I.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

E. A. DAVIS
County Agent

for

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

Virginia

1947

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E. A. Davis,	County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
Edgar L. Rawls,	Assistant County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
D. T.Rogers,Jr.	Assistant County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
Lucy L. Barnes,	Secretary	Courtland, Virginia

I.

ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL REPORT

of

E. A. DAVIS
County Agent

for

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Virginia

1941

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E. A. Davis,	County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
Edgar L. Ewell,	Assistant County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
D. T.Rogers,Jr.	Assistant County Agent	Courtland, Virginia
Lucy I. Burrus,	Secretary	Courtland, Virginia

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III. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Prior to 1947 the agent had attempted to use, with very unsatisfactory results, the neighborhood-leader-system type of county organization, though early in 1947 he called in thirty farmers to assist him in working out a plan of work for the year. This they did, and the agent has followed their recommendations, though has not used these men, as a group, to any great extent in getting them to assist with the program. The agent feels, however, that such a group of men, if properly worked will develop a better method of getting a proper coverage of the county than did the old incapacitated plan that he has attempted to use for the past several years.

While not using the above referred to men as a group the agent has discussed with them certain features of his work, asked their advice and obtained their cooperation in doing things that were most expedient in his work. These men can profitably be contacted where a discussion will be most effective. Some times it may be on their own farms, again on a neighbor's farm, or possibly in a crossroads store where a group of farmers assemble and where a lively discussion will develop and certain individuals asked, if they do not volunteer, to carry out certain practices that will, we think, bring about a better agricultural program for the community. In such discussions certain points can be "driven home" to an excellent advantage. Such groups encourage lively, and occasionally heated, discussions.

Such an approach to our problems of course had its handicaps. The agent finds that more driving is necessary, more letters need to be written and more personal contacts made, than where the work is done with a few people acting as community leaders. Even though these handicaps exist, the agent proposes to continue this type approach to his work. He feels that possibly two additional meetings might be held during the year to an advantage. Possibly at these meetings he would have each member of the board bring in an additional man to collaborate in certain features of the work. In this way the agent feels that he will work with more people, and possibly more effectively. This plan constitutes no tight organization, though a very effective group of cooperators.

IV. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural extension work in Southampton County has not been entirely satisfactory in 1947 due to the fact that conditions are changing so rapidly, which no doubt is true in other counties. For the first year in several, however, the agent has directed his efforts toward extension work rather than defense and other emergency measures. Regardless of this there is much personal service rendered, principally treating hogs. The agent and his assistant have devoted 145 days to swine, about 90 percent of which has been in actually doing veterinary work. The agent realizes that this should not be his responsibility; however, it is.

Southampton county is located in the Coastal Plain, or Upper Tidewater Virginia, bounded on the south by North Carolina, on the west by Greensville and Sussex counties, on the north by Surry and Isle of Wight counties, and on the east by Nansemond. Southampton county is ninth in size in Virginia, according to square mile area. There are 13 counties in the State with a larger number of farms than Southampton.

About 65 percent of the population are negroes, and about one-half the cultivated land in the county is worked by tenants. Almost the entire farming area of the county is devoted to row crops. Hogs predominate in livestock, dairy cattle taking a low second place. Peanuts, corn, cotton, and pasture, in the order named, are the important crops produced in the county. Much fertilizer is used and the application of fertilizer per acre is increasing rapidly. Practically no vegetables are produced for sale, though all farmers and farm tenants have at least a garden in the spring, summer, and autumn months.

Forestry is of vital interest in Southampton County. On the average about two-thirds of each farm is devoted to woodland, and our most important forest product is the loblolly pine. A few farmers practice selective cutting. Others let their timber grow and sell in a "lump" whenever the trees reach maturity for sawmill processing.

Agriculture, farming, or the type of farming in Southampton County has changed greatly in the past seventeen years. The agent is not taking credit for all this change. However, when he came to the county in 1930 practically no one was using anything approaching a three-year crop rotation. He immediately recommended the following rotation:

First year: Corn, followed by small grain or grass for a winter cover, grazing, and a green manure crop.

Second year: Peanuts, followed by a small grain, preferably barley or wheat, for winter cover, winter and early spring grazing.

Third year: Barley or wheat, for hogging off, or to be combined, followed with crimson clover for winter cover, grazing and green manure.

This rotation was adopted by a large number of farmers prior to the recent war. However, due to the demand for increased peanut production to be used for oil as well as for edible purposes, the three-year rotation was almost discarded.

IV. TYPES OF AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural extension work in Southampton County has not been entirely satisfactory in 1927 due to the fact that conditions are changing so rapidly, which no doubt is true in other counties. For the first year in several, however, the agent has directed his efforts toward extension work rather than defense and other emergency measures. Regardless of this there is much personal service rendered, principally treating hogs. The agent and his assistant have devoted 143 days to swine, about 90 percent of which has been in actually doing veterinary work. The agent realizes that this should not be his responsibility; however, it is.

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This rotation was adopted by a large number of farmers prior to the recent war. However, due to the demand for increased peanut production to be used for oil as well as for edible purposes, the three-year rotation was almost discarded.

Though now, two years after the war, the rotation is again being put into operation generally, and as time goes on, certainly within the next five to ten years, this or a better rotation will be adopted by nearly all the farms of forty or more acres. From observation and the U. S. Census report it can be seen that Southampton is diversified in its farming activities. We have mild winters and long summers. The soil is deep and its fertility can be built up, though drainage is generally needed.

