

IX. EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

Evaluation of the year's work is very difficult, particularly so in a county the size of Fauquier. The lack of personnel during the current year has been the chief factor in hindering the carrying out of the goals which were established. Therefore, the Agent has attempted to hold together the 4-H organization and at the same time carry out the major goals in adult work, many of which could not be given the personal attention which is required to make the program effective. The following is evidence of progress and trends that have developed during the current year:

- a. Closer relationships have developed between the different areas of the county and commodity groups. Also, a better understanding between rural and urban people as evidenced by their support of 4-H and other activities.
- b. Individuals were more dependent upon personal contact in attempting to secure information of major importance to them in making decisions as a result of the cost price squeeze in agriculture.
- c. Further progress has been made in getting farmers to participate in public affairs and agricultural policy.
- d. Marketing problems and the need for expanding markets has been recognized as a very important need and the dairymen, beef cattle producers, have made progress along these lines.

2. Farmers Home Administration

The FHA operates in Fauquier from the Colpaper Office. The Agent has served in an advisory capacity to the FHA County Committee and the Secretary of this organization. Individual assistance has been given the farmers participating in this program.

3. Soil Conservation Service

There is no Soil Conservation Service District in Fauquier. However, the Agent has worked with the representative of this organization employed in the county to give technical assistance through the ACP program.

4. State Department of Agriculture and Immigration

During the current year, the Agent has worked with several divisions of the State Department of Agriculture, such as Bureau of Animal Industry; Seeds and Fertilizers, and Dairy and Foods. Farmers have been supplied information in regard to analyses of feeds; seed germination; weed tests; fertilizer analyses and disease control programs and regulations relative to shipment of livestock, exhibition of animals at fairs, etc.

Great emphasis has been put on the Bangs' Disease Control program of the Department and much information has been supplied farmers in the county on this program.

The Agent handled the Emergency Key Program as result of the Drought Disaster status of the county in 1954-55. Eighty four (84) farmers were approved for 1276 tons of hay under the drought program.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH CREDIT AND LENDING AGENCIES

The credit needs of agriculture is available through four (4) banks and the Production Credit and National Farm Loan Association. Persons seeking credit information are referred to these groups. Information on latest research and agricultural programs is supplied to these agencies, particularly on land capabilities of farms, soil survey data, etc.

The Agent attended the Virginia Bankers' Association Farm Credit Conference and the annual meeting of the FCA & NFILA.

These lending agencies have supported the Extension Program, namely: 4-H Club work; artificial breeding program; serving on various commodity committees, etc.

VII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- A. Goal: To work with and through other agencies, State and National, on programs beneficial to the people, attempting to coordinate programs where it will do the most good.

1. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The phases of the ASC affecting the county are: (1) Agricultural Conservation Program; (2) Commodity Credit Corporation Loans; (3) Allotment and Quota Programs; and (4) Drought Emergency Feed Program. The chief problems in work with this agency has been to get the farmers to understand the programs and vote in the elections that are necessary.

The objectives were to get the farmers to use the ACP funds to the best advantage on their farms; secure Commodity Loans, if possible; follow regulations in relation to Wheat Marketing Quotas.

The program has been conducted through County and Community Committees; general meetings; the Agent's radio program; newspaper, and personal contacts.

Results obtained through this program are as follows:

- a. Six hundred and fifty (650) farmers signed up under the ACP to take advantage of the approximate \$139,179, allocated to the county. About five hundred (500) will complete the practices signed up for on their farms.
- b. One hundred and seventy five (175) voted in the elections for community and county committeemen.
- c. Only forty five (45) of about two hundred and fifty (250) wheat producers eligible to vote cast their ballots in the Wheat Marketing Quota Referendum; the vote lost 28 to 17.
- d. Only twenty five (25) CCC loans were approved; facilities for storage are inadequate in this area.
- e. Under the drought emergency feed program, sixty eight (68) farmers were approved for 478 tons of grain. Eighty four (84) farmers were approved for 1276 tons of hay.

3. Tractor Maintenance

- a. There were twenty nine (29) 4-H members enrolled in this project. Of this number, twenty (20) completed. Nine (9) competed in the Tractor driving contest at the Junior Fair.
- b. Three (3) implement dealers assisted the Junior and Adult Leaders in conducting six (6) project meetings. Instructions in these meetings have been used on the farm by members enrolled in Tractor Maintenance.
- c. One (1) member participated in the District Tractor Operators Contest.

