

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

H. H. Wright

Name

Local Farm Agent **Agent**

Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1961

Sussex

County

Preface

This report is an attempt to relate some of the most outstanding phases of the Agricultural Extension Program in Sussex County. It will show what the advisory board, advisory board committees, local leaders, demonstrators and the local farm agent attempted to do and the techniques employed in doing the job. It will cover a period of work from December 1, 1960 to November 30, 1961. The material will be presented in the following five phases: (1) Why the line of work was emphasized, (2) What the objectives were, (3) How the work was carried out, (4) What results were obtained, and (5) How next years work can be improved in light of the current years experiences.

This report will cover work with adults and 4-H club members.

We are indebted to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia State College and various other agencies and county officials for their cooperation and assistance given in many ways. We are especially appreciative of the assistance given by the state agent, district agents, and other farm and home agents in helping to formulate the program and organize the work.

November 30, 1961

H. H. Wright
Local Farm Agent
Stony Creek, Va.

Table of Contents

Title	Page
I. Preface	
II. Table of Contents	
III. County Extension Organization	1
IV. County Situation	2
V. County Agricultural Advisory Board Committee Meetings	3
VI. Project Activities	5
A. All Crops	5
1. Pastures	6
2. Corn	6
3. Cotton	6
4. Peanuts	7
5. Soybeans	7
6. Tobacco	7
7. Small Grain	8
8. Forestry	8
B. Livestock	9
VII. Community Improvement Program	11
VIII. Farm and Home Unit Demonstration	11
IX. Farm and Home Development	12
X. Farm and Home Water Supply	13
XI. Farm and Home Landscape Work	14
XII. Civil Defense	14
XIII. Four "H" Program	15
XIV. Work With Other Agencies	18
A. A. S. C. Program	18
B. Soil and Water Conservation Program	21
C. Farm Credit Organizations	21
D. Local Vo-Ag Program	22
XV. Evaluation	22-24

III. County Extension Organization

The County Board of Supervisors is the legal organization that sponsors the County Agricultural Extension Program. The County Agricultural Advisory Board, Executive Committee, Agronomy Committee, Pasture and Livestock Committee, Forestry Committee and 4-H Junior Council along with local leaders and extension agents, are primarily responsible for establishing, planning and conducting the extension service program. These organizations are made up of local men, women, boys and girls, under supervision of extension agents.

The County Advisory Board, Agronomy Committee, Pasture and Livestock Committee, Forestry Committee and 4-H Junior Council, sponsor several educational activities for adults and youths. Activities for adults this year included four Advisory Board meetings, six improvement club meetings, one Cotton Production meeting, one Peanut Production and Chemical Weed Control meeting and one Peanut Marketing meeting, Pasture and Livestock Committee meeting, Agronomy Committee meeting, two three-district Result Demonstration Tours, two pasture Tours, and Field meetings and two Tobacco Sorting and Grading Demonstrations. The 1962 A. C. P. Program, Feed Grain, Wheat and Barley Program, Tobacco and Cotton Referendum and Peanut Marketing were discussed at a meeting sponsored by the Agronomy Committee November 20.

Youth activities included four Junior Council meetings, several committee meetings, National 4-H Week Programs, regular project work, officer training meeting, Record Training meeting, 4-H Sunday Programs, Achievement Day Program, Tractor Maintenance Work, Sweet Potato Projects and Market Hog Contest. The Junior Council program also emphasize sending of delegates to State 4-H Short Course, Wildlife and Conservation Conference and Regional Camp.

The County Agricultural Advisory Board also sponsors the Community Improvement Club Work, Farm and Home Development Work, Farm and Home Unit Demon-

stration, Farm and Home Water Supply Program, Farm and Home Landscaping Program and Poultry and Livestock Improvement Programs as well as 4-H club work. All extension service programs in this county are under the supervision of the Advisory Board either directly or indirectly.

Our various extension organizations are made up of 117 men leaders, 72 women leaders, 12 boys and 14 girls. These leaders contribute greatly to the planning and execution of the total extension program in this county.

The Agronomy, Pasture and Livestock Committees planned the total program for crop, pasture and livestock, production and management, including educational activities for farm people. The 4-H Junior Council sponsors all 4-H Activities.

IV. County Situation

According to the 1959 census, Sussex County consists of 317,440 acres of land of which 42.4% is in farms. The over-all average value per farm is 19,784. The average per acre value is \$130.85.

There are 408 Negro operators working 29,160 acres of land. Of these there are 130 full owners working 10,200 acres; 103 part owners working 9,946 acres; 175 tenants working 9,014 acres.