Southampton county produces more peanuts than any other county in the State and is the twelfth county in the nation in the production of this crop. It produces more cotton than any other county in Virginia, and is second in the acreage of corn harvested, being led only by Pittsylvania county. It is third in bushels of corn harvested, being led only by Loudoun and Pittsylvania, and of these two counties is led only by Loudoun in the yield of corn per acre. Southampton county leads all other counties in Virginia in swine production. Our hog production is governed more by our peanut and corn crops, corn nearly always interplanted with soybeans, than any other factors. Our soils are not the best suited to hog production because of the fact that they become easily infested with parasites, due to their porous nature, and the topography of the soils is flat, and the rains do not bring about sanitation to the extent they would if the soils were slightly rolling.

Dairying in the county is on an upward trend. It is an important factor in the county's agriculture. There are between forty and forty-five herds in the county producing milk commercially, and according to the 1945 census 1,496,413 gallons of milk were produced for sale. This is an increase over 1940 of over half a million gallons. The agent does not anticipate this trend to follow without interruption, though it does indicate a trend toward better balanced agriculture in the county that will advance, though at a slower pace than indicated from 1940 to 1945.

Poultry in the county is an important crop. Every farmer has a home flock, though very few people produce eggs or chickens for sale in large quantities. For the county as a whole poultry and egg production is about sufficient to take care of the county's needs, including the towns.

Beef cattle production is growing, though slowly. There are from one to twenty-five or forty head of beef animals on approximately 450 Southampton farms. Pasture for the county's dairy herds, beef herds, and swine herds is being rapidly established.

The county rates eighth place in farm income within the State.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Southampton County being the ninth in size in Virginia leads in the production of peanuts and hogs, and is second in the acreage of corn. For these reasons the agent has devoted most of his efforts, so far as crops are concerned, toward making these crops more profitable. He feels that higher yields of peanuts and corn is highly desirous. More and better hogs should certainly be a goal for each of our farmers. These can be brought about by better rotations, better cultural methods, more and better fertilizer of the proper analysis; more winter cover crops and better feeding and breeding of livestock. The agent feels that his efforts have been productive in some phases of this work. As an example of this , in 1946 the agent sent a questionnaire to 200 farmers asking how many acres of corn were planted to hybrid. From the first 100 replies it was determined that 85 percent of the corn in the county was of a hybrid strain. He further asked in his questionnaire how many acres of peanuts were planted on these farms, and on how many acres the seed has been treated with Arasan, and how many acres had been dusted with sulfur. It was determined that 95 percent of the seed had been treated with Arasan, and 47 percent had been treated with sulfur to control leafspot, a disease prevalent in peanuts. In 1947 a similar questionnaire was sent to 200 farmers, and the first 100 reporting showed that 88 percent of the corn was planted to some hybrid strain, 99 percent of the peanut seed had been treated with Arasan, and that 59 percent of the peanuts had been dusted with sulfur to control the leafspot disease.

Corn:

The increased yield of corn per acre in Southampton county has been much more phenomenal than the increased yield of any other crop. This is due primarily to our use of hybrid seed. Also because we use a larger amount of fertilizer than was used a few years previous. The State's hybrid corn acreage is approximately 66 percent; this county's hybrid corn acreage is 88 percent. To further this advance in corn yeild the agent has conducted eight corn hybrid demonstrations in 1947. In these from eight to eleven various hybrids have been used. Farmers seeing these demonstrations have selected the hybrid they think most fitted to their use, and in all probability will in 1948 use a hybrid that will be more productive than the ones they are using at the present time. These demonstrations are usually planted in the center of a field of corn, and the cultural practices remain the same in the demonstration as in the rest of the field. In this way the agent feels the good and bad points of the various hybrids are shown. Some are planted with an idea of showing the bad features of a hybrid, such as falling, lodging, insect damage, and some nearing decay. Other hybrids are planted to show higher yields, erectness of stalk, resistance to insects and diseases. Some are prolific and some one-eared strains. The agent feels that this is a worthwhile project, and due to these demonstrations approximately one-half of the hybrid seed planted in 1947 is of a strain recommended by the agent. To accomplish this the agent contacted farmers individually and in groups, through newspaper articles, and by letter, advising which hybrid is better, and giving his reasons for saying so.

Peanuts:

In peanut production the agent has conducted several demonstrations to show the value of dusting peanuts with sulfur to control the disease known as leafspot. Due to weather conditions in 1947, these demonstrations have not produced the results that the agent had anticipated, or that had been realized in demonstration during previous years. Due to the previous work however, 59 percent of the peanuts planted in the county were dusted with sulfur during this year. Many farmers think that when peanut foliage begins to turn brown and shed off the peanuts are beginning to get ready for harvesting. This is a misconception of facts. When peanuts begin to turn brown and shed this indicates disease. Sulfur controls the disease, keeps the foliage in a green, growing condition, and the plants continue to fruit until frost.

No demonstrations were conducted this year to show the advantage of treating with Arasan. Due to previous demonstrations, however, 99 percent of the peanut seed planted in 1947 were treated with Arasan. It has been proven that such treatment on machine shelled peanut seed increases the germination in some instances as much as 100 percent, and seldom does the treatment increase the germination less than 20 percent. An average of 33 percent can be expected.

