle and establishing milk and cream routes.

T. M. Jackson
Pittsylvania County

This man has been severely handicapped as he was commissioned in the Army, had a physical breakdown, and had to return to the county but is now establishing a good record in this work. Good in 4-H Clubs, organizing milk routes, improving dairying work, soil building, etc.

E. F. Striplin
Prince Edward County

Well liked by farmers. Doing a splendid job in every phase of county agent work. He has been instrumental in leading all agricultural agencies in his county and has secured the best of cooperation from his constituents.

26

1942
ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
J. D. Hutchinson, Jr.
and
J. H. Quisenberry

27

INDEX OF REPORTS

I INTRODUCTION

II ORGANIZATION

- (a) Professional Workers Conference
- (b) Agricultural Boards
- (c) General Farm Organizations
- (d) 4-H Club Work

III WAR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

- (a) Goals

IV GENERAL EXTENSION WORK

- (a) TVA Demonstrations
- (b) Livestock

V SUPERVISING

I INTRODUCTION

This report deals with Extension work done in the twenty-five north eastern counties in Virginia. Starting in the western end of the district you have the Piedmont Counties of Louisa, Spotsylvania and Stafford, the Semi-Piedmont counties are Hanover, Henrico and Caroline; then you have the costal plane counties which are bounded on the south by the James River and on the north by the Potomac River and in addition you have the two Eastern Shore counties of Accomac and Northampton.

Farming in this area has been seriously handicapped during 1942 due to the many defense projects going on within the area. Farm hands have been transported to defense projects and paid from three to five times as much as farmers could afford to pay. In spite of this and many other obstacles, the farmers have carried on and produced over the goals assigned them in war crops and other farm products.

II ORGANIZATION

(a) Professional Workers Conference

Professional workers (or Agricultural workers, consisting of agricultural teachers, farm security workers, soil conservation workers, extension workers and ect.) have organized in all twenty-five counties and held an average of eight meetings per county during the year, with an average attendance of 80%.

All of the agencies work together through the neighborhood committeemen in putting on food production and other emergency programs.

(b) Agricultural Boards

Agricultural boards have been set-up in all twenty-five counties with community and neighborhood committees; 244 community committeemen and 2,024 neigh-

berhood committeemen are on the boards in these twenty-five counties, about 78% of which are active and taking part in the program by contacting the farm families in their communities and impressing upon them the necessity of producing meat, oil crops and other necessary crops.

This set-up has been greatly improved during the past year, but must be continuously reworked and remodeled to fit ever changing condition and to keep the committeemen aware of the fact that they are on these committees and have a duty to perform.

(c) GENERAL Farm Organizations

Not a great deal has been done along this line within the past year, however a modest but sure start has been made, educational meetings have been held in central points through out the district, where representatives of the Federal Farm Bureau have presented their program. Six counties have signed up with membership of between 50 and 75 each. Farmers are in the spirit of joining, they feel that it is necessary for them to unite and make themselves heard in order that they may be put in a more favorable economic position. This they know is absolutely necessary if they are to continue to produce the sufficient amount of food to meet our war needs. Equity and not subsidy is what farmers are asking for in all meetings and unless they get a reasonable increase in prices I fear for the consumer as well as the producer.

(d) 4-H Club Work

Our club program has been handicapped due to two reasons, one is that our county agents have had to spend such a large part of their time in the office and in meetings working on emergency programs. The other reason is that there has been many changes in assistant agents or 4-H Club agents, due to the fact that these men either enlisted or were called into military service.

In spite of the handicaps we have had a successful club year. There were 3,950 club members reporting from the 145 organized clubs.

One of the outstanding pieces of club work was done in connection with the Sears-Roebuck pig club, which is being fostered by Sears-Roebuck and Company and is called their Cow-Hog-Hen Program.

This project has been carried on in eleven of our counties and has resulted in placing 85 purebred pigs, eleven registered heifer calves and more than 1,000 well bred baby chickens. The project is self perpetuating; this you can see has not only put well bred livestock through-out these several counties, but it should inspire these boys and girls and make them do a better job and become better farmers, better home-makers and better citizens.

I think the above project has been all and all the best piece of real extension work done during 1942. Thanks to the company that sponsored it.

III WAR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

(a) Goals

There was an increase of over 200% in the production of soybeans for oil, 57,967 acres were harvested with a production of 814,653 bu. of beans. The goal asked for in 1942 was 46,050 acres in the twenty-five counties. The acreage mentioned above represents 124% of the goal asked for. An increase was asked for in pork production and 22% increase was obtained. An increase was asked for in poultry for meat and it was increased 15%. A production of eggs was increased 16%, and while there was no definite goal set for home gardens, my estimate would be that there was at least a 30% increase in production of vegetables for home use and a very material increase in tomatoes for canning.

