General Routine Work:

Richmond County, being diversified as it is, has many farmers who ask for personal services. They may vary any where from information on putting water in the house to disease control on shubbery or ornamental plantings. Soil samples and crop rotation advice is also requested.

We are now participating on Radio Station W N N T Farm and Home Program every month. We try to keep a good supply of the latest information on hand and to see that it is properly distributed throughout the county. The agent attempted to cover as many general farm visits as time would permit. As evidence of this, 190 days were spent with adults, and 801 visits were made to farms and homes. There were 10 radio programs, 272 phone calls and a number of meetings were held.

B. Goal

1. To encourage farmers to properly manage their wood lands.

C. Method

We are doing this by encouraging farmers to look upon their wood land as a crop and to properly harvest their timber. We also stressed selective cutting by encouraging farmers to work with the State Forest Service in preventing and controlling forest fires.

4-H Club Work:

A. Situation

There are nine clubs in the county with an enrollment of 294, 153 boys and 141 girls. The number enrolled in projects is 389, 180 boys and 209 girls.

B. Goal

1. To develop a better 4-H Club program in the county.

C. Method

We are working closer with 4-H members, visiting 4-H members oftener to discuss their problems and enrolling the support of the parents and giving assistance in selecting projects.

We are giving suggestions through the radio, meetings and circular letters. We also sent out timly garden suggestions on varities, planting dates, disease and insect controls. As a result we are creating more interest in gardens.

Livestock:

A. Situation

With part time farming and smaller farms we are not keeping as much livestock as would be profitable.

B. Goal

1. To increase the number and quality of livestock where possible.

C. Method

We are trying through personal contacts, meetings, radio and demonstrations.

Poultry:

A. Situation

There has been an increase in poultry and eggs. Although the amount of value sold has decreased.

B. Goal

1. For as many farmers as possible to have a good laying flock.

C. Method

We are stressing general purpose breeds and by improving housing also by improving management. As a result we have some good laying flocks in the county.

Forest Management:

A. Situation

There has been an increase in the amount of forest products sold.

We are doing this by getting the assistance of Specialist of the Extension Service and by conducting mettings on cultural practices.

By prevention and control of disease and insects. Continuing to stress the importance of getting certified plants. As a result farmers used such varieties as rutgers and valiant. Tomatoes, being a cash crop, Rutger, a commercial tomatoe of excellent size, is satisfactory for green wrap or canning, valiant being suitable for early pink market.

Soil Saving and Improving Crops:

A. Situation

Too much land without cover crops; not enough permanent pastures; not enough legumes seeded; soil low in potash.

B. Goal

1. To have less bare land in the county during the winter.

C. Methods

We are trying to accomplish this by radio programs, meetings and by demonstrations.

Home Gardens:

A. Situation

With the increase of part time farming we find more of the farmers are shopping for vegetables just as his urban cousins are doing. Thus there is a drop in the number of home gardens.

B. Goal

1. For more farmers to have a good year-round garden.

C. Method

We do not have enough good permanent pastures. We are also short on suppliment pastures.

B. Goal

1. To get more pastures that are good and permanent throughout the county.

C. Method

We are stressing the needs for better pastures, and are continually stressing through newspaper articles and meetings the importance of pastures. We are helping the farmers to plan their farms for better land use. As a result the farmers are using such mixtures as orchard grass and ladino clover. We took soil samples and urged the farmers to get soil PH range, so that the best results may be obtained. Also the proper amounts and analysis of fertilizer were used to get the quality of pastures desired.

Tomatoes:

A. Situation

Tomatoes grown in the county have decreased. To improve the quality canners are grading. We also are trying new varieties to get an earlier tomato and also to get a better quality.

B. Goal

To produce more and better quality fruit per acre economically.

C. Method

There has been an increase in the number oc acres seeded to alfalfa and also an increase in the number of tons to the acre according to field crops statistics.

B. Goal

1. To increase the yield per acre and to improve yielding ability of the present acreage.

C. Method

To do this we conducted educational campaign to emphasize the importance of alfalfa. We used such media as radio, meetings, and by assisting farmers in taking soil samples. We also helped the farmers to get adapted seed.

