

72

Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1956

C. B. HASKINS

agent

assistant agent

CHARLOTTE

county

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY	1
Executive and Auxiliary Organizations of Extension Program	2
Adult Demonstration	3
Major Enterprises or Projects (Corn)	4
Tobacco	5
Wheat and Other Small Grains	6
Yard Beautification	7
The Live-at-Home Community	8

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Charlotte County lies in South-Side Virginia, in the water shed of the Roanoke River. It is bordered by the counties of Mecklenburg on the south, Lunenburg on the east, Prince Edward on the north and northeast, Appemattox on the north, Halifax on the west and southwest and Campbell on the northeast.

Charlotte is around the twentieth in size among the other counties of the state. The land area 496 square miles. This comprises 299, 520 acres of land. There are approximately 2010 farms, averaging around 100.9 acres per farm. 170,000 acres are operated by their owners. 75,677 are rented. There are 80,688 acres in crop land, and 139,660 in forest. There is a farm population of approximately 14,052 of which are Negroes who operate 670 farms. There are 293 owners, 115 part owners, and 156 croppers, renters or shareworkers. These operate 17,646 acres of land.

The topography of the county is generally from rolling to hilly. The northern and western sections are hilly to extremely hilly. You will find more than a dozen types of soils that are found in this section of the county. With the exception of flue-cured tobacco the best farm lands are found in the northern and western parts of the county. The type of tobacco (fire-cured) has contributed largely to this. The type of soil, type of tobacco, and a lime grinding plant, not too far away, contributed also, to a farm land which is capable of producing larger yields than in sections where flue-cured tobacco is grown.

The type of farming is mostly general with a few exceptions. Dairying, beef cattle and poultry account for a few other types of farming. Aside from several of the main highways, the Southern, Norfolk and Western, and the Virginia Railroads along with motor trucks provide easy transportation to the several near by markets.

EXECUTIVE AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

	No.	Men	Women	Total
County Agricultural Advisory Board	1	39	62	101
Community Farmer's Clubs	2	33		33
Families in Clubs		33		33
No. 4-H Clubs	7 Boys	187		187
No. Leaders Adult Clubs	11			11
No. Leaders 4-H Clubs	12	5	7	12
County 4-H Council	1	3	3	6

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

President.....Mr. Edwin Morton
 Vice President.....Mr. J. A. Haskins
 Secretary.....Mrs. Ethel Venable
 Assistant Secretary.....Mrs. Mittie Haskins
 Treasurer.....Mr. H. M. Johns

COUNTY JUNIOR 4-H COUNCIL

President.....Aleather Brane
 Vice President.....Errol Johnson
 Secretary.....Nettie M. Whittler
 Assistant Secretary.....Roland Carrington
 Treasurer.....Charlotte Eubanks

ADULT DEMONSTRATIONS

Pasture.....12

Corn.....6

Wheat.....6

Farm-Home Units.....1

Farm-Home Development.....2

Swine.....4

Tobacco.....6

Alfalfa.....1

Forestry.....2

57

COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Meetings

County Advisory Board.....3

4-H Council.....1

Agronomy Committee.....1

Agriculture Fair Committee.....2

Farm and Home Tour.....1

Field Meetings at result demonstrations.....2

4-H Pig's Program.....2

Annual Objectives or Goals for 1956

I. Corn

Goals:

- A. To increase the yield of corn per acre by 5 bushels on 20 farms.

Methods used:

1. Assisted in reorganizing farm programs.
2. Organized 100 bushel corn clubs and stress increase yield that labor income may be increased to lower cost of production.
3. Had 4-H Club members carry Corn Projects.
4. Stressed and assisted in working our rotational systems including small grains, corn and grasses.
5. Induced several farmers to include pastures in rotations.
6. Stressed good seed and assisted in securing good seed.
7. Set up goals according to needs of the farm and possibilities for reaching them.
8. Assisted in soil testing that the plant food requirement maybe met.
9. Showed charts, slides, and gave other factual data on good and poor methods in corn production.
10. Encouraged the showing and exhibiting of corn at fairs, exhibits, ect.

Results:

1. Twenty three farmers made definite changes towards reorganizing their farm program.
2. Due to the season for the past few years farmers were reluctant to risk as much cash, for fertilizers, as is recommended in the club program, but the amount used was above the normal amount used before and 100 club programs were organized.
3. Fifty club members enrolled in corn projects, thirty eight completed.
4. There were 12 to 15 rotational systems worked out.
5. Three farmers are running pastures in their rotation.
6. 85% of the farmers use certified seed.
7. We determined the farm and family needs. Standard and recommended practices were set up as goals, to be met, to reach or supply those needs, considering acreage and possible yields. Canning, processing and storing an increased amount of all products possible to produce on the particular farm.

8. Around 26 soil samples were secured.
9. More than 1000 persons were contacted and given information in some form on corn production.
10. There were more than 26 farmers who exhibited at the Fair.

II. Tobacco

Goal

- A. To increase the yield and quality to an acreage of 1100 pounds per acre.

Methods used:

1. Induced farmers to grow their tobacco in rotation with grains and grasses.
2. Selected best soil for tobacco, determined fertilizer requirement through soil test, and used varieties recommended or those that had proved best and most profitable for the particular farm.
3. Assisted farmers in working out a better distribution of labor available.
4. Some Oxford ventilation systems were planned but were not constructed.
5. Urged those with the Oxford system to encourage others.
6. Kept farmers informed as to the latest methods and procedures in producing maximum quantity and quality.
7. Stress the importance of cover crops.
8. Conduct grading ~~Demonstrations~~

Results:

1. 25% sow some type and variety of cover crop. A few have begun to rotate.
2. 18 soil test were secured, and plant food applied according to recommendation. Recommended varieties were used or varieties used that had been used before and proved successful and profitable.
3. Emphasized the necessity for less hand and hoe labor where a rotational system is practiced.
4. Due to the season, labor and some other conditions, there were no Oxford type ventilators installed.
5. The value of the Oxford type ventilator has been explained by those who have them, from this interest has increased with others.
6. More than 700 farmers were given information, one way or the other on methods and procedures in producing maximum quantity and quality, through bulletins, leaflets, charts, posters and from contact with individuals and in meetings.

