

Most of our rural people have confidence in the Extension Service and are willing to accept new methods which result in better living. Gradual progress is made annually and the Extension programs have been well received by the people and we have enjoyed a fine spirit of cooperation with the people of this county and other agencies.

Assisted with Judging farm crops, vegetables and livestock at the Patrick County Fair.

Attended the A-H Electric Congress in Richmond.

Guest of the Southern States Co-operative annual meeting in Richmond.

Attended Forestry School at Blackstone, Virginia.

VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The agent attended many meetings and cooperated with other agencies throughout the year. Assistance was given in selecting practices for the following year's ASC program in the county. As chairman of the ASC Election Board, the Agent called a meeting and the committee performed the duties of selecting community election boards in the various areas. Several office conferences were held with the ASC office manager during the year.

The Agent was an invited guest to the Farmers' Home Administration dinner meeting at which time their program was discussed with farmers, seed and fertilizer dealers, machinery dealers, businessmen, and leaders.

The agent has cooperated closely with the three Vocational Agriculture Departments in many ways such as group discussions, supplying blue prints, printed materials, forestry work sheets, soil boxes, etc.

The agent appeared before the Young Farmers' Clubs on several occasions to discuss various subjects. Cooperation with all other agencies has been very pleasant throughout the year.

VII. SUMMARY

It is impossible to actually measure progress in any given year because educational work moves slowly. Undoubtedly most outstanding progress has been in a change in the attitudes in the people with whom we work.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The Agent assisted with, attended or was special guest at many activities throughout the year. A brief statement of each is given below:

Guest at Willis Young Farmers Club Special Meeting and was presented a Certificate of Honorary Membership in appreciation for the assistance and close co-operation, with the club members.

Attended Virginia Agriculture Credit Conference to Natural Bridge, as a guest of and sponsored by The Bank of Floyd.

Assisted the Ruritan Club Agriculture Committee in selecting objectives for the year.

Guest of the Local Ford Motor Company on a tour to Richmond to observe farm machinery and equipment.

Guest speaker to the Floyd FFA Father and Son banquet in April; and guest to the Willis FFA Father and Son banquet in May.

Attended Rural Electrification Conference in Roanoke and the Extension District Conference in Roanoke during May.

Assisted with a Water Shed discussion at Topeco in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service.

Attended the Institute of Rural Affairs.

Guest to Floyd Young Farmers Club picnic.

Guest at the Willis Home Demonstration Club picnic and also the Check Home Demonstration picnic.

Guest and speaker at Farmers Home Administration Field Day on the W. L. Whitlock farm.

Showed slides of Soil Conservation practices to the local Southern States Annual meeting.

Attended the Annual Extension Conference at VPI, August 29 to September 2.

Attended the VPI Continuing Educational Center Conference.

Guest to County-wide Home Demonstration Day program.

Many farmers were assisted with applications to secure trees and a total of approximately 300,000 seedlings were received in the county this year. The Agent published news articles and gave information on where to secure seedlings, trees needed per acre, methods of planting and other management practices.

The Agent worked with Carl J. Holcolm in planning a Tree Farm dedication program on the H. E. Poff farm near Willis in this county. The dedication was held in May with a large attendance. It was the first white pine Tree Farm to be dedicated in the Eastern part of the country.

The Agent attended the forestry school at Blackstone from May 30 to June 4. We studied forestry work and visited wood using mills, and the Agent felt that this type of schooling was very beneficial.

2. Home Gardens and Home Grounds Beautification.

Many calls were received and considerable information given on garden problems and timely news articles were written suggesting varieties of vegetables, fertilization, insect and disease control, mulching, etc. Garden suggestion leaflets were mailed monthly to the mailing list of people who had requested this material. The Agent discussed vegetable production to several of the Home Demonstration Clubs during the spring.

Three carloads of people, including 4-H Club members, ^{attended} ~~included~~ the Vegetable Field Day at VPI in August.

The Agent assisted a few home owners with landscaping problems and wrote several articles on seeding lawns, fertilization, clipping, insect damage, etc. The Agent attended a Landscape Gardening conference at Rocky Mount in early March. Mr. A. S. Beecher from V.P.I. conducted the meeting.

C. O. Eanes, Jr. who won the State Public Speaking Contest, was the guest speaker at the local Southern States annual meeting in August and at the same meeting the Agent presented a series of slides and discussed soil conservation practices being carried out in the area. C. O. Eanes, Jr. and the Agent attended, as special guests, the Southern States Cooperative Annual Meeting in Richmond from October 26-28. This expense paid trip was awarded to the State Winner in the 4-H Club Public Speaking Contest.