The main crops in Sussex County, listed as to their importance are peanuts, corn, tobacco, livestock, forestry, soybeans, cotton and small grain. Peanuts are the largest cash crop.

There is an increased number of farmers becoming interested in the production of hogs and cattle. Five farmers have expressed interest in the feeder pig sale. Several are improving their herds by adding pure bred breeding stock. We hope to increase production and improve the quality^{of} livestock proportionately, as we are able to improve the quality and efficiency of our feeding programs.

V. County Agricultural Advisory Board Committee Meetings

The County Agronomy Committee met in March, 1961, for the purpose of setting up an agronomy program for the county, including educational programs for farmers.

First of all, this agent discussed the "Purpose of the Agronomy Committee," followed by a discussion of "How Agronomy Committee Members Can Help In Developing and Carrying Out An Agronomy Program" by the chairman of the group, Joe Newsome, Jr.

Following the above mentioned discussions, the group studied the county situation, set up 1961 goals, methods to be applied in reaching goals, and educational activities for farmers.

The Pasture and Livestock Committee met January 11 with eight members present. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a plan of action to strengthen the pasture and livestock program in the county.

The group first discussed the pasture and livestock situation in Sussex County. Then, we set up goals for improvement, methods to be used for reaching goals, and educational activities for farmers.

This group was concerned chiefly with the production of top quality hog pastures and production and management of an improved meat-type hog.

A County Forestry Committee was established March 2. The purpose of this committee is to build up interest among local farmers in forest improvement and bring about a regular income from forest products in the county. We plan to do this by holding special training meetings, involving committee members in the development and operation of a special forestry program for the county and by conducting forestry contests.

At our first meeting we studied local forest statistics and heard a discussion on the advantages of good forest practices by Mr. C. E. Gill, Associate

Extension Forester. Another meeting of the committee was held in April and the group planned a special forestry training meeting for committeemen to be held in December, 1961. Committee members will receive training in "Tree Planting," "Thinning Timber Stands," "Killing Undesirable Trees," and "Estimating Standing Timber." This meeting is scheduled for December 13.

The agronomy, pasture and livestock committees also sponsored several other educational programs for farmers. They include the following: December, 1960 - a meeting conducted by the County A. C. P. Office Manager to explain the 1961 County A. C. P. Program; February, 1961 - a meeting conducted by Mrs. Mary Dunbar, Field Representative of the Social Security Office and W. J. Nuckolls, Associate Agricultural Economist of Virginia Agricultural Extension Service. Mrs. Dunbar discussed "Social Security for Farm People." Mr. Nuckolls presented a discussion on "Farm Records." April and May, 1961 - two different meetings were held to discuss the 1961 Feed Grain Program. August, 1961 - two result demonstration tours were held. The purpose of these tours was to give farmers an opportunity to observe results of improved practices being carried out on the farm. September, 1961 - two tobacco grading demonstrations held. The purpose of these demonstrations were to teach farmers how to sort and grade tobacco on the farm, in accordance with market demands, in order to get good prices at the market. These meetings were conducted by Dr. Jones E. Jeffries, USDA Tobacco Specialist, Raleigh, North Carolina. April, 1961 - a peanut production and chemical weed control meeting. This meeting was conducted by this agent, with the assistance of P. M. Morton, and Robert L. Young, Vo-Ag teachers of Central High School. Some of these and several other meetings will be explained in detail elsewhere in this report. More than 700 people attended these meetings.

VI. Project Activities

This year and every year, more than 350 local farmers received latest recommendations on Varieties and Fertilizer. They also received the latest bulletins on production of all locally grown crops, including livestock, forestry and pasture. Personal contact, radio, letters and news articles also played a big part in getting information to farmers. Local leaders also played a very effective role in this respect.

A. All Crops.

The total cultivated crop production program was developed for the county by the county Agronomy Committee. This work was emphasized because of the need to increase yields of all crops grown in the county. The basic objective was to teach farmers how to be more efficient in land use, production, management and marketing, as a means of increasing yields and incomes.

To carry out this phase of the extension program, result demonstrations were conducted this year involving the following crops: permanent and temporary pastures, livestock, corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco and small grain. These demonstrations were conducted on the farms of A. D. Curley, Ivory Bonner, Richard Reed, James Parham, Elridge Andrews, Rogers Blakes, Lawrence Taylor, Robert Bowers, Jerome Spratley, Felix Davis, William Luster and Robert Whitney. The latest recommended practices of production, management and marketing, in accordance with Virginia Agricultural Extension Service recommendations, were applied.