Lespedeza:

A. Situation

The number of acreas seeded in Lespedeza has been an up and down situation, also the yield according to the field crop statistics.

B. Goal

1. To get farmers to seed more Lespedeza on their poor soils.

C. Method

We will urge the farmers to sow only dodder free seed, and to use only clean seed. We pointed out to the farmers that it is important to keep their land covered with some kind of growth in winter, not only saves the land but helps the livestock also.

Pastures:

A. Situation

organic matter.

Soybeans:

A. Situation:

The average yield of soybeans in Richmond County is still less than 18 bushels per acre. We find that Soybeans do not respond readily to direct fertilization. However, many farmers have more than doubled the State average yield by increasing soil fertility through proper rotation and by following other sound agricultural practices.

B. Goal

1. To increase yield and quality of Soybeans.

C. Method

To reach this goal the farmers are using the heavy yielding varities as recommended by the Experiment Station and by supervising the sowing and harvesting of the beans. As a result farmers have been reporting yields up to 30 bushels per acre.

Small Grains:

Wheat:

A. Situation

The yield and quality of wheat has not been up to the standard.

B. Goal

1. To improve the quality and increase the yield of wheat.

Haycrops:

Alfalfa:

A. Situation

Agronomy:

Corn:

A. Situation:

1. More farmers need to take soil samples to enable the farmer to know what the soil needs in order to get higher yields more economically.

2. The farmers need to improve their cultural methods.

3. To get more Hybrids that are adopted to this section.

B. Goal

1. To increase the yield and quality of corn grown in the county.

C. Methods

To get more farmers to plant good adapted Hybrid corn and provide demonstrations with the information concerning the adapted under supervision of the agent. We also planned to give publicity to the location of the demonstration.

D. Results

There were six result demonstrations in places where they could be observed by the farmers. To date our program has resulted in increased yield and quality of corn produced. Many of the farmers reported up to one hundred bushels per acre. However, we still feel that there is much that can be done through better cultural methods and a more intensive program of taking soil samples. We also feel that rotation will help to improve the soil condition. The condition also may be improved by using cover crops and by increasing the

County Organizations

The Agricultural Advisory Board functioned effectively this year in guiding the Extension Program. This board held five meetings with an attendance of one hundred and twenty five.

Their annual meeting was held in March in the form of a Banquet, where progress reports were made.

We are proud of our county organization because it enables us to channel our county problems through the organizations that are most interested and most affected by the problems.

of the county, products include canned sea food, canned vegetables, dairy products and lumber. Like other Northern Neck counties, Richmond County attracts a certain amount of tourist trade and has possibilities for development for it offers fishing, hunting, swimming, boating, and many points of historic interest.

Type of Agriculture

Richmond County lies in the costal plain on the narrow peninsula between the Potomac River and the Rappahannock River known as the Northern Neck.

The topography is low and flat with elevations ranging from sea level to no more than 170 feet. Temperatures averaging 37 degrees in January and 76 degrees in July. The frost free growing season is around 193 days extending from April 15 to October 25. Annual percipation averages 42 inches. July is the wettest month with 5.04 inches and November the dryest with 3.40 inches.

Agriculture is the chief industry. Over three fifths of the area is forested and lumbering and pulpwood cutting are important activities. Sand, gravel and clay are the only mineral deposits and are not important commercially.

There is some commercial fishing and oysterying. The chief industry has always been Agriculture, but today over half of the farms are operated on a part time or residental basis, and two thirds of them are less than 100 acres in size. Field crops are corn, wheat, soybeans, and tomatoes bring in the greatest part of the farm income. Poultry also brings in some cash from eggs sold.

There are some dairy and livestock farms, and a good deal of cash is received from dairy products and livestock.

Tomatoes and sweet corn and other vegetables are widely raised and sold directly to the vegetable canneries in the Northern Neck. A creamery in Warsaw provides a local market for whole milk and cream. A co-operative grain elevator near Warsaw buys and stores grains. There is little manufacturing and much of this is seasonal tied to the natural resources

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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1961

Richmond
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