A county-wide program in observance of Rural Life Sunday was held at the Rocky Knob Park and the occasion proved to be very successful. A large group of club members, with their parents and friends, attended. A local minister spoke to the group and a choir from the Check Senior 4-H Club sang several selections, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Three Senior Clubs participated in the WBLB Club Improvement Contest. The Floyd Club won first place, Check club won second and Indian Valley won third in the County Contest. The Floyd Club also won third place in the area Contest.

There is a noticeable improvement in the quality of the club work annually.

IV. MINOR ACTIVITIES

1. Forestry

There were 52 4-H Club members who carried forestry projects and received a total of 23,200 seedlings. Due to good weather conditions reports indicate that a large percentage of the trees survived. This project has become very popular with club members.

The committees met and planned the Achievement Day Program which was held in December, 1959, with 64 present. Awards and recognitions were presented to 22 boys. National 4-H Club week was observed by all clubs and many of the clubs had special bulletin boards and exhibits. Five club members spent one week in Greene County, New York in an exchange program and five club members from New York spent one week in homes in this County. Four 4-H Club signs were put up on the four main highways entering the county. Project materials were distributed to all members in April. There were 52 members who received 23,200 pine tree seedlings in early spring.

The Agents from this county with Agents from Montgomery visited the 4-H Club Camp site at Abingdon in December to review available camping facilities. The county summer camp was held at Camp Summers near Hinton, West Virginia, from June 13 to June 18, with 21 boys, 31 girls, 1 lady and 1 man adult leader and the agents attending from this county.

The Agent assisted with the district contest in Roanoke in April. Four members of the Livestock Judging Team and four members of the Dairy Judging Team participated from this county. The Agent also assisted with the 4-H Fat Stock Show and Sale on April 14. However, there was no club participation from this county.

A lamp workshop was held at Check and another at Floyd during July. There were 20 lamps completed. The Junior Demonstration Contests were held in July with five members participating. The Agent accompanied four club members to the Electric Congress in Richmond in August. David Allen and Katherine Yeatts were the winners from this county.

times throughout the year. Plans were made for the annual meeting which was held in January with 27 people present. The Agent and a committee of the Artificial Breeding Association held a conference with the Manager of the Virginia Artificial Breeding Association on policies effecting the local group. The Directors met in August relative to a ^{straggler} ~~spring~~ publicity program. Two articles were prepared and published by the Agent. The number of cows bred artificially is gradually increasing annually and farmers seem to be better pleased with the program each year.

A meeting of the five Vocational Agriculture Instructors with the Agent was held in October for the purpose of discussing the brucellosis eradication program and make plans for securing farmer lists and information. This work will be completed by the end of November and turned over to the area Veterinary so that actual testing work can begin in early December.

A manufacutred milk survey was made this summer and the Agent assisted several farmers in answering the questionnaire. Several visits to farms were made in an effort to secure information so that a good sample of the producers could be secured.

3. 4-H Club Work

The 4-H Club program has operated very smoothly this year. Although the enrollment has not increased materially the quality of work has improved. There were 24 clubs with a total of 278 boys enrolled.

The Honor Club and County Council, with their committees, have been active and have sponsored several projects. The annual Talent Show could not be held because schools were closed for 24 school days due to bad weather conditions.

b. Dairying

Milk cow numbers in the county have reduced from 10,593 in 1954 to 8,584 in 1959. The Dairy Committee met and reviewed the minutes of the Agronomy Committee meeting in an effort to correlate the work of the two groups. They studied trends on forage production, cattle numbers, amount and value of milk sold, production per cow in the county, etc.

Most milk is needed for manufactured purposes and special emphasis will be placed on this phase of production during the year. The Mastitis problem was studied, also.

Approximately one half of the farmers sell manufactured milk. There are 35 Grade A Dairies selling milk to three different companies. One new Grade A producer began operations this year. Four producers are in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and three are co-operating in the Weigh-A-Day-A-Month program.

The Agent with two farmers toured a dairy farm to observe milk parlor, hay storage facilities, etc., near Rustburg. One of the farmers is now operating a modern Grade A Dairy as a result of this tour.

Meetings were held in Indian Valley in December and at Alum Ridge, Willis and Floyd during February for the purpose of discussing manufactured milk production, showing films of the elevated walk in type milking arrangement, etc. There were 157 farmers reached. These meetings were sponsored by a local manufactured milk company.