Two demonstrations were arranged in cooperation with the Smith-Douglas Fertilizer Company of Norfolk, Virginia. Harvested results of these are not available, though an increase in yield was obvious during the growing and digging season. The materials used were a closed formula, but the material, in addition to manganese covered a high content of potash, superphosphate, and possibly lime for a conditioner.

Demonstrations were conducted this year for the first time with manganese to counteract excess alkalinity. No results from tests have been compiled because the peanuts have not yet been harvested, though in some cases where an excess amount of lime had been used a marked difference was seen in the color of the plants. Where the manganese had been applied the peanuts were green to a normal extent. Where no manganese was applied the peanut vines were definitely yellow or cream colored.

Other work done with peanuts this year was in arranging for fourteen farmers to get certified seed produced by the superintendent of the Holland Experiment Station. These seed are referred to as the "Holland Jumbo," twenty-two kernels making an ounce, whereas it takes forty-three kernels to make an ounce of some of the small varieties. Where the farmers followed instructions these peanuts have been certified this year, and the farmers are requested to sell them for 1948 as certified seed, and are permitted to charge 2 cents per pound more than the current market price for field run peanut seed.

The only other work done with peanuts has been in relation to insects. In September the fall army worm and corn ear worm attempted to destroy the peanut crop in the county. The agent visited several farms and made recommendations for the control of these pests. However, due to their fast eating habits they had done their damage before treatment could be applied. One large farmer did apply poisoned bait with good results.

Cotton:

Very little work has been done with cotton in 1947. Principal efforts have been devoted to disease and insect control. Insect damage has been the greatest since 1938.

Potatoes:

No work has been done with Irish potatoes. However, in cooperation with the Norfolk Experiment Station and S. E. Pope of Drewryville, Virginia, the agent conducted fifty fertilizer tests with sweet potatoes. Results on this work have not been compiled and is not available for quoting here. However the following is a plan of the work carried out:

-	8	12	10	9
5	6	7	11	11
1	2	3	4	10
6	7	8	12	9
2	3	4	5	11
7	8	12	1	10
Dam & gully	4	5	6	9
12	1	2	3	11
5	6	7	8	10
1	2	3	4	9

Plots 21ft x 75 ft.
with 2½ ft. rows.

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1	2	3	4	10
5	6	7	11	11
-	8	12	10	9

Plots 21½ x 75 ft.
with 2½ ft. rows.

Each plot in the above chart carries six rows 2½ feet wide and 75 feet long, making an area of about 1/27 of an acre.

It is the opinion of the agent that much benefit will come from these tests. This is the first work of this nature that has been done on soils similar to ours in the State. Heretofore we have used fertilizer recommendations made from tests on soils quite different, and our sweet potato yield has been far short of anything approaching satisfaction.

Plants:

Southampton county produces several million vegetable plants annually. The agent has worked with the plant producers, the State Department of Agriculture, the State Extension Service, plant jobbers, and the people who reset the plants, in an effort to perfect some method of certification for tomato plants. A few growers have expressed interest in this project, and willingness to attempt certification. However, enough growers have not decided to certify to make this work financially possible. It is hoped that by another year sufficient interest will be manifest to enable this project to get under way.

Truck Crops:

Considerable work was done in an effort to establish a canning plant for tomatoes in the county. However, due to the fact that insufficient acreage was contracted the project luckily fell through. This work may be revived in two or three years when prices become more normal and stable, though not in the immediate future, because those who were interested in the spring of this year can now see where they would have lost considerably had our efforts been succesful in establishing the project.

Tobacco:

Work with tobacco has been solely in weed control of the plant beds. A thousand yards of bed on various farms were treated last winter with wonderful results. It is the opinion of the agent that every tobacco producer will treat his entire plant bed area this winter.

Pasture:

Much work has been done with pasture and pasture crops. The agent conducts two pasture demonstrations with the Virginia-Carolina Plant Food Institute of Raleigh, North Carolina. These demonstrations have shown some surprising results. In some instances reverse results to what had been anticipated. For instance -- where only lime was used on a one-yard square plot with three cuttings selected at random, a total of 103 ounces of green grass was harvested; where we used 400 pounds of 20% superphosphate annually we harvested in three cuttings 146 ounces of green material; where we used 600 pounds of 0-14-7 annually we have harvested 142 ounces of green material; and where 700 pounds of 3-12-6, a complete fertilizer, was used annually we have harvested only 117 ounces from a one-yard-square area. This is the second year that this demonstrations has been conducted. Results somewhat similar were obtained in 1946.

This was an excellent pasture plot before our demonstration was started. The area contains no bare ground, 70 percent legumes; 29 percent desirable grasses; one-half of 1 percent undesirable grasses; and one-half of 1 percent weeds. In

June the owner of the pasture bought some cattle, and one of these being mischievous, or having an investigative mind, wrecked three of our coops, consequently the data is not as complete as it might be as we lost one good cutting of grass. This animal, however, came down with Bangs disease, and is no longer in the herd.