Educational methods for farmers included tours at result demonstrations at the appropriate stage of maturity, appropriate method demonstrations, special educational meetings with the use of specialists or other professional agricultural workers, volunteer leaders, radio programs and news articles, personal

visits, circular letters, bulletins and visual aids, etc.

Additional educational opportunities provided for farmers included, record keeping, use of soil tests with respect to higher yields, efficiency in the use of fertilizer and lime, insect and disease control and chemical weed control.

Some tangible results can be seen or at least, farmers learned something, as a result of this years demonstrations and other educational programs.

1. Pastures. Nine farmers seeded 37 acres of permanent pasture and five farmers seeded 23 acres of special winter pasture for additional grazing. Farmers learned (Robert Whitney farm, August demonstration tour) that good management practices will greatly increase the productive life of good pastures.
2. Corn. Our farmers learned that if all fertilizer for the crop is broadcast, it grows off much slower than where part of the fertilizer is drilled in the row at seeding time (Spratley and Davis Farms, August demonstration tour). They also learned that corn will produce more when grown on well-drained, deep fertile soils than when grown on many other less suitable soils or soils not adapted to corn production, when the same amounts of fertilizer is used. They saw the results of good Chemical Weed Control in corn.

Corn demonstrations were conducted on the farms of A. D. Curley, Richard Reed, Robert Bowers, Lawrence Taylor, Jerome Spratley, Felix Davis, William Luster and Robert Whitney. These farmers planted hybrid varieties, applied 130 lbs. per acre nitrogen and 100 lbs. per acre each of phosphorus and potash. Good cover-crops were turned under in most cases. A drought affected some demonstrations but the yield in the Waverly and Wakefield areas was estimated to be 80-100 bushels per acre.

3. Cotton. Cotton demonstrations were off this year, due chiefly to late planting and bad stands, as a result of abnormal spring weather. Many farmers,

after plowing up cotton twice, planted the land to soybeans.

4. Peanutg. Peanut production on some of our demonstration sights were badly damaged by southern corn rootworms. Aldrin was properly applied in most cases. In one case Aldrin was used for the first time. On this particular farm, it was used on the demonstration field only and rootworm damage was worse on this particular field than on any others. Diazinon, a new chemical for rootworm control, will probably be recommended next year. As a result of our educational program last year, southern stem rot was not a problem this year. However, peanut yields are generally down this year from last year, mainly because of a moderate to heavy infestation of corn rootworm damage on many farms and some other factors. Our farmers learned that good insect and disease control practices are just as important as good seed and other cultural practices in the production of higher yields of peanuts. Peanut demonstrations were conducted on the farms of Lawrence Taylor, Robert Eowers, Jerome Spratley, Felix Davis and Robert Whitney.

5. Soybeans. Soybean demonstrations this year plainly showed these things: that they (soybeans) will not make on poor land and that they do not respond best to direct applications of fertilizer. These facts were brought out at the William Luster and Felix Davis demonstrations (visited August 17). Actual yield data is not available. However, actual sight of beans on the plants were considered. Luster's beans, planted behind a corn demonstration that received 1,000 lbs. per acre of 5-10-10 and a rye grass cover-crop and no direct applications of fertilizer, out yielded Davis' beans that received 400 lbs. per acre 0-10-20.

6. Tobacco. Tobacco demonstrations this year showed up very well in most cases. Due to a bad spring, plants failed to come up that were planted to be used in two tobacco varietal demonstrations. However, it was clearly brought

out October 18, at a tobacco grading demonstration, conducted by Dr. Jones E. Jeffries, USDA Tobacco Specialist, that too much fertilizer will damage tobacco quality. Mr. James Farham, of Stony Creek, rented four acres of tobacco from Mr. Joe Prince. The entire crop was heavily damaged. He applied one ton of 3-9-9 per acre and 100 lbs. per acre of 8-0-24 as side-dressing. He took a soil sample and applied 1,200 lbs. per acre 3-9-9 on another farm. Samples of tobacco from both farms were on hand at the demonstration for farmers to see. Tobacco from the farm where a soil test was taken and recommendations followed, was far superior in quality, to tobacco from the other lot.

7. Small Grain. Small grain production is becoming more popular every year in this county. However, small grain demonstrations did not receive proper treatment and therefore, will not be considered further in this report.

8. Forestry. Because of improper woodland management here, the average yearly income from farm woodlands is very low. After discussing the matter with several leaders, we decided to organize a county forestry committee.