4. Electrical Projects

- a. There were seventy two (72) 4-H members enrolled in this project. Of this number, nineteen (19) completed.
- b. All the members enrolled made extension cords in class. Members completing made pig brooder, additional extension cords, lamps, and gave five (5) demonstrations.
- c. One (1) delegate represented the county at the 4-H Electric Congress.

5. Anatomy, Crops, Garden, Rabbits, Poultry Projects

- a. There were one hundred and fifty (150) members enrolled in these projects, of which eleven (11) completed.
- b. Twenty five (25) members exhibited these projects in the Junior Fair. Two classifications were listed for Crops, Garden and Poultry — Open for all members and Closed for members carrying these projects.

6. Leadership

- a. There were nine (9) members enrolled in this project, of which seven (7) completed.
- b. Members in Leadership took part in many activities, such as planning county events; club activities; achievement night; National 4-H Club Week; Junior Fair, etc.

In 1956, the 4-H program must be put back on a sound basis with more emphasis on project work. This will require personal contacts; farm visits, and better project instructions.

- c. Seven (7) members were trained in livestock judging; teams placed 4th in district and 9th in State Contest.
- d. There were thirty five (35) 4-H members enrolled in breeding and fat hog projects. Of this number, nine (9) members completed on twelve (12) head. The Sears-Roebuck Pig Chain Projects were outstanding. In the Junior Fair, nine (9) 4-H members exhibited twenty six (26) head.
- e. There were six (6) 4-H members enrolled in breeding and fat lamb projects. Of this number, three (3) members completed on five (5) head. One (1) member exhibited at Prince William, Fredericksburg, and Atlantic Rural Exposition. Fourteen (14) head were shown in the Fauquier Junior Fair.
- f. The appearance of the animals exhibited and those in completed projects was indicative of what the members learned in proper feeding and management of this project.

2. Dairy Projects

- a. There were fifty two (52) members of 4-H enrolled in dairy projects -- involving dairy calf, heifer, and dairy production -- with a total of ninety (90) animals. Of this number, eighteen (18) members completed on fifty one (51) head.
- b. Eight (8) members exhibited thirty (30) head at the Prince William, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, and Atlantic Rural Exposition. Championship awards were won in Jersey, Brown Swiss, and Holstein at each of these events.
- c. Twenty (20) members exhibited sixty (60) head in the Fauquier Junior Fair with the same number in the Northern Virginia 4-H Dairy Show. Championships were won in Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn, and Jersey at the District Show.
- d. Breeding services to All-Proven Sires through the Fauquier Artificial Breeding Association, Inc. were used by ten (10) members.
- e. Four (4) members were trained in dairy judging; the team placed 4th in the district and 11th in the State Contest.
- f. Seven (7) members purchased purebred heifers during the year.

5. Four (4) members entered State Contests in Dairy, Meat Animal, Leadership, and Talent. This resulted in State winners in Leadership and Talent. One (1) member entered the district tractor driving contest.
6. Eighteen (18) members attended the State 4-H Short Course and thirty two (32) members 4-H Camp.
7. Seventy two (72) members and parents attended County Planning two (2) clubs made window displays for National 4-H Club Week and five (5) clubs participated in Rural Life Sunday. These activities were planned by the County Council, which also conducted the Achievement Night and Talent Contests.
8. The County Council operated the Food Booth in connection with the Junior Fair -- paid transportation expenses for delegates to Short Course and part of transportation costs for members attending Camp.
9. There were one hundred and eighteen (118) 4-H, FFA and FFA members exhibiting in the Fauquier Junior Fair. A total of 743 exhibits were shown. Of the individuals exhibiting, ninety nine (99) were 4-H Club members; of the forty seven (47) top awards presented in the event, thirty nine (39) were won by 4-H Club members.
10. Twenty nine (29) 4-H members exhibited in out-of-county Fairs, namely: Prince William County Fair, Fairfax, Fredericksburg and the Atlantic Rural Exposition. (More details under "Projects").
11. A total of seventy five (75) Junior and Adult Leaders assisted in conducting 4-H activities during the current year.

B. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Livestock Projects

- a. There were thirty two (32) 4-H members enrolled in beef projects -- baby beef, purchased heifers, and commercial. Of this number, twenty four (24) completed their projects on thirty eight (38) head.
 - b. Beef animals exhibited at the following shows:
 - Prince William, 7 head; had Champion Steer of Show; Fairfax, 3 head; Champion Steer of Show; Fredericksburg, 3 head, Champion Steer of Show; Richmond, 22 head; Champion Angus & Shortborn Heifers of Show, and Champion Hereford Steer. Twenty nine (29) head were exhibited in Fauquier Junior Fair. Twenty two (22) different members participated in these events.

activities.

5. To secure greater participation in county, district, and state contests and events, such as; more members exhibiting in Junior Fair; Judging Contest; Tractor Driving; Leadership Dairy and Meat Animal Contests; 4-H Short Course; Camp; Rural Life Sunday, etc.
6. To expand 4-H Club program and activities with emphasis being on quality of work done.
7. 4-H Club members and leaders to plan and conduct county - wide activities and programs.
8. To recognize outstanding 4-H Club members; adult leaders; business men and organizations which promote 4-H program.

The following methods have been used in conducting the 4-H program in 1955: Club meetings; County Council; demonstrations; visual aids; public programs; exhibits; newspaper; both general and personal success stories; radio; fairs and shows; personal contacts and farm visits; leader assistance; judging training; contests; specialists; machinery dealers, and power companies.

The following results have been obtained in the 4-H Club program during the current year:

A. GENERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. There were twenty (20) organized 4-H Clubs with a total membership of 527. The club meetings were conducted by trained officers and Junior and Adult Leaders.
2. Fourteen (14) clubs entered contestants in the county talent contest held in conjunction with the Achievement program which was attended by 500 people.
3. An achievement program was held and county medals awarded to twenty six (26) 4-H Club members.
4. The livestock and dairy judging teams participated in the district and state contests, placing 9th and 11th respectively in the latter contests.

J. Older Youth

Wherever possible, during the current year, young farmers have been placed on committees to carry out the Extension Program. The Fauquier Junior Fair organization was expanded. A Fair Board was organized, made up primarily of older club youth and young farmers. Committees of the Fair were appointed by the Board from the young farmer group. Seven (7) members of the Agronomy Committee are young farmers, the 4-H Tractor Maintenance Project was conducted by older youth, three (3) Directors of the D.H.I.A. are young farmers. The County Committee of the ASC Program is made up entirely of young farmers. Thus, the young farmers are participating and assuming positions of responsibility in conducting local agricultural activities and programs. The following are the accomplishments of this group:

1. Planned and conducted the Fauquier Junior Fair. Approximately \$2200 was raised for premiums and prizes, eight (8) calves secured for calf scramble.
2. Conducted 4-H Tractor Maintenance program, holding six (6) project meetings for twenty nine (29) boys.
3. Two (2) young farmers conducted TVA Farm Unit Demonstrations.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H Club Work is a major phase of the county Extension Program. The future of agriculture in the county is dependent upon the proper training of the youth who will be the farmers and leaders in future years. The 4-H program has been built around the livestock and dairy industries. These projects and others offered the members apply directly to the farm and home. Through this program, an attempt has been made to supply the latest research and methods essential to successful farming in this modern age.

During the current year, the objectives of the 4-H Club program have been:

1. To instruct and teach 4-H members basic subject matter in the projects in which they were enrolled.
2. To develop leadership of the individual members and train them to cooperate and work in groups.
3. To secure additional 4-H Club (Adult) leaders and get more active participation from them in conducting the various phases of the program.
4. To develop a better-rounded program in each club, such as; more active participation of members in the affairs of their club; better trained officers; conducting of community projects; public programs, and money-making

4. Dairy Herd Improvement Associations

Accomplishments of this Association have been reported under "Dairying". The Association has maintained its membership and the Directors have assumed more responsibility in the operation of the program work of the supervisors has been improved; good relationships exist between the Supervisors and members, and the records are being used to better advantage by the members.

5. Ranchster Wool Grower's Association

Wool marketing of this group reported under "Livestock".

6. Remickton Farmers Cooperative and Southern States

The Agent works with the members of these organizations in other groups and individually. However, through these cooperatives, its members are supplied with the latest research information on fertilization, crop varieties, proper insecticides and fungicides to use in controlling insects and diseases of crops and livestock. These organizations have contributed financially to youth work.