In addition to these demonstrations, the agent has given pasture mixture recommendations to over 400 farmers. In most instances these recommendations have included Ladino clover, which seemingly is a wonder crop in this area. We have approximately 1000 to 1100 acres seeded to Ladino clover and orchard grass, and where seeded in the fall of 1946 or early spring of 1947, excellent results have developed. Where seeded in the late fall of 1947 native grass and weeds crowded out the crop planted, causing unsatisfactory results. As nearly as the agent can determine between 350 and 400 acres of Ladino clover and orchard grass was seeded in September of this year. The recommended seeding is 12 pounds of orchard grass and 2 pounds of Ladino clover per acre with the land well limed and heavily fertilized.

One one farm where Ladino clover and orchard grass were seeded in September the Junebug grubs completely ruined the crop. In some areas a worm could be found on every six square inches of the land. It is the agent's opinion that these grubs were not after the clover, but were attempting to burrow in organic matter present to hibernate, and in so doing uprooted the crop. The agent wrote to various entomologists, though nothing practicable has been recommended to control this pest. This is something that some agencies should consider for a project, unless this is an isolated case.

Ladino clover, when planted at the right time, properly fertilized and limed, and not over stocked, can be grazed nine or ten months to the year. It will graze two animal units per acre, and will continue to grow and provide good quality grazing for years in excess of five. Mr. Jesse McClenny of Franklin, Virginia, has grazed and cut for hay a field for five years, and the sod is still in excellent condition.

Of Southampton's 1944 farm income of $6,660,583, 24.3%, or $1,617,344, came from livestock and livestock products sold. Southampton is the 10th county in value of livestock sold in Virginia, all of such income being derived from swine, dairy products, and poultry, in the order named.

Swine:

Of the $6,660,583 , 14.8%, or $983,444, came from the sale of hogs. Southampton is the largest hog-producing county in the State, leading its next rival, Sussex County, by approximately $300,000. Hog production in Southampton County has increased greatly in the last 12 to 15 years; the agent estimates by not less than one-third. Then, more important than this, is the fact that the quality of stock has been improved. Only a few years ago identification of any breed in many herds was impossible. Today there are very few farmers who do not have a purebred, and many of them a registered boar. In fact , there are few herds now in which you cannot identify the breed of any pig you may select.

As has been stated in previous report such as this, the greatest handicap in producing hogs in Southampton county is parasites. This handicap, however, is being slowly conquered or overcome by the use of better pastures, winter cover crops, rotation of feeding places, and better housing. Diseases also are a serious

menace to the hog producers of the county. Cholera, without a doubt, leads in economic loss so far as diseases are concerned. A local veterinarian has also diagnosed several disease outbreaks as erysipelas. To assist in the control of such diseases as cholera and hemorrhagic septicemia the agent and his assistant have treated in the neighborhood of 15,000 hogs this year, using $7350 worth of biologics in this work. Incidentally, many of these hogs have been exposed to cholera. In almost all instances, however, the losses from death were minor. The agent does not vaccinate for erysipelas.

"Better pastures for hogs," is becoming almost a slogan in the county. Several hundred acres in Ladino clover and orchard grass have been seeded. It seems that hogs if properly fed when on such pasture will be more healthy and show no evidence of parasites. They literally outgrow the parasite damage.

Better breeding of hogs has been brought about in part by a semi-annual purebred hog sale in the adjoining county in which the agent takes an active part in advertising and assisting farmers in buying good boars and bred gilts. He has also assisted the farmers and 4H Club boys in selling hogs through this sale. Approximately 40 head of hogs each year are brought in from these sales, and the sales have been conducted approximately 10 years. Pigs from these bred sows are generally sold to neighboring farms to be used as breeding stock. The agent began importing registered hogs in 1931 and has brought in several every year since.

For the first time the agent has assisted several farmers and 4H club boys in registering hogs that they have for sale. This, the agent feels, will be beneficial, not only to those selling and buying, but to the community as a whole, because offspring from these registered hogs will also be used to advance the production of better hogs in our farm program.

Another effort made to help control or identify diseases in livestock was to arrange to have a State diagnostic laboratory built in the county. The construction of this laboratory has not been started, but an appropriation has been made, plans drawn, and it is expected that construction of the laboratory will begin in the immediate future. This laboratory will be properly staffed by a veterinarian, sufficient technicians and others who will work with farmers or veterinarians in identifying diseases and parasites. The staff will diagnose diseases, but will not practice veterinary medicine in competition with our local veterinarians. The services of this laboratory will be readily available, and anyone can take an animal in for diagnosis.

To secure this laboratory the agent worked two years through various channels, and on September 10th of this year, he, with a group of 37 farmers, attended a public hearing of the State Board of Agriculture, the advisory organization of the State Department of Agriculture and Immigration, where the request was formally made. Those present made such a unified request that the Board, without hesitation, authorized the establishment of a laboratory within the county. This will be a State institution, but within the confines of the county, and convenient to all livestock producers in the county.

Beef Cattle:

Beef animal production in the county is not a major farm enterprise. However there are better than 400 farms that have either purebred or grade beef animals. Many of these have only three or four animals, though a few have fifty or sixty animals, and the larger producers are generally those who have better stock. A good many farmers will have a beef type bull to be used on dairy cows to produce a better quality veal or beef for sale. When replacing the home dairy cows such farmers will generally go to a dairyman and buy a heifer calf to be raised for milking purposes. The beef industry is growing and with the production of more and better pastures, a much greater number of animals will be produced for sale, and for home consumption. Many farmers either have a locker box in the freezing plant or have a quick-freeze unit on the farm where they can store a quantity of meat that will last them for several months. This method of preserving is increasing the interest in beef animals and it is the agent's opinion that in a few years most farmers will produce not only their bacon and cured meat, but beef for home consumption. The agent's work with beef animals has been to get more beef type bulls in the county, to get more and better pasture planted, assisting farmers in getting quick freeze units or locker boxes, and recommending that the farmers save their own meat and sell the surplus.

