

DEMONSTRATION COMMUNITY:

Farmers are still improving their land, pastures, stock, farm equipment, homes and better productivity or yield in gardens, trucks and field crops.

All are home owners but two. One family added a new screened front porch, two cement walks and a garage, another a chicken house, woodshed and covered a house roof. Much interior decoration has been done by most of the families. The community project has been the church. The church yard has been built up filled in and graded the cemetery cleaned up. Running water and inside toilets have been installed.

Total number of families in this community is twenty-eight.

Number of soil test made twenty-five. Number of rooms painted ~~13~~

Number of quarts of food canned 3,700, number of pounds food frozen 1,550, number of hogs killed for home meat supply forty-five.

As a result we are getting more record books completion.

GENERAL ROUTINE WORK

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

We are now participating on the W. N. N. F. Farm and Home program about every other week. 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 to this routine work we have given 12 radio talks, have written 318 circular letters, distributed 242 bulletins, have made 449 farm visits, have had 192 office calls, have had 293 phone calls, have had seven meetings with adults with attendance of 312.

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 see according to a survey made in 1955 the amount of forest products sold was \$680,000.

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 a membership of 124 boys and 155 girls. Projects conducted by members enrolled were 145 boys and 209 girls.

The projects completed 108 boys and 156 girls. Number of days devoted to 4-H Club work 105.

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 more often to discuss their problems and by enrolling the support of the parents and giving assistance in selecting projects.

B. Goal

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

C. Method

We are giving suggestions through the radio, meetings, circular letters. We also send out timely garden suggestions on varieties, planting dates, disease and insect controls.

As a result we are creating more interest in gardens. Thus more farmers have year round gardens.

Livestock:

A. Situation

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

B. Goal

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

C. Method

We are trying through personal contact, 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.

1. To produce more and better quality fruit per acre economically.

C. Method

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

By prevention and control of disease and insects.

Continuing to stress the importance of getting certified plants.

As a result farmers use such varieties as Rutgers and Valiant. Tomatoes being a cash crop, Rutgers a commercial tomato 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. Method

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.

in winter, not only saves the land but helps the livestock also.

Pastures:

A. Situation

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 we are continually stressing through newspaper articles, and meetings the importance of pastures. We are helping the farmers to plan their farm 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 the 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 pasture desired.

Tomatoes:

A. Situation

Tomatoes grown in the county has decreased. To improve quality canners are grading. We are also growing a new varieties to get a better quality. There are five canners in the county to buy tomatoes grown in this area.

B. Goal

a higher yield per acre also a better quality.

Haverong:

Alfalfa:

A. Situation

There has been an increase in the number acres seeded to alfalfa 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 the yielding ability of the present acreage.

C. Method

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

Lespedeza:

A. Situation

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

B. Goal

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

C. Method

We urged the farmers to sow only dodder free seed, and to use only clean seed. We pointed out to farmers that it is important to keep their land covered with some kind of growth

C. Method:

The farmers are urged to use the higher yielding varieties as recommend by the Experiment Station. By supervising ~~the~~ sowing and harvesting of these plots. As a result we had two farmers that carried on demonstrations using the recommends practices who reported high yields.

Barley:

A. Situation:

There were 624 acres seeded to barley in 1955 with a yield of 32.5 bushels per acre according to the census. This average was less than 1950, however the yield was higher per acre.

B. Goal:

1. To get farmers to increase quality and yield per acre.

C. Method:

We are stressing to the farmers that they use high yielding varieties. We are also giving close supervision to the sowing and harvesting of these plots.

Oats:

A. Situation:

According to the 1955 census there were 1,418 acres seed to Oats with a yield of 48 bushels per acre, which showed an increase over the years 1940, 1945, and 1950.

B. Goal

1. To increase the yield per acre and quality of oats grown.

C. Method:

This is done by getting the farmers to get the recommended varieties and by urging the farmers to top dress with nitrogeous materials in early spring. As a result the farmers are getting

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 average State 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 varieties as recommended by the Experiment Station, and by supervising the sowing and harvesting of the beans. As a result we have three demonstrations that were carried on using these recommended practices.

Small Grains:

Wheat:

A. Situation

According to 1965 census there were 3,791 acres seeded in wheat with a yield of 26.3 bushels per acre.

B. Goal:

- 1. To improve the quality of wheat and increase more economically the yield.

Agronomy:Corn:

A. Situation:

1. More farmer need to take soil samples to enable the farmer to know what the soil needs in order to get higher yields.
2. The farmers need to improve their cultural practices.
3. To get more Hybrids that are adopted to this section (coastal plains).

B. Goal

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

C. Methods

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

D. Results

To date our program has resulted in increased yield and quality of corn produced. However, we 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 improve by using cover crops and by increasing the organic matter.

County Organizations

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

There 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.

and since 1961 a large co-operative grain elevator near Warsaw buys and stores grains. There is little manufacturing and much of this is seasonal and tied to the natural resources of the county, products include canned sea food, canned vegetables, dairy products and lumber.

Recently a garment factory started in Warsaw. 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.

Types of Agriculture

Richmond County lies in the coastal plain on the narrow peninsula between the Potomac River and the Rappahannock River known as the Northern Neck. In 1964, land in farms totaled 72,751 acres, about 59 per cent of the county's area of 122,880 acres. According to 1964 census of Agriculture there were 135 farms.

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 precipitation averages 42 inches. July is the wettest month with 5.04 inches and November the driest with 2.40 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 oystering. The chief industry has always been Agriculture, but today over half of the farms are operated on a part time or residential 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 and eggs sold in 1964, 088,036.

There are some dairy and livestock farms. In 1964 dairy products sold including whole milk \$104,384. Almost of cream sold in 1964, \$12,970.

Tomatoes and sweet corn and other vegetables are widely raised and sold directly to the many vegetable canneries in the Northern Neck. A Creamery at Warsaw provides a local market for whole milk and cream.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Laurence E. Vyn

Name

Local Farm Agent

Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1960

Richard

County