

IV GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR

In appraising the past year's Extension Program, its the unanimous opinion of the total County Extension Staff that the support and close cooperation of the various committees is perhaps stronger than at any time. For example, the Livestock Committee cooperating with representatives of three (3) other counties has organized and made available a marketing facility for quality feeder pigs, thus providing a new enterprise which has resulted in additional income. Similar instances have occurred in other committee work, all designed to raise the standard of living.

While it is recognized that more individuals are involved in the total Extension Program than in any previous period, there is still a need for additional trained leaders.

It is the feeling that emphasis must be placed on re-defining the role of organizational and project leaders to meet the need of securing additional trained leaders.

While a majority of the programs attempted have been successful, some have been hampered due to the lack of timely and sufficient specialized help and educational materials.

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produce big, broody cows in Mecklenburg County.

This educational process of our adults through our young people sighted by these eight (8) men has been brought to the attention of interested persons of surrounding counties. At the present time this Extension office has received three oral and one written request that our Sponsoring Committee come into these counties and explain their operations and how they have involved some fifty-four (54) businesses and individuals to furnish that incentive for youth to foster an educational program.

With year-round meetings this Committee is always evaluating and planning ahead. For the 1962-63 program, plans have been made and are being carried out among our youth to select and feed out a market animal that will convert feed to meat the cheapest way possible and still grade high.

The people of Mecklenburg County are undergoing a change in attitudes towards Youth and Cattle. With guidance and foresight of "The 4-H Livestock Sponsoring Committee," the Cooperative Extension Service can realize success in their purpose, education by the involvement of its resource people on the local level.

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At times it was said that this group was somewhat extreme in its ideas and actions and the result would be false impressions left on Club members and sponsorship would out price itself. This was very evident and recognized by our Sponsoring Committee. But through the many hours of discussion and planning for the 1962 Show, this talk in the background has been averted. Actually the backing from this group has helped to develop one of, it not, the most active Community 4-H Club on a livestock basis in the State of Virginia. This statement has been made on a District as well as State level. Not only has this Club produced a Grand Champion Steer, a winning livestock judging team, but a State Officer for the 1963 State 4-H Short Course. Through the interest shown by the Sponsoring Committee, this Community Club has grown in numbers to the point that two (2) additional Community 4-H Clubs are to be organized.

The wholehearted work and cooperation by this Sponsoring Committee has not only brought the spot-light on 4-H Club work in Mecklenburg, but has begun an educational program through young people to our adults that if you feed out cattle or produce calves, one must have good producing stock to start with. Many times it has been mentioned that a majority of our farmers did not know such stock was produced in this area nor could you buy herd replacement cattle to

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III SUCCESS STORY

Mecklenburg County 4-H Club members have participated by exhibiting steers in the Petersburg Livestock Show and Sale for eleven (11) years. Until 1960 only a very small number of Club members have exhibited in this show without the help of sponsorship or project leaders.

In the Fall of 1960 a group of eight (8) men representing various clothing and dry goods business, groceries, Banking industries and project leaders organized into The 4-H Livestock Sponsoring Committee to promote the 4-H Baby Beef Project. These men being connected in different ways with boys and girls exhibiting livestock felt that their needs were not being met and that more from our county should benefit from this project. The first undertaking for the 1961 Show and Sale by this Committee was highly successful from a financial standpoint of Mecklenburg youth, but from the county's Extension view the results were lacking in educational values, and sponsors were contributing too much.

Many hours of discussion and planning followed the 1961 Show and finally The Sponsoring Committee came up with the idea the people of Mecklenburg County can live with.

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Betty Lou Kinker, a Senior 4-H Club member from the county, received one of the State Awards in Dairy Foods this year. She has given this demonstration to numerous groups including a large gathering of 4-H club members and their parents. This has helped greatly in creating an understanding of the 4-H Program in Foods and Nutrition. It has gained support and project leaders for the 4-H girls. Parents are beginning to encourage participation and allowing the child to "practice" her new skills at home.

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4-H CLUB WORK

FOODS AND NUTRITION

There are two (2) project groups in meal preparation with leaders that have functioned during the past year, however, all those enrolled have not had the opportunity to participate in a project group. Many girls are not encouraged to assist with meal preparation within the home. With more homemakers employed outside the home, 4-H members could assume the responsibility of meal preparation. The 4-H members lack information related to planning, preparing and serving attractive, nutritious foods.

The objectives have been: To teach the 4-H members to understand the importance of planning, preparing and serving nutritious meals in an attractive manner and to teach the club member to read a recipe correctly and also, to help the club member develop skills in food preparation.

An increase in member participation and in 4-H record completion was noted in the Meal Preparation Project this year.