Poultry:

Poultry is an important crop on the farm in Southampton County. There are no large flocks from which great quantities of eggs or poultry is sold, but every farmer has a home flock from which he obtains his eggs and poultry for home consumption, and generally sells eggs and poultry to pay, or help considerabley, on the weekly grocery bill. The greatest part of the agent's activities in poultry work has been in assisting farmers to secure better baby chicks. A few years ago farmers bought chicks from the cheapest hatchery. Sometimes from several miles away from the county. When the chicks arrived many were dead, all of them were weak and disease was prevalent. This practice has almost been eliminated. Hatcheries in the community, three of which are located in this county, supply practically all the chicks bought. Very few orders for chicks go out of the State.

Better feeding and sanitation are stressed continuously. Better housing and parasite control are also stressed at opportune times. Disease control and culling are a major part of the agent's work with poultry.

The quality of the poultry in Southampton County is now far better than it was a few years ago, resulting in better egg production, more thrifty birds, and less disease. If there is any one great need in the poultry field it is housing. However, this is being slowly corrected; about 100 poultry house plans have been provided farmers this year.

Dairying:

Dairying in Southampton is becoming more important annually. Even though there is improvement and enlargement in dairy herds where milk is produced commercially, the most important and satisfying advancement is more and better dairy cattle on the average farm. There are still families that do not have

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dairy cattle. However such families are not as plentiful as they were a few years ago, and there are very few families that do not have milk if they want it. The agent has arranged for landlords to furnish tenants with cows to be milked. The landlord, for his investment, receives a calf each year at weaning age. He also in many instances, where a cow is not available for a tenant, furnishes milk at a very nominal cost to his tenants. In some instances the tenant does the milking and divides the milk between himself and the landlord; the land owner furnishing all feed, housing, etc.

To get more and better cattle on the farm in the county the agent works with and is a director in the Southampton County Guernsey Breeders' Association, which organization conducts an annual sale, bringing in very high class heifers and cows for sale. He arranged with the local banks to finance any farmer who is prepared to feed a cow to buy one at this sale. In September of this year 47 such heifers were sold, 22 of which remained in this county. The agent has helped to place several young bulls in the county with 4H Club boys or their parents, and two with farmers to be used until the owner dairyman calls for them. More such bulls could be placed, but very few farmers are in position to properly care for a bull. Where the agent has placed a bull the farmer has obligated to build a substantial bull pen, plans to be furnishes by the agend. Fourteen such plans have been drawn by him.

The agent is now working with a dairy products manufacturer who anticipates opening a milk route in the county. By so doing,in a few years we plan to increase our dairy cattle, starting several small herds, and selling milk to supplement the farm income, and to better utilize farm labor. Plans for small barns are on hand to supply interested farmers.

Farm Labor:

The agent has done only a little work in regard to farm labor. There has been no organized drive to bring in transient labor, nor has the need for such labor been great. The agent has helped quite a number of veterans to become established on farms, either of their own or on rented farms. Also he has assisted several to get jobs on farms with other established farmers. The labor situation in the county is not as acute as it was two years ago. Farm machinery has eased this problem considerably. People are going to a longer term rotation, limiting major work peaks to a certain extent, and more pasture is being planted, taking a portion of the row crops out of production, and eliminating work peaks; in other words -- making the work more uniform throughout the season.

Quite a bit of time was devoted to the farm labor-saving device show put on by the Virginia Extension Division in several places in the State. The show was in Southampton September 18th, and an attendance of between 800 and 1000 people visited the exhibit. Many requests for building plans were requested because of the show; 620 people asked for nearly 1900 plans of one kind or another.

To expedite the use of plans requested the agent arranged to have a woodworking firm make any article ordered by the county farmers. The show was held at the woodshop referred to above.

Cooperatives:

The agent's work with cooperatives has been purely in an advisory capacity this year. Those worked most closely with have been the Southampton County Guernsey Breeders' Association,of Franklin, Virginia; The Virginia Peanut Cleaning Association, Stony Creek,Va; and the local stores of the Southern States Cooperative,Richmond, Virginia. Products bought and sold by these organizations have exceeded well over $1,000,000.

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Conservation:

The agent's work with conservation has been purely in an advisory capacity this year. These worked most closely with have been the Southampton County Quarterly Breeders' Association of Franklin, Virginia; The Virginia Peanut Growers' Association, Stony Creek, Va; and the local bureau of the Southern States Cooperative, Richmond, Virginia. Products bought and sold by these organizations have exceeded well over $1,000,000.