IV GENERAL EXTENSION WORK

(a) TVA Demonstrations

This is the third year that TVA Demonstrations have been conducted in

31

seven of our counties. This year 71 farmers used 118 tons of Meta-Phosphate on pastures and other grass lands. The improvement brought about by top dressing of phosphate has been very striking. As a result of the above demonstrations and of the availability of phosphate (through AAA) as grant of aid material, more and more farmers are top dressing their pastures and of course lime and grass seed had to be added to get best results. As a result of the above practices the quality and carrying capacity of the pasture has been improved on many farms.

In addition to the above, the agents have conducted 1,211 crop demonstrations on about as many farms.

In most cases these were complete demonstrations, that is the farmers were given recommendations as to variety of seed the kind of fertilizer, seed treatments, cultural practices and ect. 877 of these were agronomy demonstrations and 334 were truck crop demonstrations.

(b) Livestock

Agents assisted farmers in the purchase of 170 registered bulls, 148 registered cows and heifers, 23 purebred rams, 16 ewes, 160 registered boars, 133 registered sows and 3,918 farmers were given assistance with their poultry problems. This along with aid given other agencies along educational lines has meant an over time job for most county extension workers.

V SUPERVISING

The district agent has spent his time visiting leading farmers and local boards of supervisors relative to county extension appropriations. He has contacted men who might be used as replacements, attended extension conferences and other agricultural meetings and has visited the counties on the average of once a month to supervise the work and assist the agents with many of their problems.

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1942 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

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Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Southeastern District

W. H. Daughtrey, District Agent

Outstanding supervisory problems in improving extension work in the counties might be more aptly expressed as problems of maintaining the work at previous levels. This is true because of the number of men being called to the armed services and having to replace these with inexperienced men not having a thorough grasp of the situation and lacking the organizational training necessary to meet the demands. We have been fortunate, however, in replacing county agents with men of ability and who devote themselves diligently to the task. These men are growing each day and doing a better job all the time. Close attention has been given them in planning and organizing their work and understanding extension policies and procedure. In replacing assistant agents we have not been so fortunate. Several of the assistants recently employed do not show much promise and are slow to grasp the scope or vision of extension work.

The supervisors responsibilities, plans and procedure have been adjusted to meet war needs primarily in the following ways:

1. Working out leave arrangements for men called into military service with local boards of supervisors and getting suitable replacements.
2. Assisting agents to correlate work for maximum results.
3. Assisting with the correlation of activities of Agricultural Agencies to foster the entire war program more effectively.
4. Suggestions for handling the job as secretary to the war board more effectively and working out plans of procedure with the agent for presentation to the war board.

- 5. Giving increased time to seeing that agents understand problems connected with the war effort and their part in the picture.
- 6. Giving added attention to educational campaigns for increasing winter legumes.
- 7. Increased attention to timely and proper dissemination of technical subject matter on production and marketing of essential war crops and livestock.
- 8. Increased attention to perfecting the Neighborhood Leader system and professional workers groups as a method of promoting the war effort.
- 9. Added emphasis on home gardens, i.e. Victory gardens and food preservation.
- 10. Attention to our responsibilities in scrap and salvage programs, Anti-inflation program and rationing programs.

The progress to date in establishing the Neighborhood Leader system has been rather gratifying. All counties of the district have been mapped into communities and neighborhoods with a man and woman leader appointed for each neighborhood and with a Chairman (man) and Co-chairman (woman) for each community. We are now in the process of increasing the number of Neighborhood Leaders in all counties so that each leader will have not more than fifteen families as an average. These leaders have handled about six major programs during the year with good success. The response of the leaders, while not 100 percent, has been good and really exceeded my hope in both their response and activity. They have been very effective in educational work and I am thoroughly convinced the rural people are better informed as a result of their activity. The system has real possibilities.

Assistance has been rendered the AAA in training its county and community committees and in straightening out a number of difficult situations. The county agent in a number of cases is secretary to the association and in all cases works closely with the committees to aid them in planning and carrying out their work. Relationships are good.

The Extension Service in the district has the responsibility of leadership for all educational work relating to the programs of the Agencies of the Department of Agriculture. In this field I feel that it has rendered efficient and thorough service. District personnel of all the Agricultural Agencies have been meeting quarterly to discuss problems common to all and work out methods of mutual assistance. These have been helpful. The direct assistance of the district agent to other State and Federal agencies has been primarily in helping to coordinate the entire efforts of all agencies in the war effort.