H. Forestry

Work with forestry has been primarily encouraging farmers to contact the sub-district forester, employed by the Virginia Forest Service, for assistance in planting, timber management, renovation and timber cruising. Thirty (30) farmers have been assisted in this manner. A 4-H Club member was sent to Forestry Camp by a Nuritan Club.

I. Other Activities

Other activities of the Agent are of a varied nature. He is a member of the Association of Greater Warrenton's Junior Chamber of Commerce; Nuritan Club and Rotary. Through these affiliations, phases of the Extension program are promoted. Many personal contacts on varied subjects have also required attention. The results are as follows:

1. Assisted approximately 100 people from urban areas in regard to the business of farming. These were discouraged from buying small farms as a business venture.
2. Supplied thirty five (35) farmers with 2600 gas cartridges for woodchuck control.
3. Supplied two hundred and twenty five (225) farmers with information on Social Security and Income taxes.
4. Arranged rural-urban meeting between Rotary and Nuritan Club.

Good, 37.11%, and medium, 27.47%.

4. A total of 5,285 calves were sold through these three (3) sales with a gross income of \$624,736.48. Fauquier consignors gross sales amounted to approximately \$208,245.50.
5. The larger percentage of these cattle were sold out-of-state, with buyers coming from: Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, West Virginia, and New York.
6. These sales attracted more than two hundred (200) buyers from out-of-state. Virginia buyers patronized the spring feeder-stocker and the fall yearling sale in larger numbers than in past years.

In 1956, due to the number of sales and the times they are held, there will, undoubtedly, be some adjustment in numbers between sales. It is likely that local producers will adjust their feeding operations and hold their cattle for the particular sale that suits their set-up. Continued emphasis needs to be put on quality and proper handling through the sales.

3. Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers Association.

Members of this Association supply approximately 10 per cent of the milk on the Washington Market. About 90 per cent of the milk on this market is marketed through the Association. A strong Association is essential for the best interest of the dairy farmers. Problems during the current year have been surplus milk in certain seasons; off-flavored milk; transportation due to shift to bulk tanks and pressure on individual members by some distributors to persuade them to ship independently.

The Agent has worked closely with the Directors and management of the Association and has had many contacts with the membership in regard to these problems. Progress of the Association during the year has been as follows:

1. Has maintained its membership in the county and the members have supported its Directors and management in many knotty problems.
2. An additional fifteen (15) producers have installed bulk handling tanks for labor efficiency.
3. Continued its advertising and merchandising program in Washington, D.C. on TV, radio, and newspaper and vending machines.
4. In the past 15 months, has paid off \$2.5 million on the Embassy Dairy and have decided to purchase a modern manufacturing dairy products plant.

5. Set up organization and books of Association on a sound system and under the Cooperative Laws of the State.

In 1956, continued emphasis will be put on expanding the services of the Association with more promotional calls; publish records of individual cows and more commercial advertising. It is the aim to hold an artificial heifer sale from All-Proven Sires.

2. Northern Virginia Livestock Producers Association, Inc.

Livestock marketing is of major importance to the industry of Fauquier and other Northern Virginia counties. This organization covers a nine county area of Northern Virginia. During the year, this Association sponsored purebred sales for Beef, Sheep, and Swine producers, two (2) Feeder Calf Sales and one (1) Yearling Sale. The Agent has been primarily connected with the latter sales, assisting the committee from Fauquier County. This report covers only these activities.

The objectives of this Association during the current year has been:

1. To provide a market to producer members for their livestock.
2. To develop markets within the State and out-of-state.
3. To improve quality and merchandise it to secure a price advantage above the regular sales.

Work of the Association has been carried on by a Board of Directors and Sale Committees from each county, cooperation of local auction markets, commercial advertising, radio and newspaper; out-of-state field trips by representatives of the Association; a 50 cent per head promotional fee paid to the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association for promotional work; exhibition of feeder calves at out-of-state fairs by VBC Producers Association and assistance from Extension Service.