Forestry:

Not a great deal of work has been done on forestry. A few talks have been made, letters written, and news items published on forest fire prevention. A large number of bulletins have been passed out on forest conservation, selective cutting of timber, and conserving on merchantable trees. The agent has also worked with the Virginia Forest Service in getting timber surveys made, also in regard to seed tree selection, where timber has been sold. Some time has been given to the Appalachain Forest Experiment Branch in Franklin, Virginia, where investigation is being made on ways to make timber grow faster.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

(a) 4-H Club Organization:

The membership in the 11 4H Clubs in Southampton County that are supervised by the agent and his assistant has dropped from the 1946 figure of 135 to 79 this year. The reason for this reduction in membership is that the home demonstration agent organized clubs in some of the localities where only the men had been conducting clubs; the home agent possibly being in better position to give the girls the type project work that they were more interested in, and the girls on the advice of the assistant county agent, transferred their membership from men's work to the ladies' supervision. In 1946 there were 57 girls in the men's organization; in 1947 there were only 4.

It is the intention of the agent to gradually work clubs out of the county school system, which will necessitate more clubs in the communities, though will result in a smaller membership to the club. At the present time there are four clubs being conducted in the schools and on school time. The members of these clubs do not have as wide a range of projects to choose from as the club members out of school clubs. They are also the younger members because the local school system prefers not to have a 4H club member in their vocational classes.

There have been three County Council meetings held this year, and in December another meeting will be held to plan goals for 1948 work. In December of 1946 the County Council set the following goals for 4H Clubs of the county for 1947:

(1) That from all club members an 85% project and record book completion will be obtained.

(2) Each club member will enter some competitive contest.

(3) That an Achievement Day will be held in September; such Achievement Day to be in conjunction with a County Fair, if a county fair is held.

(4) Each club will obtain an adult leader if it does not already have one.

(5) That each club will be represented at the District 4-H Camp.

(6) That each club will participate in a Rural Life Sunday program.

(7) That the County 4H Club Council will hold a picnic to which all club members and their parents will be invited.

The boy's clubs met the above goals to a reasonable degree of satisfaction. The exceptions were that only about 70 percent of the boys completed their projects, and all the clubs did not obtain adult leaders to work with them.

(b) Project Work:

There are 13 breeding pig projects being carried by the Southampton County

4-H Club boys. Twelve of these are purebred gilts or sows. Five of the thirteen had similar projects last year provided by the Sears, Roebuck Foundation, and they fulfilled their contracts by providing pigs to five other boys it is expected will complete their contracts in May , 1948.

In addition to the breeding pig work we had 22 boys with fat pig projects, six of whom entered pens of three in the Fat Pig Show and Sale, which in 1947 was held in Smithfield on April 12th. This show will be an annual affair and alternate between Suffolk and Smithfield. All of these pig and sow projects have been interesting; in some instances however not successful from a reproductive point of view. Two of the 1946 contestants had to buy pigs to carry out their contracts. However, as an overall project the work has been satisfactory. Some of the boys, the agent feels, have been very successful with their work, and have been instrumental in placing some nice animals in Southampton and adjoining counties for breeding purposes. If this work can be continued for a few years the breeding of livestock in this area will be much improved. The boys' work will be more effective than adult work because their pigs are generally taken better care of, consequently look better and sell better. Friends of the boys will buy a pig from the boy sooner than they would from the boy's father, and the boy would be more interested in selling the pigs than the father, because the father might feel that he needed the pig on the farm for home consumption, or other purposes.

Another livestock project that is important in Southampton's 4H Club work is dairy calves and heifers. We have 11 such projects, ten of which have been given, five in 1946, and five in 1947, by business houses in Franklin and the community. These are bought through the Southampton County Guernsey Breeders' Association, and are always from disease-free and registered herds. The boys are given the heifers, and when their first heifer reaches the same stage of development as the original heifer which they were given, they give the young heifer to the agent for another club boy. In this way we have a chain proposition, and in a few years it will be self-sustaining. The heifers bought this averaged $202 each. They were placed with boys whose fathers were not in position to own an outstanding animal. We hope that this work is going to result in many more and much better dairy cattle in the county, and that it will be in the hands of boys who will be farm-minded and develop a better standard of agriculture than we have yet known.

Southampton's 4H boys had 14 poultry projects. These were either the home flock which included the spring chicks or baby chicks, ranging in number from 50 to 500, which were to be sold as broilers. All of these did well, and a profit was realized by all of these boys.

There were 19 4-H Club boys who had a crop for their project. Four of these were corn, and the others peanuts. The weather conditions handicapped these boys as it did their fathers and others, and the most satisfactory yield was not obtained except in one instance. One boy produced better than 134 bushels of corn per acre. The others were average crops, though our records show a profit of from a few dollars to $100 per acre of peanuts, and about the same in corn was realized by each boy.

Our garden projects, 14 of them, were about as the family garden normally is. No vegetables have been sold, though in most instances vegetables for home use and for canning were produced to a satisfactory extent.

The agricultural agents of Southampton County had 17 boys to attend the district 4-H Camp at Fort Story this year. This camp lasted from July 21st until July 26th, and all the clubs in the county were represented by one or more of the 17 boys.

Our representatives to the State Short Course at Blacksburg had their expenses paid by local clubs through the sale of Four-leaf Clovers. These were sold by the boys and girls in their respective communities. The money so acquired and not used in paying the delegates expenses were put into the treasury to be used by the county 4-H Club Council.

The agents in this area have recently begun working on a project to raise money for a 4H Camp to be located at Virginia Beach. The Southampton County agent has had donations of $500 to date, with the promise of additional money in 1948.