Major achievements of county agents mentioned below make no attempt to cover those educational and project lines which are included in county and specialist reports, but rather attempts to cover some of the items normally considered out of the field of extension work.

The scrap collection and salvage programs just did not go in the counties until the agents took hold of it. The W.P.B. has worked out with county agents in most counties methods of collecting scrap and paying for it on the farms. The agent has then done the educational and promotional work and routing of collectors. This program has been a success in all counties, with an estimated 125 tons of scrap collected per county in addition to that sold directly and donated to institutions and organizations. It was stated to me by a W.P.B. representative that the county agent was the only one he had found who could get the farm scrap collected.

All war crop goals for the district were met and several over-subscribed, with the exception of peanuts. It is felt, maybe egotistically, that the county agent had more influence on this than any other single individual. He has certainly spared no effort to get the situation before the people and get proper production information to them. He should, I think, be congratulated for his effort and accomplishment.

The setting up and getting so function of the Neighborhood Leader system is a major accomplishment. While all agencies worked together the county agent had the responsibility of leadership and direction to get it set up and going.

In cooperation with AAA the largest acreage of winter legumes ever was seeded in the district during the fall of 1942. In addition large acreages of other winter cover crops were seeded. Also working in cooperation with AAA, large quantities of lime and phosphate were used on the farms of the district.

For a while the district agent was afraid that we had done a rather poor job of educational work on the Anti-inflation program. This program was sponsored through the Neighborhood Leader system and professional workers groups. However, as time passed, it was clear that rural people had a rather good grasp of the principles of the program. The folks did a good job.

In the district swine diseases have always been a major problem. This year with greatly increased numbers of hogs the disease problem has been acute. Thousands of pounds of pork have been added to the nation's larder as a result of the agents activity in disease control and prevention. While this work has been time consuming and considered by many out of the field of the extension worker, I feel that it has made such a contribution that it should be considered a major accomplishment.

Anticipated personnel and supervisory problems for 1943 are; first, getting competent assistant agents and continued training of new agents now in; second, increased food production over 1942 under even more adverse circumstances than existed in 1942. Probably some shifting in assistant agents to put weaker assistants under the stronger agents will take place. It is hoped that more time can be spent with the newer agents than was possible in 1942, as it now appears that not as many changes will take place due to military service. Try to get the agent relieved of some of the detailed work which he had been doing in connection with farm transportation committees, farm rationing committees, and other regulatory work, so he can devote more time to production and marketing problems and give more attention to working out methods for maximum utilization of available labor and machinery.

Further perfecting of the Neighborhood Leader system and better training of the leaders to assist with these problems in their immediate localities.

By way of summary the specific objectives set forth in the 1942 plan of work and degree of accomplishment is given.

Numerical Goals for 1942

	Counties to be assisted	Goals Accomplished
A. Organizing thorough educational campaigns on all war programs	17	17
B. Improving relationship between agencies	17	17
C. Analyzing county agricultural planning data to formulate program	8	3
D. Farm and home unit demonstrations	6	4
E. Developing county and community adult, youth, and 4-H program	17	17
F. Improving office facilities, etc.	7	5
G. Arranging tours, group discussions, etc.	17	15

138

<u>Numerical Goals for 1942 (concluded)</u>	Counties to be assisted	Goals Accomplished
H. Organize functioning board of agriculture in each county	17	17
I. Effective workers council in each county	17	15
J. Summarizing and preparing reports on year's work	17	17
K. Increased local appropriations	6	3

WARREN BOND
EDGEMONT BOND
ASSOCIATION

NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

S. M. COX

DISTRICT AGENT

OF

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

V. P. I. EXTENSION SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR

1942

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	1
Observations.....	2
Extension Personnel.....	3
Food Production Responsibilities.....	4
Looking Forward To 1943.....	5

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Virginia District is made up of the following counties: Albemarle, Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Greene, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren. These counties extend from Rockbridge County on the South to Fairfax County on the North and from the West Virginia line on the West beyond the Blue Ridge Mountain on the East to include Orange, Albemarle, Madison and Greene Counties.

That section of the District located in the Shenandoah Valley was known as the granary of the Confederacy during the late Civil War. This same area continues to be the leading grain producing section of the State, but grain is no longer produced so much as a cash crop as prior to and during the first World War. Those counties which depended upon wheat as a cash crop have decreased their acreage of this crop, marketing the grains that are produced largely through livestock and poultry. They have developed marketing agencies of their own. Cooperative associations have been set up that not only sell but process the commodities at the point of production, thus reducing expenses in the handling of the unfinished products and giving to the producer better prices resulting from this saving.