The Association accomplished the following for its members during the current year:

1. Spring Feeder-Stocker Sale: Sold, 1,199 head, averaging 550 pounds per head; average per head \$131.26; average per hundred \$23.86. Grading results--Fancy & Choice, 40.78%; Good, 39.12%; and Medium, 20.10%.
2. Fall Feeder Calf Sale: Sold 2,779 head, averaging 446 pounds; average per head, \$97.31; average cwt. \$21.79. Grading results--Fancy & Choice, 33.86%; Good, 40.05%; and medium, 26.09%.
3. Fall Yearling Steer Sale: Sold 1,307 head; average 778 pounds; average per head \$150.67; average cwt. \$19.36. Grading results - Fancy & Choice, 35.42%;

F. Horticulture (Fruits, Vegetables, Ornamentals, Etc.)

Work in horticulture has been conducted through personal contacts; newspaper; radio; meetings and demonstrators. Disease and insect control; proper methods of dusting and spraying; lawn care; use of recommended insecticides and pesticides has been supplied an estimated 300 faniless; half of which were non-farm. These faniless were primarily interested in home gardens and ornamental problems.

G. WORK WITH COOPERATIVES

Farmer cooperatives, soundly operated for the purpose of supplying needed services and supplies and educational opportunities not available from other sources are an essential part of agriculture. It has been the goal of the Extension Agent to:

- a. Supply latest research information to such groups that serve farm people in order that it might be directly reach them and serve a useful purpose.
- b. Assist officers, directors and members of these groups in organizational problems, arranging programs, participate in meetings, etc.
- c. Secure sponsorship of certain activities to carry out various phases of the Extension program.

1. Rouquier Artichoke Breeding Association, Inc.

This association was organized to supply a service badly needed by the dairymen and family cow-owners in the county. Through its program, it is the goal of the Association to improve dairy cattle breeding through use of all-proven sires; increase productive ability of cows; and to control reproductive diseases of dairy cattle. Greater use of this service has been the chief aim during the current year.

This program is operated by a Board of Directors elected by the members of the Association. The Board meets quarterly. Methods used have been personal contacts by the Directors; promotional calls by the technicians; radio; newspaper articles; commercial advertising and meetings. The Association has accomplished the following during the current year:

1. Results of this program have been reported under "Dairying". In obtaining these results, eighty six (86) new customers have been served bringing the total to approximately 500 served by the Association since its organization in 1950.
2. Bred cows in four (4) purebred beef herds.
3. Given free services to fifteen (15) 4-H and FFA members to promote sound breeding practices in youth work.
4. Contributed financially to the Rouquier Junior Fair with commercial advertising and exhibit.

3. Approximately one hundred and fifty (150) farmers have purchased bacterins for Blackleg, Malignant Edema, and Shipping Fever and vaccinated 3500 calves themselves.
4. Four (4) purebred herds have used artificial insemination in their herds during the current year. The technician for the local artificial breeding cooperative was used in these herds.
5. Facilities for handling livestock reported under "Engineering".
6. One hundred and ten (110) wool producers marketed their wool cooperatively, shipping over 21,000 pounds. The wool committee contracted and made a direct sale to a handler instead of marketing through the United Wool Growers Association as in past years. This was done due to the price advantage of selling directly.

In 1956, emphasis will again be centered on the production of high quality feeder cattle; expansion of markets and more attention to cattle feeding operations in the county. A tour to cattle feeding operations would be of considerable benefit. Increase in sheep numbers is still desirable as supplemental income. This has been emphasized during 1955 with little success.

D. Agricultural Engineering

Engineering problems have been handled on an individual basis through personal contacts; farm visits; supplying of building plans for pole barns, sheds, livestock handling facilities, etc. Construction of livestock watering ponds for better pasture utilization has been promoted through 1955 ACP. Results are as follows:

1. One hundred and twenty eight (128) farmers, 4-H Club and FFA members have been supplied with building plans from the V.P.I. Engineering Department. These have resulted in new structures or improvements in existing ones.
2. Twenty five (25) farmers have been given assistance with trench silos, bunker silos, fencing problems, and farm ponds. Through the 1955 ACP, one hundred and twenty one (121) ponds have been built.

E. Poultry

Work done with poultry raisers has been on an individual basis. Information has been supplied on feeding; disease and parasite control; reliable sources of baby chicks; proper housing and sanitation.

Objectives were to get cattle producers to improve herds and consign to cooperative sales. This to require culling; use of high quality purebred sire; disease and parasite control program; proper castration and dehorning; proper handling of by-products, such as wool, and the utilization of pasture and forage in cattle operations.

This program has been conducted through the Feeder Sale Committee; wool marketing committee; Livestock-agronomy school; Northern Virginia Livestock Producers' Assn.; Panel discussion on marketing — sponsored by Farm Bureau; farm visits; personal contacts; specialists; bulletins; radio and newspaper articles.