The Agent visited several farms to observe the various types of milking arrangements that were constructed last year. Blue-print plans were supplied. The Agent attended a meeting in Lynchburg with a committee of Grade A producers relative to improving the milk situation.

The Floyd Artificial Breeding Association Directors met several

The Agent, with a representative of the local wool pool, attended the Southwest Virginia Sheep Breeders Association meeting at Bland, Virginia in January. The Agent and a leader attended the Wool Conference in Abingdon in March to discuss plans whereby all Southwest Virginia wool pools could arrange to sell wool on the same day. The wool pool Sales Committee attended a meeting in Sparta, North Carolina, during April and another meeting in Marion, Virginia, to further discuss wool sales. The annual Wool Growers meeting was held in April and officers were elected. The Southwest Virginia wool pool was sold at Marion, Virginia, in May and the local directors met to make detailed plans for the pool to be held locally on June 22.

A total of 15,633 pounds was pooled, which included 15,307 pounds of clear wool, 67 pounds of light burry wool, 157 pounds of rejects and 102 pounds of tags. Prices paid farmers were 58 cents for clear wool, 50 cents for the light burry, 44 cents for rejects, and 11 cents for tags. The pool sold for a total of \$9,171.04. The pool was well organized and everything worked nicely. The Floyd pool was second from top in prices paid in the 11 Southwest Virginia pools.

A county Dog Warden was employed last year and there are indications that this will encourage more growers to go into the sheep business. Timely news articles were prepared for the local paper on the treatment for stomach worms and other information on good management practices.

The majority of farm families grow their own pork needs. Very few hogs are marketed. However, many farmers sell pigs. Most of the work done with swine has been through 4-H Club members and described in more detail in the 4-H Club section of this report.

The Livestock Committee met in February to review the county situation and outline a program of attack to the problems. The Feeder Calf Committee met with representatives from other counties in the area to make plans for the 1960 sales. This Committee attended the annual meeting of the State Feeder Cattle group at Natural Bridge. The Committee met with the area group in May to plan the two fall sales. They met again at Salem in August to work up rules and regulations to govern the fall sales. This committee visited all farmers consigning calves to the three sales for the purpose of inspecting the calves, checking on vaccination, etc. Several farmers were assisted in locating 9 bulls.

Much emphasis was placed on an improved feeding program throughout the year. Results of this can be easily detected in observing the better grades of cattle our farmers are consigning to the sales.

The Agent accompanied two farmers to VPI in August to study the concrete, tilt up bunker silo. One of these farmers has constructed a 350 ton capacity silo on his beef farm and has arranged for self-feeding.

The Agent attended the beef cattle field day on the George Litton farm in Pulaski County in August. Management practices were discussed and it proved to be a most valuable demonstration to those present.

Sheep numbers have declined very little during the past five years.

The Sheep Specialist assisted one new producer on various problems this year and this farmer was very successful with 35 ewes. He plans to expand the project to include 100 ewes on his farm. A few sheep and lambs were lost during the unusually heavy snow in February and March.

A Weed Control meeting was held at Willis during May and much interest was shown. Allen Kates, Weed Specialist from VPI, lead the discussion.

Many soil samples were analyzed and recommendations given. The Agent supplied seed and fertilizer dealers with recommendations on varieties, fertilization programs, etc.

The Agent had many contacts with farmers relative to carrying out practices under the ASC program. The Agent judged the farm crop exhibits at the Vocational Agriculture district meeting at Willis during January. There were six schools participating.

Through a weekly column in the local paper most farmers had an opportunity to keep posted on recommendations and new developments in Agronomy.

2. Livestock

a. Beef cattle, Sheep and Hogs

According to the latest census report numbers of beef cattle have not changed very much. The Livestock Committee's objective has been to improve beef cattle quality and rapid improvement has been made. Each year more and more farmers attend the organized Feeder Calf and Yearling Sales and they are impressed with the quality of the animals. This year 4 farmers consigned 27 animals to the Spring Yearling Sale, while 8 farmers consigned 23 steers to the Fall Yearling Sale; 9 farmers consigned 104 calves to the Fall Feeder Calf Sale.

Other professional agricultural services available to the people include Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics in the three High Schools, two Young Farmers' Clubs, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, Soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Administration.

III. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Agronomy

The Agronomy Committee's objective for several years has been to reduce corn acreage and increase yields and to increase alfalfa acreage and yields.