The Achievement Day was held on March 8th at the High School, Franklin, Virginia. All members, both girls and girls, were invited along with their parents and friends. Each club took a part in the exercises and exhibits. The best exhibits being livestock, field crops, poultry and garden. County awards were presented to some of the members, and a ring with the 4H club insignia was given to the boys and girls who had completed their projects for the year.

VII. COOPERATION WITH PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION.

The agent and his assistant have worked closely with the Production and Marketing Administration, giving this local division of the State organization 37 days of their time. The agent is on call at all times with this organization and gives advice and assistance with problems when Production and Marketing Administration officials request it. Such requests have been numerous this year, due to the fact that three different chief clerks have been employed in the PMA office during the year. In recent months the proposed peanut program and approaching referendum on acreage control has been uppermost in the Production and Marketing Administration program. The agent has assisted in setting up the farm goals in the county, in working out certain technical facts that would insure proper distribution of the county quota, and in seeing that all farms receive their pro rata share of the peanuts allotted to the county.

He has attended numerous county and community committeemen's meetings, has assisted with the district committee elections, and written several letters to be used by the local PMA office in contacting farmers and advising them concerning the agricultural conservation program in general; mainly about cover crops, green manure crops, and acreage allotments. Several meetings have been held with farmers to acquaint them with the farm program, and has assisted in the personnel problems of the local office.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH CREDIT AND LOANING AGENCIES

(A) Since the agent has been in the county he had worked closely with all lending agencies where better relationship and a promotion of better agricultural credit is or could be established. The agent works with the local banks and individuals who loan money to farmers, and thinks that such institutions are the foundation of proper credit where satisfactory arrangements for repayment can be established. The local bankers call the agent concerning economic date, prospective crop yields, and prices; credit for certain individual farmers, and other thinks where the bankers feel that the agent is in better position to know conditions than they.

The local banks arranged for the agent to attend three of their meetings; one a State meeting at Natural Bridge, Virginia, and two district meetings in the immediate area. In all these meetings economic date was offered and discussed in detail as to how certain factors would effect our local farmers, what steps should be taken to combat inflation, what was a sound loan or an unsound loan. In each of these meetings the agent has attempted to give his services to the local credit institution so as to serve them and their borrowers to the best advantage.

(B) In addition to working with local banks as loaning agencies the agent has cooperated with government loaning agencies whenever he was in position to render aid. Several farmers have been directed to the Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank,and Farmers' Home Administration for advice and service where a loan was needed. He also explained to many farmers the advantages and disadvantages in borrowing money from various agencies as well as from local credit sources.

IX. COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The agent is a supervisor in the J. R. Horsley Soil Conservation District. He is also secretary to the supervisors, and has taken an active part in arranging with farmers for service by the local soil conservation district men. He has also gone out with the soil conservation employees to make surveys and give advice when needed.

Seventy-two farm plans have been prepared by the local Soil Conservationist and his part-time assistant. Several farms have been surveyed by these men for drainage purposes, and for the past month a trenching machine is being operated in Southampton County under the direction of the agent and another local supervisor. The agent has held four meetings in the county incident to getting applications made for Soil Conservation services. These meetings were well attended, and a large amount of work is in prospect because of these contacts. The agent approves all applications for Soil Conservation work and makes recommendations to the farmers for crops to be grown on various types and classes of land. He arranged for a local merchant to handle terra cotta tile to be used in our drainage work. This arrangement is between the Richmond Clay Products Corporation and a local merchant, the local merchant to receive cost of the pipe and transportation, plus one-half cent per foot profit.

A large number of letters have been written regarding the Soil Conservation Program. Talks have been made explaining the work and what it could mean to the farmers of the county. Approximately 650 contacts have been made in the various ways of making contacts regarding this work. These are in addition to news items where comments on and reference to the soil conservation work have been made many times.

Some of the contacts resulted in the construction or plans for construction of 14 fish ponds, and 5 dynamite-ditching demonstrations. The dynamiting demonstrations were under the direct supervisbn of the county agent. Approximately 700 other contacts have been made when farmers came in, or when the agent contacted the farmers away from the office when their questions were answered pertaining to the Soil Conservation Program.

The agent has studied how Soil Conservation would benefit the farmers of the county. He attended the State Soil Conservation Supervisors' meeting in Lynchburg on March 20, 21, and 22, and plans to continue farmer contacts in the future, hoping that Soil Conservation will continue to be directed in the county by the agent, as he feels that he is better qualified to render this service than any other agricultural worker in the county.

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X. SUMMARY

The agent attempts to use what he considers should be called a County Board of Agriculture for his operating county extension organization. This group of men, approximately 30 of them have not been used to any great extent as a group, though they have helped considerably in putting across a program that was recommended at the beginning of the year. It is the agent's opinion that several meetings should be held by this group instead of one as was done this year.

Agriculture in Southampton County is quite diversified inasmuch as we have three money crops, and also three types of livestock from which a substantial income is derived. To a very great extent a three-year rotation is practiced with good results. A large percentage of the farmers in Southampton are negroes, some of whom are slow in attempting modern farm practices. Consequently, this holds down the advancement in agriculture, but the agents achievements for this year have been pleasing. Southampton is a large county in the upper Tidewater section of the State. It produces more peanuts, hogs and cotton than any other county, and is second in the yield of corn.