A group of eight farmers met March 2 with Mr. C. E. Gill, Associate Extension Forester. This agent discussed "The Value of Managed Woodlands." It was revealed during the course of this discussion that, under proper management, local farmers could harvest approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cord of pulpwood and 400 board feet of saw-timber per acre, per year, depending on their present stand, with a dollar value of approximately \$15.00 per acre.

After a discussion dealing with local forestry statistics, the value of managed woodlands and forestry problems of Sussex County, the group concluded that our greatest need is for more technical assistance to solve our forestry problems.

After the various discussions, the group decided on the following educational programs to help solve the problems: 1 - hold special forestry

meetings, 2 - develop a special forestry committee for the establishment of a forestry program for the county and to assist in carrying it out, and 3 - conduct forest contests. A forest committee was then organized. Officers for this committee include Robert Bowers, Jarratt, President; Peter R. Ford, Jarratt, Vice President; Mrs. Cary Blakes, Jarratt, Secretary; Rogers Blakes, Jarratt, Treasurer.

Our first forestry training meeting has been scheduled for December 13. Members will receive instruction on "Planting Pine Seedlings," "Killing Undesirable Species," "Thinning Pine Stands," and "Estimating Standing Timber." This meeting will be conducted by Mr. C. E. Gill, Associate Extension Forester.

Four of the committee members have agreed to sign up with the A. C. P. Program for forest improvement practices this year. All members have agreed to assist with the encouragement of other farmers to participate in the program.

There were a number of things our farmers learned concerning the production of most crops this year, as explained elsewhere in this report. These items will be considered, as a means of strengthening our agronomy program, when the committee meets to plan next year's activities.

B. Livestock. The livestock program was emphasized because of the widespread need to encourage farmers to produce more and better quality livestock, livestock feeds, to improve breeding stock and control diseases and parasites. The basic objective of the program is to teach farmers to be more efficient in the use of land, buildings, production, management and marketing.

This year, four livestock farms were visited on different tours. They included the farms of Robert Whitney, William Luster, Lawrence Taylor and Ivory Bonner. At the Whitney farm, the group viewed a herd of 70 grade Black Angus Cattle, including one pure bred bull. These cattle have access

to ample permanent and temporary grazing, grain, corn silage, water, and minerals. Good disease and parasite control measures are also carried out. At the Taylor, Bonner and Luster farms, the groups viewed chiefly swine herds. Mr. Taylor had 125 head of hogs on corn and beans with 16% protein supplement, water and minerals. Mr. Bonner had 86 head of hogs (including pigs) on 12 acres of pasture. They were being fed 16% protein supplement feed with ample water and minerals. Mr. Luster had 36 shoats, 10 market hogs, nine sows and 27 pigs. Protein supplement is the only portion of feed bought on these demonstration farms. Bonner and Luster used all home-grown grain. A pretty good disease control program is carried out on all swine demonstration herds. However, this year, because of a large-scale outbreak of hog cholera in this county, Mr. Taylor lost 30 head of hogs and Mr. Bonner lost close to 110 head, including pigs.

Despite the cholera outbreak we had this year, most farmers are trying to stay in the hog business. Some are expected to shift from market hog production to feeder pig production. Feeding programs are being strengthened in order to boost livestock production.

Some favorable results were obtained in areas of beef cattle and swine. Farmers are improving breeding stock, increasing grazing and other home-grown feed programs, and are trying to do a better job of controlling parasites and diseases.

We hope to improve our livestock program next year by making use of livestock specialists, doing a better job of feeding and providing better disease control.

VII. Community Improvement Program

The Community Improvement Program is being conducted in Hunting Quarter Community, located two miles east of Stony Creek on State Road 40. It is strictly a farming community. However, a few families do part-time and full-time public work.

This program is being emphasized as a means of improving income, family living and community life. Its goal is to encourage a steady growth of farm, home and community improvement, through the application of improved practices in agriculture and homeconomics.

Improvements are being made each year in the homes, on the farms and in the community. An increased number of farmers are applying improved farming practices that enable them to realize higher profits. Community improvements were below last years level, but home improvements were about the same as last year.

One brick home and one frame home were built. One new tractor fully equipped, one new pickup and one refrigerator purchased. These represent the biggest cost items purchased by any of the families.

This community have a community club, H. D. club, 4-H club and several result demonstrators. Educational programs for crops and livestock were carried out in this community.

We shall continue our work next year, considering the needs of the people and their desires to fulfill them.