The objectives of the Livestock program have been accomplished as follows:

1. Sixty eight (68) different beef producers marketed approximately 2047 head of calves and yearlings through four (4) cooperative sales — one (1) in the spring and three (3) in the fall of 1955. All calves were castrated, dehorned, vaccinated for Blackleg and shipping fever; heifers Bangs' and TB tested or originated in Bangs' free herds for the fall feeder sale. Heifers were guaranteed open and steers not to be stags.

As a result of these requirements, thirty six (36) herds were Bangs' tested and received a clear status. The other herds consigned only steers and thus no herd test was required. These clean herds give a sizeable increase over the number already carrying the status.

The number of consignors and calves was less than the previous year, this being due to the smaller number of heifers and the fact that some former consignors kept the calves to feed themselves.

Prices received by consignors were above the regular sales in this area although the stabilizing effects of the above sales are noted. The local auction held a feeder-stocker sale again this fall with over 800 head sold. This sale was handled in practically the same manner as the cooperative sales. Since that time, this local auction has put in the State Grading Service at its weekly sales.

Consignors to the cooperative sales represent approximately 20 per cent of the Livestock farms and about 20 per cent of the feeder calves produced in the county.

2. Three (3) purebred herds have cooperated with the V.P.I. Animal Husbandry Department in conducting R.O.F. testing. At this time, one other herd has signed up for 1956.

3. Forty two (42) DHIA herds have used artificial insemination to Friesian Sires during the current year with approximately one-third of the total number bred artificially being in these herds. Only sixty five (65) Grade A dairymen used this source.
 4. Approximately half of the DHIA herds have developed sound year-round feeding programs using Alfalfa, small grain, tall grass mixtures and supplemental pastures for hay, silage and grazing. Much progress is still to be made with the other DHIA herds as well as the other herds not on test. A total of about fifty (50) dairymen have now developed good year-round feed programs.
 5. A total of eleven (11) DHIA herds have completed herd records averaging over 400 pounds of butterfat during the current year. This compares to only five (5) herds in 1954.
 6. All Grade A dairymen are now shipping milk from Bangs' Free Herds as required by their market. CalFeed vaccination has continued in these and Grade B herds as recommended. Excellent fly control programs are also being followed around the barns and on the animals.
 7. Dairymen have become more conscious of the need for expanding consumption of dairy products. However, only thirteen (13) of the thirty four (34) public schools are under the Government Milk Program. Also, divide clubs seldom include milk with their meals. Considerable work needs to be done in this regard.
- A great deal of work still needs to be done in 1956 to increase the number of cows bred artificially to Friesian Sires; develop year-round feed programs in more dairy herds; culling of unprofitable cows and herd management. Increased attendance at Dairy School, Herd Analysis meeting, and association meetings would do much to stimulate action on the part of dairymen.

C. Livestock (Beef, Sheep, and Swine)

The development of cooperative marketing has received major emphasis in livestock during the current year. Promotion of and working with consignors to feeder calf sales has consumed the larger portion of time involving livestock. The requirements for the organized sales have been used as a standard for improving other herds and the adoption of disease control programs. The sales also offer local feeders home-produced high quality cattle for their feedlots. The expansion of feeder cattle markets into other states has been of major importance to the feeder cattle producers. Expansion of sheep flock has been promoted as supplemental income. The livestock program necessarily requires better pasture and forage programs to ascertain cheap gains in cattle operations and economical feeding for beef cow herds.

In 1956, Agronomy will again be a major part of the Extension Program since it is basic to sound livestock and dairy farming operations. The program can be strengthened through field meetings and visits to Experiment Stations. Due to the cost-price squeeze, greater emphasis will be directed toward utilization of 1956 A.C.P. funds on agronomic practices.

B. Dairying

During the current year, larger surpluses of milk on the Grade A market have resulted in a tighter cost-price squeeze with the dairyman. This has also lowered the price of milk to the Grade B shipper as well as the Grade A dairyman. These conditions pinpoint the need for higher producing cows, culling of unprofitable animals, more efficient production through use of better pasture and forage crops, use of more accurate records, the consumption of more dairy products, and the adoption of sound disease and parasitic control programs. Better breeding, feeding, and management are the essentials of a sound dairy farming operation.