There are two (2) active project groups meeting throughout the school year and two (2) project groups meeting during the Summer months. An increase in the number of 4-H canning, baked goods and candy exhibits in the Fair also indicated a rise in member participation.

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A lack of parental understanding has been somewhat of a stumbling block to the progress made in this phase. However, recent comments from Mothers have indicated the beginning of a change in attitudes. News articles on Club work and clothing have played a role in this change.

A greater number of 4-H Clothing exhibits in the Fair this year also helped open the eyes of the public as to the educational value of 4-H Club work.

At present there are two (2) active 4-H Clothing project groups of younger 4-H girls working under the leadership of two (2) adult leaders and three (3) junior leaders. Parental interest has been noted, however, there is still a resistance on the part of the Mothers' to purchasing sewing equipment for the girls. The feeling is that the girls are only passing through a phase and it will be less expensive if the girls use "Mama's" sewing equipment.

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4-H CLUB WORK

CLOTHING

Clothing received major emphasis in the 4-H Program. Little Money is available for clothing expenditures. Parents who are uninformed do not take the time to train youth in clothing selection or construction. Most of the girls seem to be interested in doing a better job in selection and in learning skills in construction.

The program objectives followed were: To teach skills in planning, selecting and constructing their wardrobes. To help girls understand the importance of planning in the selection of their wardrobes and to co-ordinate what they have with what will be added (color, line, design and accessories). To teach the use of recommended sewing equipment and the basic skills in clothing construction. Also, to teach the principles of exhibiting garments and items.

Extensive work has been done with the older 4-H girls in planning and selecting wardrobes. The Park View Senior 4-H Club (which has 67 girls) has shown great interest in this phase. A committee of 4-H members selected the topics for the monthly discussions and member participation was notable.

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Four (4) Home Demonstration Clubs held Hatmaking Clinics. (Clarksville, Buffalo, Piney Grove and South Hill). Twenty-three (23) hats were completed. The club members and non-club members participating were proud of their accomplishments. Other club leaders have requested this training as a result.

A series of newspaper articles concerning clothing - Selection, line, design, trends and construction techniques was started as a result of the questionnaire and request for additional clothing information. (Particularly from non-club members). Many favorable comments were heard. The articles are still being published on a monthly basis.

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A lack of sufficient educational materials somewhat dampened the enthusiasm of those interested in this topic.

One (1) Home Demonstration Club (Clarksville) with two (2) leaders (Mrs. R. H. Blanks, Sr. and Mrs. Willie Wells) met and organized a tailoring class in the absence of an Agent last January. Several non-club members participated. Eight (8) wool suits were tailored, four blouses and hats were made. Five of the ladies modeled their suits and hats at the District II Federation meeting. Six of the class members modeled their garments in the County Achievement Program.

This Club and the two leaders plan to sponsor this tailoring class again.

Much was gained by those members taking part in this tailoring class. Many favorable comments have been made, and new Home Demonstration Club boosters and members were gained from this experience.

Hatmaking workshops were perhaps the most requested part of the clothing program this year. The classes were particularly profitable to the older homemaker who has time to enjoy being creative and who receives satisfaction from using her leisure time to an advantage.

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homemakers and Home Demonstration Club members. A study of the results of the questionnaire pointed out many ways in which the Clothing Committee could work effectively.

From the questionnaire there was noted a desire for a beginner's clothing construction, or Better Dress class. Response to this was so great that the class was divided into three (3) groups. One group met in Chase City, one in Clarksville and the other in South Hill. Each workshop lasted two days. Leaders from the three Home Demonstration Clubs in the three areas assisted with the groups. Nineteen (19) garments were completed. Five (5) non-club members participated. The Agent observed that the women were eager to learn and enjoyed the workshops. Several members modeled their garments in the County Home Demonstration Achievement Program.

The Agent has received request for additional classes and has also received offers of assistance from other Home Demonstration Club members.

Pattern Adjustments, a monthly demonstration topic, was very helpful to those club members who sew for themselves and their families.

Making Handbags, another monthly demonstration topic, resulted in two (2) workshops which were held by the clothing leaders in those clubs. Several non-club members participated.

CLOTHING

Homemakers in Mecklenburg County, primarily for financial reasons, construct many of their family's garments. Families in the county have less than \$50.00 per person to spend annually for clothing. (Based on a study from the 1959 Long-Time Extension Plan). Homemakers also lack knowledge of those steps which, in clothing construction, create a look of a professionally made garment and provide an opportunity to save money on clothing. Homemakers lack knowledge of adjusting patterns for fit - both for themselves and for their families.

Therefore, clothing received major emphasis in the Extension Home Economics Program in Mecklenburg County.