The latest census report shows 3,875 acres of corn in 1959 as compared to 5,606 acres in 1954. Yields have increased an estimated four ^{bu.} per acre during this period. Corn for silage acreage increased from 697 acres to 926 acres, with yields increasing from 7,781 tons to 11,255 tons during the five year period of this census report. In 1954 there were 577 farmers reporting 2,363 acres of alfalfa, yielding 4,931 tons as compared to 768 farmers in 1959 reporting 4,990 acres, with a yield of 10,394 tons. Most farmers are using the better varieties of hybrid seed corn and larger quantities of plant foods.

The Alfalfa Weevil caused trouble for the first time in the county in 1958 and since that time it has been necessary to apply control measures. Severe damage occurred where no treatment was given.

A Chickweed Control Demonstration in alfalfa was scheduled and due to weather conditions it had to be postponed three times and finally due to the lateness of the season it could not be held. Such a demonstration is scheduled to be held during December of this year.

13. Number of Farms - 1700 - Average size 102 acres.
14. Agricultural Income - Livestock 88.6%
 Crops 7.5%
 Forest Products 3.9%
 Value of all products sold \$2,259,324. Almost half
 of the farmers have income exceeding farm income.
15. Population - (1990) 11,351
 10,860 white
 491 non-white
 9,481 rural farm
 1,870 rural non-farm
16. Industrial Developments - 1 Shirt Factory
 1 Garment Factory
 Employing approximately 400 women and 90 men.

II. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

The Extension program started in the county in 1936 with a County Agent being employed. Since 1941 the county has had the services of a County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent. The office personnel includes the County Agent, Home Demonstration Agent, and office secretary.

There were 24 4-H Clubs for boys and girls including 3 senior groups with a total enrollment of approximately 700. There are 19 Home Demonstration Clubs with a membership of 377.

Work in planning with other groups was very helpful in developing the Extension program. These groups included the Agronomy Committee, Dairy Committee, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Artificial Breeding Association, Wool Pool, Young Farmers' Clubs, Feeder Calf Committee, 4-H Council, 4-H Honor Club, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County and Community Committees. The work done with milk company representatives and other professional workers along with individual farmers was most valuable.

I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

A. General Characteristics

1. Historic Background - Formed in 1831 from Montgomery, named after John Floyd, Governor of Virginia 1830-1834.
2. Location - West Central Extension District. Blue Ridge Plateau, 42 miles west of Roanoke City.
3. Size of County - 376 square miles or 240,640 acres.
4. Elevation - 2200-2800 feet. County Seat 2494 feet.
5. Rainfall -45.97 inches.
6. Climate - Last killing frost in spring - April 21.
First killing frost in fall - October 10.
Average growing season - 172 days.
Average January temperature - 36 degrees.
Average July temperature - 72.2 degrees.
Maximum 103 degrees - Minimum - 8 degrees.
7. Topography - Rolling to steep. Small areas of level land along streams.
8. Soil Types - Varies from sandy to clay. Talladage, a poor type, makes up a major percentage of the area. Belvins, average crop soil. Alleghany and Baburn, good crop soils, are limited.
9. Woodland Acreage - 52,057 acres.
Cropland Acreage - 56,962 acres.
Pasture Acreage - 73,017 acres.
Other Land Acreage (buildings, roads, waste, etc.) 9,194 acres.
10. Transportation Facilities - 4 buses daily on Route 221. Nearest rail facilities 22 miles from County Seat. Motor vehicles owned by a majority of families. Two freight lines, daily service. Primary road mileage 55.57 - Secondary road mileage 664.61; untreated light surface 202.71; unsurfaced 201.81; untreated all-weather 195.61; Hard surfaced 64.54).
11. Communications - Dial telephone service has recently been completed in the county; 1,750 phones.
12. Towns - Floyd, the County Seat; population 480, only incorporated town. Seven shopping centers outside of county within radius of 45 miles.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER & TITLE PAGE

I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY	1, 2
II. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS	2, 3
III. MAJOR ACTIVITIES	
1. Agronomy	3, 4
2. Livestock	
a. Beef Cattle, Sheep, & Hogs	4, 5, 6
b. Dairying	7, 8
3. 4-H Club Work	8, 9, 10
IV. MINOR ACTIVITIES	
1. Forestry	10, 11
2. Home Gardens and Home Grounds Beautification .	11
V. MISCELLANEOUS	12, 13
VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES	13
VII. SUMMARY	13, 14

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

_____ **E. H. TALLEY** _____
Name
_____ **Agent** _____
COUNTY _____
Title

_____ **BOBE** _____
Assistant Agent

_____ **Assistant Agent**

_____ **Assistant Agent**



1960

_____ **FLOOD** _____
County