An attempt has been made during the current year to improve and increase breeding in all herds to All-Proven Sires, maintain and expand DHIA testing and better use of herd records, improve feeding practices and development of year-round feed programs utilizing better pastures and forage crops, raise replacements from high producing cows, cull unprofitable animals, encourage consumption of more dairy products.

Methods used for accomplishing this program have been use of Dairy Committee, composed of Directors of DHIA and Artificial Breeding Association; Dairy School; Herd Analysis Meeting; Dairy-Agronomy School; meeting of breeding association; radio; farm visits and personal contacts; news stories; meeting of cooperative (marketing).

Objectives of the dairy program have been accomplished with the following results:

1. During the year ending December 31, 1954, 2,198 cows were bred to All-Proven Sires through the Fauquier A.B.A., Inc. It is estimated that 200 were bred artificially through other sources. Comparisons of dam and daughters resulting from this program at that time showed an increase of daughters over dams of 1,452 pounds of milk on 305 days, 2X, M.E. Figuring milk at \$ 5 .cwt, these daughters grossed more than \$70 over their dams. In 1955, the results of which are not complete to-date, a larger number of artificial daughters are out producing their dams considerably.
2. Two (2) DHIA's are now in operation, consisting of fifty three (53) herds and a total of 2539 cows on test during current year.

meet the feed needs for the 57,000 head of cattle; 6,000 head of sheep and 9,000 head of hogs.

During the current year, an attempt was made to get the farmers to increase acreages of alfalfa and other high-yielding grass legume mixtures; to adopt year-round feed programs; to use soil analyses as basis of liming and fertilization; to adopt insect control practices on forage crops, and to assist farmers in working out better land use programs.

This program has been accomplished through the Agronomy Committee; farm visits; office contacts; agronomy schools; seed and fertilizer dealers; professional workers; timely news articles; radio programs; 1955 ACP; Extension specialists, and distribution of bulletins.

Evaluation of results of the agronomy program are difficult due to the size of the county and the lack of means to determine what influence the various methods used had on the program being promoted. Nevertheless, approximately 100% of the 1955 ACP Funds will be used, mostly for agronomic practices, which represents about \$1 out of every \$5 spent for lime and fertilizer in the county. The following are specific accomplishments during the current year:

1. Approximately 1,500 acres of recommended varieties of alfalfa and 6,000 acres of high-yielding grass legume mixtures, such as; Orchard Grass-Ladino Clover, were seeded in addition to the normal seeding in crop rotations. Alfalfa was used in mixtures with other grasses and legumes in many of the cases.
2. Approximately 30,000 acres of pasture and hay land have been improved through liming and fertilization.
3. Approximately fifty (50) additional farmers have improved or adopted a year-round feed program during the current year. These farmers have made grass silage in the spring, used supplemental pastures, such as; Sudan in the summer, both for silage and pasture, and utilized small grains for pasture and silage.
4. Four hundred and thirty two (432) farmers have had soil analyses made on their farms with a total of 895 samples on which specific lime and fertilizer recommendations have been made. This has resulted in more efficient use of lime and fertilizer.
5. Land use adjustments have resulted on twenty five (25) farms for specific crops based on capabilities of soil and suitability for certain crops. These adjustments were based on the Soil Survey.
6. Insect control practices on forage crops have been carried out by twenty five (25) farmers with definite assistance being given to a total of fifty, (50). The pests involved were the alfalfa weevil and spittlebug.

Fauquier County produces approximately one-tenth of all fluid milk consumed on the Washington Milk Market, and in addition there is a large amount of milk produced for manufacturing.

The beef cattle industry is conducted along two (2) general lines; the beef cow herd and the feeder cattle industry. Among the beef cow herds in the county are some of the most outstanding individual beef animals in the nation, and the presence of such blood lines within the county has greatly increased the quality of home raised cattle during the past ten (10) to twelve (12) years.

The beef cow herds have also influenced the feeder cattle industry, formerly based on the importation of calves, stocker and feeders, from Southwest Virginia; Tennessee, and as far west as Texas. In addition to the reduction in numbers of cattle shipped into the county as a result of the change to beef herds, more calves raised in the county are being fed here. This trend is expected to continue and increase considerably in future years.

As stated above, Fauquier is primarily a livestock and dairy county. During the period from 1944 through 1954, there has been an approximate one-third decrease in the corn acreages, a fifty per cent reduction in small grain acreages, although there has been an increase in the acreages of barley and oats. At the same time, there has been an over-all 20% increase in head of livestock and a 20% increase in milk production. This trend specifically emphasizes the switch to pasture and forage crops.