The program objectives were: To improve sewing skills so that the homemaker and her family may be better dressed more economically. To teach the homemaker to adjust patterns to fit themselves or members of their families in order to have a better fitting garment and to increase the homemaker's enjoyment in sewing. To teach methods of tailoring to enable the homemaker to have a better finished garment more economically.

Interest in all phases of clothing is very evident in Mecklenburg County.

The County Clothing Committee which has been inactive for several years was contacted personally and by mail. In order to determine the present situation and future areas of work, the committee drew up a questionnaire which was sent to

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ART IN DAILY LIVING

Art In Daily Living, the County Home Demonstration Federation Program of Work, has resulted in numerous and various changes throughout the County.

Framing and Matting pictures was combined with a detailed study of the principles of Art in selection, hanging, etc., of pictures. Changes have been noted in: The color schemes of homes; the choice of color and design of accessories in relation to the room and its use; the number of pictures used in a room; the type of pictures used in a room; the frames and type of picture used show much improvement. Improvements, some by trial and error and some by detailed study, show a greater consciousness of the need for studying Art found in daily living.

One Club (Skipwith) held a "picture workshop" inviting Club members and neighbors to mat pictures, refinish frames, frame pictures and to study care, selection and hanging of pictures. Sixteen (16) persons took part.

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The Agent feels that many homemakers have become more aware of the overweight problem in their families and in the county and are better prepared to take those measures which are necessary to control the situation.

Outdoor Cookery has been of interest to several Home Demonstration Clubs. Several of the clubs planned a balanced low calorie outdoor cookery demonstration and picnic for their families as their club choice in August.

One (1) Home Demonstration Club (South Hill) used the above as the theme of their County Fair Booth.

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Those attending the Nutrition Forum felt that they had gained a tremendous insight into the Nutrition phase of Home Economics and have been successful in creating interest among other Home Demonstration Club members and homemakers, especially from the consumer's standpoint.

Consumer Education - Understanding Advertising was successful as a monthly demonstration topic. The Leader Training meeting, leader's demonstrations in the clubs and to homemakers, many leaflets, pamphlets and newspaper articles created an interest among the Consumers. Homemakers have remarked that they are more aware of advertising gimmicks, tricky ads and are beginning to be able to have a better balanced plan of meals per week and per month with less actual cost. Follow-up news articles are being published whenever possible.

Low calorie foods was also a monthly demonstration topic which has been fairly successful in opening the eyes of the homemakers in the county. Many request for low calorie foods and menus, dieting and exercising means have been requested from the Extension Agent. The Agent has noted that the Home Demonstration Clubs are restricting their refreshments to those with less calories. Homemakers have requested low calorie suggestions for the Holiday season plus information concerning the use of home canned and frozen foods in preparing a well-balanced-yet-low-in-calorie-meal for their families.

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EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

NUTRITION

Many homemakers are more and more concerned with balancing their family's diets properly. The use of low calorie foods is beginning to play an important part in the diets planned by the homemaker.

Many families have poor diets and the homemakers lack knowledge of balancing meals properly and they also lack knowledge in the proper use of low calorie foods.

The program objectives were: To make the homemakers more conscious of the importance of good eating habits for her family and to help the families improve their eating habits. Also to give an overweight an opportunity to learn how to control their eating habits and take off pounds safely and sensibly.

The Home Demonstration Club Members have taken strides toward improving their eating habits and toward controlling their weight and that of their families.

Nine (9) Home Demonstration Club Members and the Agent attended the Nutrition Forum in Richmond in March. Three (3) Home Demonstration Clubs were represented. Summaries of the talks and literature were given during a County Committee meeting by three (3) club members that had attended the Forum. In turn the information was passed on to all Home Demonstration Club members.

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Each committee member will pay committee dues annually which will provide funds for the purchase of postage and certain other secretarial supplies which might be needed. The committee will discuss certain possible projects at its first 1963 meeting. The first project to get detailed study will be the possible construction of a new County Agricultural Office Building which is needed badly.

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RAD COMMITTEE

A group of interested County key leaders representing numerous segments of interests met during the year and organized a RAD (Rural Areas Development Committee). The officers of this committee who will serve for the year 1963 are: Sam B. Land, Chairman; Claude W. Wright, Vice-Chairman and E. T. Blackwell, Secretary-Treasurer.

Currently a set of By-Laws are being prepared by Gariand Moss, Chairman, and Norwood P. Johnson, each who are members of the RAD Committee. These By-Laws, among other things, include the following major items:

1. The committee will have a minimum of ten members and a maximum of twenty members who will comprise the committee.
2. An election of officers will be held annually. The post of Secretary-Treasurer will be for a period of two years. However, in an annual election, the Secretary-Treasurer as well as the other officers may succeed themselves.
3. The committee will meet at Boydton, Virginia, on the fourth Thursday of the last month of each calendar quarter. The March and December meetings will be held at 7:30 P. M. and the June and September meetings at 8:00 P. M. Called meetings may be held at any time at the discretion of the Chairman.