The District, generally speaking, is a prosperous section of the State. The farmers are well informed people, seeking information that will enable them to maintain and increase the fertility of their soils and at the same time their financial incomes. Many of the counties are included in Soil Conservation Districts that have been set up, and it is interesting to note that the farmers who are members of Boards of Supervisors of these Districts are taking a very active part in the administration of the affairs of the District and in the establishment of policies affecting the handling of the conservation program.

The people of the District, as a whole, are conservative yet very progressive. They are taking more and more interest in public problems and the influence of the Boards of Agriculture is being felt in a great majority of the counties in connection with public policies. The Agricultural Boards are made up of the leading people of the different counties, and as they meet from time to time to discuss problems relative to agricultural policies and programs for their particular counties, their influence will be more far reaching in years to come. It is indeed a matter of important note to visit a county and find from 75 to 125 of the leading men and women, representing every section of the county, meeting in a group to discuss matters of importance in connection with those things that affect their daily living and the daily living of their neighbors. The Extension Agents (both Farm and Home Agents) in the different counties recognize the importance of well organized Boards of Agriculture and they are giving very considerable attention to the strengthening of this group. The influence of this group of volunteer leaders will no doubt increase in each of our counties from year to year.

I. OBSERVATIONS

The greater part of my observations made relative to factors affecting Extension work in the Northern Virginia District were confined to the last half of the year 1942. It was during this period of time that so many things connected with the war effort have had to be handled to a greater or lesser degree through the County Agents offices. It is true that a number of these programs, such as rationing and regulatory matters, were intended to be handled by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, but in a large majority of the counties the County Agent is serving as secretary of the local AAA and in most cases the Chairman of the AAA Committee has spent only a small amount of time in the county office. This means that the greater part of the burden of handling the details connected with these programs has rested upon the County Agent. In every case a good job has been done, but in the handling of so many details, the general phases of the Extension program have necessarily been neglected.

During this period of time, however, stronger agricultural boards have been developed in every county and the voluntary leadership represented in the county boards of agriculture have rendered invaluable service in the carrying of information to the farmers of their communities and neighborhoods.

Professional Workers Councils, which have been developed in practically every county, have been of material assistance in carrying on a war-time educational program. The Extension Service has in past years taken the lead in setting up the different agencies working with rural people in the respective counties. Now, through the Professional Workers Council, in which all of the local agencies are represented, better coordination of the efforts of the different agencies has been developed, and in connection with the main war projects, conducted among the rural people, most of the different agencies have been willing to accept responsibility in getting work done in the different communities. At the beginning, some of the agencies were inclined to regard the work, which came through the County USDA War Board, as being the responsibility of the County Agent. This feeling, however, has been overcome to a great extent because the District personnel also has a better understanding of the different programs. A better understanding exists between the different agencies due to the fact that a District Professional Workers Council has been set up and the problems that are of mutual interest are discussed by the District personnel at regular meetings.

So much work has had to be done by the county Extension workers, however, that most of the agents have been almost overcome by the many and perplexing jobs that have been assigned to them. We need more Extension workers, especially in the larger counties. Club work in counties where a special club agent does not have direct responsibility for the work has necessarily had to be neglected by the County Farm Agent. Through the leaders and work with the Home Demonstration Agents, however, the 4-H Club program has gone along in fairly good shape. Evidently good work must have been done in former years, otherwise the program would not have stood up as it has in the time when the County Agent has found it impossible to give it the necessary attention.

In this District there has been no trouble during this year in connection with appropriations. The rural population seems to be satisfied with the Extension program and the work of the County Agent, and as a result, County Supervisors have been ready and willing to cooperate so far as appropriations are concerned. During the past few months, however, change in county personnel, due to County Agents going into the army, has been a source of worry because of the fact that it has been extremely difficult to find qualified men to take over the work. Through the County Boards of Agriculture, County Farm and Home Agents are working more closely together and where changes in personnel have been necessary, closer supervision has been given the work in these counties. It has been interesting to note the attitude of the members of the Board of Agriculture where changes in the local Extension workers have had to be made. The members of the Board in practically every case have been willing to get back of the new Agents and give them every possible assistance.