VIII. Farm and Home Unit Demonstration

The present Farm and Home Unit Demonstration farm is that of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Curley of Route 2, Stony Creek, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Curley have cooperated with this and many other phases of the

Extension Service Program for many years. The objective of this program is to show the results, year by year, that can be obtained, where recommended practices are carried out in the home and on the farm.

It is not immediately known what year the Curleys began participating with the Farm and Home Unit Demonstration. However, they have been participating for at least nine years. Their 167 acre farm was paid for when they started cooperating with this program. Since that time (about 1952), they have completely mechanized their farm, remodeled their home, adding modern kitchen and bath facilities and they rent 80-100 acres of land annually with one hired hand. We as extension agents, feel that they have progressed to the point that they can continue to progress without their participation in this program. Therefore, we plan to start next year with a new family. The Curley farm, home, equipment and livestock now has an estimated cash value of \$45,000.00.

The Curley family won the "Outstanding Farm Family Award" in 1959 -- a Bronze Plaque, presented annually by the Negro State Agricultural Advisory Board of Virginia, to one outstanding farm family in the state.

Three areas of improvement in which extension service agents will emphasize in the future concerning this family are increased pasture and livestock production, farm record keeping and farm woodland improvement.

IX. Farm and Home Development Work

The Farm and Home Development work was emphasized as a special means of providing assistance to certain low income farm families. The basic objective of the work is to provide certain low income families with assistance in analyzing their own situation, drawing up a program of work to suit their needs in accordance with their own capabilities, and assisting with the application

of same.

Farm record keeping was emphasized this year. The work was carried out through special consultation periods during farm visits, where instructions on farm record keeping were given.

The Robert Bowers family of Route 2, Jarratt have kept some very good farm records this year. They have also progressed nicely in areas of crop and livestock production. They are good supporters of the local Extension Service Program.

This program will be extended to two other families next year. We hope, that in light of past years experiences, we will be able to do a much better job next year. We shall add specialist assistance to that of our own in next years work.

X. Farm and Home Water Supply

A program was started in 1953 to increase the number of pressure water systems in this county.

This agent does not have adequate time to give necessary assistance needed by farm families along these lines. However, some time was devoted to improving water systems in general, pressure water systems and bathroom facilities. Poor water systems is a problem throughout most of the county.

To help more families put in pressure water systems, this agent contacted three local contractors that build or remodel many of the farm homes in this county. I instructed these contractors to encourage every family worked with to put in pressure water systems. This agent, mostly through personal contact, is also encouraging families to add pressure water systems.

Each year an additional number of families put in complete pressure water and bathroom facilities, some put water in the kitchen and several families improved their water supply in some way. We shall continue our work

in this program.

XI. Farm and Home Landscape Work

This work was emphasized because of the widespread need for landscaping farm and home grounds in the county. The objective of this program is to improve the appearance of homes and surroundings by improving the landscape design.

This work was carried out through the 4-H club program (Yale - Community 4-H Project), Improvement Community Program and individual farm and home owners.

As a result of work done in this program, nine lawns were seeded, three lawns reseeded, driveways and walks were laid out for five homes by this agent, 37 pieces of shrubbery were added, 14 driveways improved, 13 mailboxes improved and two replaced. Four requests have been made to this agent for complete landscape plans for home grounds.

As a means of strengthening our landscape program next year, we plan to have a specialist discuss the topic at a public meeting. Wakefield and Stony Creek 4-H members are carrying the homegrounds beautification project as a club project and we hope to do much through them to aid the program. Other methods to be used will include office and telephone calls, bulletins, special meetings at well landscaped homes, demonstrations, tours, visual aids, radio programs and news articles, volunteer leaders and civic clubs.

XII. Civil Defense

A series of four Civil Defense meetings were held at Central High School near Sussex, Virginia October 3, 10, 19 and 24, 1961. The objective of these meetings was to enable rural families to protect themselves and their livestock from fallout, in case of nuclear war. These meetings were conducted by leaders representing the following groups: Civil Defense, Sussex County Teachers

Association, The Agricultural Extension Service and local businessmen.

Topics discussed at the above mentioned Civil Defense meetings included the following: First meeting, October 3 - "Why We Are Here;" "How To Stay Alive In A Fallout Area, Part I - General, Part II - local;" "What Fallout Means To Farmers;" and "What Do We Do Next." The topics discussed at the second, third and fourth meetings included "The Family Fallout Shelter;" "The Threat-Livestock, Crops, Soils, and Processed Foods;" and "First Aid."

The National, State and Local Civil Defense Plans, etc., will be discussed at later meetings. Persons assisting with the above meetings will be available to assist the local Civil Defense Organization as soon as it is established and will discuss certain phases of the Civil Defense Program in connection with other group meetings.