The sheep, poultry, and hog industries are not among the major agricultural operations of the county, although they contribute largely to the total farm income.

The farming population in the county varies more widely than do the soil types, and it is not uncommon to find a large farm of several thousand acres owned by a millionaire, such as Mallon or Chrysler, side by side with a small subsistence farm of fifty to seventy five (50-75) acres, on which the farmer is barely making a living. This type of variation makes it rather difficult to develop any real community spirits in the different areas of the county.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

Fauquier is primarily a livestock and dairy producing county. Although the livestock numbers have remained about the same since 1952, droughts in the past three years have pointed up the urgent need for year-round feed programs; increased acreage yields of corn, small grain, and hay; pasture improvement, and timely insect control of forages to

III. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The Extension Organization in Fauquier County has been developed through Commodity Committees, such as; Agronomy; Dairy; Beef Cattle; Wool Growers' Association; Junior Fair Board; 4-H Clubs; 4-H County Council; 4-H Honor Club; DHIA's, and Fauquier Artificial Breeding Association, Inc. As the need arises, special committees are established to work on various problems.

The Key Banker; the Professional Workers Group, comprising of representatives of ASC, FHA, NFLA & PGA, and Vocational Agriculture serve on certain of these committees. All of the Commodity Committees have met one (1) or more times during the current year.

Various programs of Extension, such as; Agronomy; Youth; Dairy; Beef, have been promoted through the Fauquier County Farm Bureau, Inc., a county-wide farmer organization, and the four (4) Ruritan Clubs, independent groups which work for the betterment and advancement of their respective communities.

The paid personnel of the Extension Service during the program year consisted of the County Agent, Lemuel Sutphin, Jr., full time; Francis I. Enciso, Assistant Agent, December 1, 1954 through January 31, 1955, and the Extension Secretary.

The Extension Program has been crippled considerably during the current year in view of the fact that there has been no Assistant Agent since February 1, 1955.

IV. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Fauquier County lies on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge and varies in formation from mountains in the Northern end to flat and poorly drained in the Southern end of the county. The long axis of the county cuts at right angle to the geological formations, and, therefore, this county has practically every soil represented in it which appears in the Piedmont section. Naturally, different soil types have different levels of fertility, and those represented in Fauquier range all the way from very good to very poor in fertility - naturally, this has an effect upon the type of farming.

In general, Fauquier is a livestock county, producing dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, and poultry. The chief crops are pasture, corn, small grain, and hay. During the past few years, a number of farmers have turned to "Grassland" farming with many reducing their corn and small grain acreages in favor of pasture and hay, while others have completely shifted from crop rotation farming to a strictly grass program.

72

II. TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGES
III. County Organization	1
IV. Type of Agriculture	1 - 2
V. Project Activities	2
A. Agronomy	2 - 4
B. Dairying	4 - 5
C. Livestock	5 - 7
D. Agricultural Engineering	7
E. Poultry	7
F. Horticulture	8
G. Worth With Cooperatives	8
1. Fauquier Artificial Breeding Assn.	8 - 9
2. Northern Va. Livestock Producers Assn..	9 - 10
3. Maryland-Va. Milk Producers Assn.....	10
4. Dairy Herd Improvement Assn.....	11
5. Fauquier Wool Growers' Assn.....	11
6. Remington Farmers Coop. and Southern States	11
H. Forestry	11
I. Other Activities	11
J. Older Youth	12
VI. 4-H Club Work	12
A. General Accomplishments	13 - 14
B. Project Accomplishments	14
1. Livestock Projects	14 - 15
2. Dairy Projects	15
3. Tractor Maintenance	16
4. Electrical Projects	16
5. Entomology, Crops, garden, Rabbits, Poultry Projects	16
6. Leadership	16
VII. Cooperation With Other Government Agencies	17
1. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	17
2. Farmers Home Administration	18
3. Soil Conservation Service	18
4. State Department of Agriculture and Immigration	18
VIII. Cooperation With Credit and Lending Agencies..	18
IX. Evaluation of Year's Work	19

I.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY

LEMUEL SUTPHIN, JR. - COUNTY AGENT

MARIAN H. KINES - SECRETARY

HEADQUARTERS - WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

YEAR - 1955