Considerable work has been done this year on corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, pasture, dairy cattle, and hogs. 88% of Southampton's corn acreage is planted to hybrid varieties. In the past ten years fertilizer application to corn has doubled, consequently the increase in yield has been phenomenal. Eight hybrid demonstrations have been conducted, some of which showed good results. Many farmers will plant hybrids next year which were observed in these demonstrations indicating yields and hybrids which stood up well under even adverse weather conditions. The agent sent out several hundred recommendations on hybrids, and in most instances his recommendations were followed.

Of the peanut seed planted in 1947 99% were treated with Arasan; 59 % of the peanuts grown were dusted to control leafspot and the leafhopper. Demonstrations were conducted to show the advantages of manganese on lands that had been over limed. Where although only a small portion of the land has been over limed, it is the agent's opinion that more manganese will be used in the future. 14 farmers have been aided in obtaining certified peanut seed. Seed from these peanuts will be certified and will be sold for seed in 1948. Peanut insects, fall army worm and corn ear worm were destructive in September and the first of October. The agent was called on form methods of control, but little damage was done and the methods of control were put into operation only in isolated cases.

Work done with sweet potatoes this year was in form of fertilizer tests. A detailed plan of this work is shown on a previous page of this report. Nothing conclusive was learned, and the demonstrations will be repeated in 1949.

Considerable work has been done to encourage farmers to seed good permanent pasture. The crop that is generally recommended is Ladino clover and orchard grass. This crop has proved satisfactory and stands up well under heavy grazing. In addition to permanent pasture temporary pastures were seeded and we have possibly the second largest winter cover crop acreage in the history of the county. These

X. SUMMARY

cover crops will be used for winter pasture and turned under as green manure in early March of 1948.

Approximately $1,000,000, or 15%, of Southampton County's farm income came from hogs. Southampton is the largest hog-producing county in the State due to the fact that a large acreage of corn and soybeans is produced, peanuts left in the field at digging time, and farmers need hogs to help them round out their year's work. The hogs we have causes the farmer to utilize his farm labor to better advantage during the year than any other crop. Approximately 90,000 head of hogs are produced each year. The agent and his assistant treated approximately 15,000 hogs in 1947. The medicine used cost $7350.00.

Another feature of Southampton County's hog work is the semi-annual purebred hog sale conducted by the Virginia purebred swine breeders Association. From these sales approximately twenty five or thirty bred sows and twenty boars are purchased annually. These sales have helped materially in improving the hogs in this county. Most farms have a purebred boar, and on most farms a purebred or high grade sow is found. The agent, with the cooperation of the other interested parties was successful in obtaining a diagnostic laboratory for the county. This institution will be constructed in the immediate future, and farmers anticipate much benefit therefrom.

Dairying in the county is progressing slowly, though the agent thinks surely. Several purebred bulls have been placed in the county through the efforts of the agent, and the quality of the dairy cattle, whether used for family milk production or milk for sale, is on the up grade.

There are fewer 4H club boys and girls than in 1946 due to the fact that the home organized clubs where only the agent had had clubs. This reduced membership by about 50 members. Quality of the 4H club work has been fair. The Sears, Roebuck project with purebred gilts is in its second year, and proving successful. Six dairy heifers have been purchased, and the boys are showing much apptitude in carrying for their animals. 19 boys had crops for their projects. In all instances where a record has been kept a monetary profit has been shown. Much additional work can satisfactorily be done in the 4H club program. The agent hopes that some of this will be accomplished in 1948.

The agent has worked closely with the production and marketing administration, assisting in every possible way in the office operation and taking care of the additional features of the program. This work has been quite strenuous in the latter part of the year, due to the fact that a peanut referendum is scheduled for December 9th. Considerable interest is shown and it is the agent's opinion that a favorable vote will be obtained. In addition to the peanut program the agent assisted with winter cover crops and lime distribution.

Cooperation with the district Soil Conservation program has been one of the agent's first interests. Being a supervisor in the J. R. Horsley District, he has worked with the county technician and district supervisor in every possible way. Such cooperation includes field trips, soil tests, crop rotation recommendations, drainage, farm plans, forestry, and fishpond construction. Approximately 650 farmers have been worked with in the Soil Conservation program. 5 dynamite ditching demonstrations were conducted, and at the present time a trenching machine is being operated. In addition to these approximately 700 office contacts have been made where many phases of the agricultural program -- extension, PMA, as well as Soil Conservation, were discussed.

Other types of work done by the agent have been numerous. Among the field crops work has been done with tobacco, soybeans, cotton, commercial plant production, gardening, new types of cover and grazing crops; and in livestock, poultry, and beef cattle have come in for their share of the agent's attention. War Bond sales, forestry, scrap iron drives, fire prdection , farm Labor-Saving Devices Show, Safety Week program, machinery and maintenance, rat and insect control, landlord-tenant relationship, anti-inflation work , and many others too numerous to mention.

In the agent's office in 1947 1521 individual letters were written, 15 mimeographed letters with 9529 copies; 3160 telephones calls received and made; 3404 office calls received; 1462 farm visits were made-- 616 of these by the assistant agent; 81 meetings were attended -- at 33 of these the agent presided or made the presentation with a total of 4611 people present. These meetings are exclusive of 4H club meetings. 23,920 miles have been driven; 9881 of which were by the assistant agent; 18 demonstrations have been conducted; 1331 bulletins have been distributed, and 50 news articles prepared.