A total of 264 persons attended these meetings.

XIII. Four "H" Program

The 4-H Program was emphasized primarily because of the need of a program designed to provide our youth with a type of training, which would assist them in becoming more useful and desirable citizens. The basic objective of the 4-H club program is to give members a chance to learn by doing. The 4-H program was developed by a special committee of the Sussex County 4-H Jr. Council.

In 1961, there were 12 4-H clubs in which boys were enrolled, including 261 members. Projects carried by these members included Electric, Tractor (Unit B), Crops, Garden, Sweet Potato, Swine, Home Grounds Beautification, Looking Your Best and Money Management.

The work was carried out by providing guidance in project selection and record keeping, educational activities for all regular meetings, special training for adult and jr. leaders, radio programs and news articles, circular

letters and bulletins, personal visits and office calls, method and result demonstrations, project tours and proper use of the award program. Also, Sussex County 4-H members participated in the following educational programs: 4-H Market Hog Contest, 4-H Sweet Potato Show and Sale, 4-H Tractor Program and Operating Contest, National 4-H Week, National 4-H Sunday and National 4-H Achievement Day Program.

In the 4-H Sweet Potato Show and Sale, Chester and Thurman Walker of Stony Creek participated. Chester and Thurman won \$5.00 and \$3.00 cash prizes, respectively. Their sweets sold for \$3.35 per bushel.

Sussex, Greensville, Dinwiddie, Prince George and Nansemond Counties participated in the 4-H District Tractor Operators Contest this year. This contest was a climax of the 4-H tractor club work conducted in the five counties.

Winners of the contest were Ernest Massenberg, Jr. of Sussex County, 1st. place with a score of 460 $1/5$ points; Clarence Harvell, Dinwiddie County, 2nd. place with 673 $1/5$ points and Claudette Farham of Sussex County, 3rd. place with 735 $2/5$ points.

This contest offered members an opportunity to pit their tractor skills against other boys in the program and at the same time, gave them a chance to win cash prizes.

The program is designed to assist farm boys in becoming more skillful in the operation and care of farm equipment and machinery.

Boys participating in the contest from Sussex County included Claudette Farham, Eddie Freeman, Ernest Massenburg, Jr., Levi Shands, Elliott Shands and James L. Tucker. Thirteen other boys from Greensville, Prince George and Nansemond County also participated.

4-H Market Hog Show and Sales Contest

Four Sussex County 4-H club boys exhibited one pen each (3 hogs per pen) of market hogs at the 1961 4-H Market Hog Show and Sales Contest held in connection with the Southside Virginia Fair, Petersburg, October 2-7. These boys included Lorenzo Luster, William Brown and Clarence Brown of Waverly; and Elliott Shands of Stony Creek. Two other club members, James Davis of Wakefield and Joseph Melton of Stony Creek, failed to exhibit their pigs.

Winners in the contest from Sussex County were Lorenzo Luster, 2nd. prize, \$12.00 cash award and William Brown, 4th. prize, \$8.00 cash award.

This agent will strive to increase the number and quality of hogs entered in this contest next year.

Sussex 4-H'ers Celebrated National 4-H Club Week

Sussex 4-H'ers celebrated National 4-H Week with two special programs, one at Annie B. Jackson Elementary School, Waverly and a county-wide program at Central High School, Sussex, March 10.

The Waverly program involved only club members at the school. The club President, Miss Catherine Wyche, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Highlights of the program consisted of a speech by Mrs. B. B. Jones, leader, entitled "Why Celebrate National 4-H Week." The group also saw two educational movies entitled "Reddy Made Magic" and "Beyond The Meter." These movies were shown by Mr. Wyche, also a club leader. They are related with their 1961 project, which is farm and home electric.

Sussex 4-H and H. D. Members Held Their Achievement Day Program

Sussex 4-H and H. D. Club members held their Achievement Day Program Saturday, November 18, 1961 at Central High School near Sussex. The purpose of the Achievement Day is to summarize the years work in the minds of 4-H

members; to recognize achievements of members, clubs, and leaders; to show and tell the public what has been accomplished through 4-H; and, to inspire 4-H members and others to greater accomplishments through 4-H.

Highlights of the program consisted of a 4-H Regional Delegate report by Ernest Massenberg, Jr.; a demonstration - "Making An Extension Cord" by Royal Peebles of Yale Club; a short Course report by Miss Marie Johnson, Hunting Quarter Club; a progress report of Sussex County's 4-H Tractor Club by Joe Newsome, Jr.; remarks regarding the 4-H Sweet Potato and Forestry Projects by this agent. Mrs. Lucy F. Elowe, local teacher, was guest speaker.