7. 95% use cover crops, as rye, oats, wheat, rye-grass and crimson clover in some cases.
8. There were 4 grading demonstrations conducted with an attendance of more than 50 individuals.

III. Wheat and other small grains

Goal:

- A. To produce as a minimum, the family and farm needs, and more economically.

Methods used:

1. Determined and use the plant food requirement, the Ph. and select the best soil available on the farm for wheat.
2. Bought certified seed, or clean and treated home grown seed, if the quality was good, for smut.
3. Fertilized and top-dressed according to cropping system, previous crop and season

Results:

1. Secured result from 10 soil samples and carried out recommendations there on.
2. In each case the yield excelled any in any previous year and the labor income was increased due to greater yields from improved practices. 40 bushels per acre was realized in a few cases.
3. It was decided that the right analysis and amount of fertilizer is the most profitable and economical practice in the growing of wheat, barley and oats. Fifteen or more of my cooperators with a minimum rotation of three years, corn grain and hay are definite influences contributing to the increase of such practices. The farmers with a small total acreage keep the percent of increase lagging due to a feeling that they do not have sufficient acreage to rotate. Lime and phosphate and some time potash are applied to the hay crop.

IV. Vegetables

Goals:

1. To increase the number of year around gardens, can and process sufficient fruits and vegetables to supply the family needs and requirement.

Methods used:

1. Contacted more than 230 different individuals to adopt recommended practices.
2. Assisted, when possible, individuals to adopt recommended practices.
3. Explained and stressed the need and value of vegetables from both, the health and economical phase.
4. Stressed the importance of each type of vegetable in the diet.
5. Gave statistic figures on the cost of feeding a family of six and the value of one half acre of ten different varieties of vegetables.

Results:

1. Ten 4-H boys enrolled and completed their vegetable gardens with a total of 4.5 acres involved.
2. More than 200 farmers adopted some recommended practice that he had not formally used.
3. There are definitely increases in the amount of vegetables canned processed and stored.
4. Three or more of each type was grown.
5. A greater appreciation for vegetables from both, the health and economic side is evident.

V. Yard Beautification

Goals:

1. To enhance the beauty of the home and dwelling by improving the lawn and surrounding with flowers and shrubs according to standards of yard beautifications.

Methods Used:

1. Pointed out certain lawns in the communities where improvements had been made; where grasses, shrubs and flowers were arranged according to standards.

2. Offered assistance in grading and arrangement, and distributed bulletins and material on home lawns, with information as to soils, fertilizer, lime and lawn grass mixtures.

Results:

1. Efforts in a few, from the fifty odd persons that were contacted, were made in one way or another.
2. One school lawn was sown and developed and has served as a demonstration in the Live-at-Home community.

The Live-at-Home Community

Progress in the Live-at-Home Community has been slow, but gradual. More actual improvement has been made on the inside of the home than on the outside. However, three homes have been built, more than a half dozen remodeled or improved. One has been brick-veneered and another is under construction that will be brick veneered. Several have been painted or covered with brick, asbestos or some type of siding. One has been wired and another is to be wired within the near future.

The Farm Program has and is showing an encouraging trend. More hay, feed for livestock, and food for the family is being grown than was when this program was carried to this community. More emphasis is being put on supply and soil improvement crops. Pastures have not been developed as we would like to see them, due to small acreage. This has kept the number of heads of livestock short of sufficiency in many cases. The overall Program, it is felt, has improved far beyond what would have been the case had not this live-at-home community program been carried on here.

Year after year I find it rather difficult to evaluate the work of the extension Service, and particularly, many specific ways, what contributions the agent has made in so far as dollars and cents are concerned. There is a rush from day to day to meet the request of the patrons of extension and fulfill our obligation to both them and to the overall extension program. There is really not sufficient opportunity and time for planning in many instances. Some time it is felt that we

are headed in the opposite direction to our objective. But we constantly and consistently receive these requests in increasing numbers from year to year, which cover the overall field of extension. Progress is noted in many instances so we still urge and invite these approaches, offering our experience where it is felt, to do so, will make our response, cooperation, and effort more practical.

We are encouraged to feel that extension is proving of some value to the farmers of the County. At times when I was not able to grant request when they were asked for, some of the patrons of extension have expressed the need of additional personnel that such help as is requested from time to time may be granted.

Among other encouraging trends is a greater interest, efforts and procedures that good economies may be injected in the many activities attempted and carried out around the home and on the farm. There is not much interest in just working- doing something to keep busy, but to do things and do them in a way that will show up on the credit side of the ledger. An increased amount of planning and consideration is given all enterprises and the jobs necessary to produce and accomplish them, along with these more time and thought is given to members of the family-their interest, likes and dislikes. Their recreational program is considered and observed as never before.

The most outstanding effort as a group, towards thrift and economy, is a Farmer's Cooperative, chartered under ICC of the state. Farmers purchase this cooperative any article or commodity used in the home or on the farm. Fertilizer is their major interest and concern in using the services of the Cooperative.

The membership has increased from year to year, and I feel that it is a very needed service and will contribute much to the home, the farm and the communities served by it.