In taking over the work of District Agent in the Northern Virginia District in the middle of the year 1942, naturally many problems that would not have existed in normal times have been in evidence during the past six months. These problems have been closely connected with the war effort. The fact that various jobs have had to be done promptly and that changes in personnel have also had to be made have prevented the District Agent from learning to know as many of the farm people in the different counties as he would under normal conditions have been able to get acquainted with. In those counties where the older agents are located and where the program has been going along on a sound basis, the District Agent has spent little time. He has, however, worked as closely as possible with the new agents in connection with their problems. The District Home Agent has shown a fine spirit of cooperation and has been very helpful to the new District Agent in getting the program under way. There is also a better understanding between the District Supervisors of the different agencies than ever before. The relationships between the Home and County Agents is one of close cooperation. This naturally helps to put over a better program of work in the different counties.

II. EXTENSION PERSONNEL

In the Northern Virginia District we have twenty County Agents and eight Assistant Agents with two vacancies that could be filled. We have been unable to find the proper person for Augusta County, and in this county the local board makes an appropriation for the Assistant Agent. Three of the Assistant Agents are doing Club work in different counties, and in the other counties where Assistant Agents are located, they are given responsibility for the 4-H Club work and other things connected with the general Extension program.

III. FOOD PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES

In recent years many gains have been made in the Extension program. More lime and more phosphate have been used in the development of better pastures, and higher yields in general farm crops have been obtained. The quality of the livestock and poultry produced has been greatly improved. To hold these gains at the present time is of primary importance. Now that we are in war and the whole world practically is looking to America to be fed, the importance of maintaining these gains and increasing food production cannot be overemphasized. Accordingly we shall in this District, by every possible method, do our best to increase the production of essential foods during the year 1943. What has been done in 1942 will contribute no small amount toward the increasing of food production in 1943. This District, the best agricultural district of the State, one in which the most thorough diversified system of farming is conducted, bears no little responsibility in connection with the food production program of the State of Virginia.

Through meetings and discussions, we believe our people recognize their responsibilities and how much depends upon their production in 1943. The mental attitude of our farm people is changing. They are becoming more war conscious and are looking at the war production program from a more patriotic standpoint. They are thinking of food production in terms of their contribution to the war effort. They are thinking of the part which food production will play in the winning of the war and the influence an abundant supply will have at the peace table. They are getting more and more into the spirit of this great movement for the preservation of democracy. Recognizing that the labor supply will be extremely short in 1943, our people are making their plans to do the best job they can with what they have, where they are. In this great program and in the development of the proper mental attitude, the Extension workers of the Northern Virginia District have played no small part.

The County Agents office continues to be the one county office to which the farmers of the respective counties come for information relative to their production and management problems. The farmers of the different counties look to the County Agent for guidance and direction in this all out effort to which all must contribute. The County Extension workers are very close to the farm people. They have faith in the people with whom they work and the rural people have faith in them. The County Agent is regarded as their employee, as the one person who is primarily interested in their problems. With this attitude on the part of the farm people, no other agency can come quite so close to them. They look to him as the one official who will represent them at the conference table and who will see that their interests are protected. In this respect, the County Agents of the Northern Virginia District have never let their farmers down.

It is the purpose of the District Agent to work as closely with the County Agents as possible, giving them any guidance that he can and bringing to them from the State Office any information through specialists and from other conferences held that will enable them to best serve their people in this great struggle. The county Extension workers have uncomplainingly borne the major portion of the heavy load that has been handed down to

the different counties through the War Boards. Some how the people of the county expect them to bear the load and because they do expect them to do this, they cooperate in every way possible to help them get the job done. Without the cooperation of volunteer workers, represented in the community and neighborhood leaders who work without remuneration, the getting of the job done would be a most difficult one. With this group organized and developed through the Agricultural Boards of the counties representing every community and neighborhood, we may expect difficulties to be overcome and wars to be won.

IV. LOOKING FORWARD TO 1943

For 1943 it will be the purpose of the District Agent of the Northern Virginia District to:

1. Give every possible assistance to the County Agents in connection with the food production program. This matter is given preference because it represents the major contribution that the District can make to the war effort.

2. Maintain and if possible increase the personnel of county workers in the District. This is to be done by seeking additional appropriations from the counties where necessary and from State Extension funds wherever possible.

3. Maintain the proper relationships and cooperate with all other agencies. This can best be done by having active local professional workers groups in every county, and through an active district professional workers organization. Through such a set up, duplications of efforts and misunderstandings can be rapidly eliminated. The County Board of Agriculture should also play an important part in the development of a better spirit of understanding among local professional workers. Some may be inclined to think of this organization as the board of the Extension Service rather than a board representing all the different agencies in the county. This board should enable the rural people of the county to get a better understanding of the different functions of the different agencies.

With the above purposes in mind, we believe we can develop a stronger Extension program in every county of the District.