Four "H" members also exhibited some of their choice project work for the year and received ribbons on the basis of quality, etc. Products displayed included meal preparations, breads, electric, garden and field crops.

Delegates attending the 1961 State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College, Petersburg, June 19-23, included Misses Marie Johnson, of Hunting Quarter Club; Eva Brown of Rivers Club; Sharon Taylor of Yale Club; one boy, Ernest Massenberg, Jr. of New Hope Club; also attended.

State Awards, resulting from 1960 4-H accomplishments, were received by Miss Roberta Seaborn, New Hope Club, \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond; and, Ernest Massenberg, Jr., New Hope Club, \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond.

Next year, we hope to strengthen our 4-H program by use of specialist and adult and Jr. leader training. We shall also try again to organize a 4-H leaders association.

XIV. Work With Other Agencies

A. A. S. C. Program - The County A. S. C. Program was emphasized through the extension service program as a means of helping a larger number of farmers to receive information about the program and to get a better understanding

of it. Also, a farmers participation in the program will enable him to receive assistance with the matter of conserving soil and water, improving soil fertility and improving woodlands on his own farm. The basic objective of the A. S. C. Program, is to encourage application of good soil and water conserving practices, soil building practices and farm woodland improvement practices, by offering a certain amount of assistance to farmers, in the form of cost-sharing.

America is one of the worlds strongest, better fed and clothed nation. This is largely so, because America's farm lands are among the worlds most productive. The A. S. C. Program is one of the many agricultural programs designed to keep America's farm lands productive and thereby, help keep America strong.

The A. S. C. Program was carried out through the Extension Service Program in the forms of public educational meetings for farmers, radio programs, personal contacts and bulletins.

Sussex County Advisory Board met December 6, 1960 at Sussex, Virginia. The purpose of this meeting was to encourage more farmers to participate in the 1961 A. C. P. Program by discussing the program with the farmers and giving them a chance to ask questions. Amos Dunn, A. C. P. County Office Manager, was guest speaker.

Mr. Dunn discussed all practices approved by the A. C. P. Committee earlier. These included A-2) Permanent Vegetative Cover; A-5) Contour Stripcropping; A-7) Forest Establishment; B-1) Improving Permanent Cover; B-7) Grassland Protection Ponds; B-8) Pipelines for Livestock Water; C-1) Sod Waterways; C-D) Terracing; C-9) Open Drainage; C-10) Tile Drainage; C-14) Constructing Irrigation Ponds; D-1) Establishing Winter Cover; and D-2) Summer Cover. Dunn also discussed the cost-share feature of the various practices and the different

operations approved and not approved by the committee.

1961 Feed Grain Program

On April 7, this agent met with other agricultural workers, including A. S. C. Committeemen, County Agent, Vo-Ag Teachers and the County A. S. C. Office Manager, Amos D. Dunn. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the 1961 Feed Grain Program and give persons attending a chance to ask questions. The meeting was conducted by Mr. Amos Dunn with County Agent, E. B. Parson, assisting.

On Fridays, April 14 and 24, 1961, the Feed Grain Program was discussed at two different meetings by the County A. S. C. Office Manager and this agent assisting. The agent discussed the objectives of the program as follows: 1) To increase Farm Income; 2) To Stabilize Feed Costs; 3) To Reduce Risk of Over Production of Such Crops as Meat, Milk and Eggs; 4) Stop Build Up of Stocks; 5) Reduce Government Costs; and 6) Assure Consumer Fair and Stable Prices.

Following my discussion of the programs objectives, Mr. Dunn continued the discussion, beginning with Price Supports, Eligibility for Price Support, Special Agricultural Conservation Program, Acreage Reduction, Exceptions In The Program, Conservation Uses, Examples of Reduction for Corn and Grain Sorghum, and Farm Payments.

Many questions were directed to Mr. Dunn following both presentations. A total of 93 farmers attended these two meetings. More than 400 letters were sent to farmers (for two meetings) regarding the Feed Grain Program.

In addition to meetings held regarding the Feed Grain Program, this agent mailed 100 farmers a copy of "Thumb Rules for Evaluating The 1961 Feed Grain Program," a leaflet prepared by the Department of Economists, V. P. I., assisted farmers with working out his score card for the feed grain program and discussed

it many times on farm visits, etc.

According to a statement from the County A. S. C. Office, these results were accomplished: 88 Negro farmers participated in the Feed Grain Program and diverted approximately 467.1 acres from corn and grain sorghum.

Our main problem concerning this program is getting more farmers to participate. We hope to do this by the use of more special educational meetings, radio programs, news articles and personal contacts, as a means of enabling the people to get a better understanding as to how they can be helped through the program.

B. Soil and Water Conservation Program. This work was carried on to some extent in all six districts. As a result, approximately 250 families were assisted with understanding different types of S. C. practices, participation with the A. S. C. Program, cover-crops and taking soil samples. A representative of the local S. C. S. Office, with this agent, visited 13 farms and assisted with various S. C. S. problems. Farmers were also encouraged to contact F. H. A. for assistance with financing the higher cost conservation practices such as tiling and constructing livestock water ponds, etc. We will continue our work next year along the same lines.

Farm Credit Organizations (F. C. A. and F. H. A.) Farmers were directed to these agencies for loans to buy farms, construct farm homes or farm buildings, to buy farm equipment and making other farm improvements. Fifty farmers were directed to these agencies for assistance.

Many small farmers in this area were refused farm loans this year by local lending agencies. Many of these farmers came to this agent for help. These farmers were directed to F. H. A. for assistance.

Mr. Milton K. Brown, a representative of F. H. A. visited this county in June at the request of this agent. We visited six families that desired assistance with various types of farm loans. Three of these families contacted F. H. A. One person, Willie L. Bailey of Stony Creek, is in the process of obtaining an F. H. A. housing loan. Three other families of the six visited, plan to apply to F. H. A. for a housing loan later this fall.

Next year, we plan to have a representative of F. H. A. speak to a farm group concerning F. H. A. loans to farmers.

D. Local Vo-Ag Program. This agent worked very close with the Vo-Ag teachers, P. M. Morton and Robert Young with their program, and they assisted this agent on many occasions. We held three planning meetings together. They assisted me directly with four meetings and indirectly with several others. They are always invited to attend extension service activities. They were sent the limit (6 copies each) of all bulletins that could be used for classroom purposes. We will continue to plan and work together in the future. Extension Service influences reached an estimated 300 families through this agency alone.

Evaluation

In evaluating the extension program in this county, one could hardly overlook the fine cooperation and participation of the leaders. These leaders have given freely their time, interest and cooperation to the program over a number of years and the results show up in the effectiveness of the program. Also, as a result of their result demonstrations, many farm families change from the old to the new and improved way of farming and home-making every year.

The extension program in this county has attempted to employ all the tools

and techniques available to better put over its aims and objectives. In many instances throughout this report, the objectives and results have been stated.

Balanced farming with a good relationship between livestock and crops is one of the long-time objectives of the County Advisory Board. The livestock program is steadily improving as we are able to get more and better pastures established. Extra dollars coming to the farmer are of great value, from the sale of good quality products grown on his farm. The agronomy, livestock and pasture committees have been most helpful in putting over this work. A forestry committee was established this year.

The 4-H program in this county is steadily improving. Many 4-H boys, after entering high school, take Vocational Agriculture courses and remain in 4-H club work. Personally, I think this is a good carry-over. Many adult farmers are influenced to make changes that will improve their farm program and thus result in more money for the family, as a result of a boy or girl's 4-H project work, carried out on the family farm.

Through the cooperation with the A. S. C. and Soil Conservation Program, many farmers learned the importance and advantages of participation in the A. S. C. and S. C. S. Programs, making proper use of lime, fertilizer, and many other improvement practices. More farmers are keeping check with the lime and fertilizer needs of their soils by use of the soil test. Through a more extensive and effective use of fertilizer and lime, along with the proper soil-saving techniques, we hope to continue helping farm families to live better.

The County Agronomy Committee was very effective this year. This committee met in March at the extension office. The agronomy program for

1961 was planned and mimeographed copies sent to all farm leaders.

The members of the agronomy, pasture and livestock committees have worked very closely and very diligently with this agent. We feel that the over-all extension program has been helped a great deal by the activities of these groups.

We wish to express our appreciations to all our supervisors, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service Specialists, representatives of Virginia State College, Local leaders and other agricultural workers. for their cooperation in helping us to carry out this years extension program.

Finally the extension program in Sussex is meeting the needs of the people of the county because of the number that are served each year through this program. Constantly, information and services are flowing from the extension office to the people and from the people to the extension office. Our challenging youth program is encouraging young capable boys to develop into more useful citizens. Extension teaching in this county influences an estimated 500 families annually to make improvements in some phase of farming or homemaking.