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LAMB AND WOOL MARKETING

Sheep flock numbers rose slightly during the year. While a few producers sold out entirely, the flocks were purchased by other county farmers and thus the county did not experience a decrease in either producer or sheep numbers. Actually total flocks owners now total 36, which is a slight increase over the previous year's number. Progress was maintained in wool marketing with generally favorable prices received. The story was different, however, with lamb marketing. With one or two possible exceptions, a majority of lamb producers experienced unsatisfactory prices.

Total 1962 Wool and Lamb Sales amounted to approximately the same as the previous year's.

Plans were completed recently to advise all flock owners of the Sheep Scabies Eradication Program which will be conducted during a two-week period in February, 1963.

Mecklenburg Extension Agents will be responsible for all flock inspections during this period.

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Complete and satisfactory adjustments will not be made over night with many of the participants. Many, however, are adjusting and credits the Farm Management Specialist's help and this program with progress made thus far.

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FARM MANAGEMENT (MAIL-IN RECORDS)

This project activity had its beginning in 1961 with a token participation of only ten (10) farmers, each of whom desired help in analyzing their respective farm operation. Sickness and other causes forced three (3) participants to drop the program before the year's end. Additional request for help was received from other interested farmers, which resulted in 1962 beginning with a total enrollment of twelve (12).

With one or two exceptions, those participants completing the program last year have each been furnished a detailed analysis of their respective operation which has also included an on the farm discussion in some detail conducted by an Area Extension Farm Management Specialist and this writer. In several instances it was determined that some major adjustment needed to be made in the individual operation. For an example, one participant was purchasing manufactured mixed dairy feed, paying enormously high prices. Now with his home feed mixer, home grown feed and being able to purchase a cheap, but good source of protein supplement, this particular participant is producing a dairy ration at a saving of some \$25.00 to \$30.00 per ton.

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With this type of interest and quality of project work, there is an addition of eleven new Club members participating now in the steer project.

All but three of the steers on feed by Club members now came from herds in the County. With the type of results achieved in 1962 by 4-H'ers, our local farmers and other interested adults are beginning to realize that top herd replacements can be acquired in Mecklenburg, and they are taking advantage of the lesson taught by our 4-H Club Members.

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4-H AND OLDER YOUTH

LIVESTOCK PROJECT

This project has obtained the greatest interest of any project in our Program, not only with 4-H Club Members, but adult sponsorship. Each year membership in this project increases. Therefore, in order that each project be closely supervised, additional trained leaders must be secured. These leaders are to provide the training for Club members in cutting cost of production and increasing feed efficiency.

The results of the survey after the 1962 project completion as compared to previous years showed that feed cost were higher for 1962 than before, but packer prices were better in 1962 than before. Feed efficiency was not up to the past in 1962. 1962 rate of gain was .3 lbs. per day below the previous years.

The 4-H Livestock Sponsoring Committee is responsible for providing adult leaders and acquiring an additional seventeen sponsors for 1962.

This interest and constant supervision produced the most successful project year to date. Not only did our Club members place seven out of the top ten in Fitting and Showmanship, the Champion light Hereford, Champion heavy Hereford, Champion Shorthorn, but the Grand Champion of the Show.

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As a result of the discussions and contacts, five adults have volunteered their time and efforts to work in the 4-H Program for the first time.

As a result of new leaders, a new Community Club was developed and several Project Groups organized in areas of the County that previously experienced a somewhat weak 4-H Club Program.

Several specific examples are the Shiney Rock Community 4-H Club and the Park View 4-H Automotive Care and Safety Project, each of which is handled almost exclusively by adult and junior leadership.

One of our objectives was to have representation at the Leaders' Conference in Natural Bridge. No one from Mecklenburg County could attend this November meeting.

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4-H AND OLDER YOUTH

4-H COMMUNITY CLUBS AND PROJECT GROUP DEVELOPMENT

4-H Club enrollment is decreasing by approximately 65 members per year. This decrease is because of the limiting of extra curriculum activities in the high schools and the use of departmentalized education in the secondary schools. Because of the number of 4-H Clubs and 4-H Club membership is decreasing, the developing of Community 4-H Clubs is the number one project for the County Extension Staff. Our number two project is the enrollment of adult leaders to carry on Community Club work.

Interest must be developed among potential adult leaders to where Community 4-H Clubs and Project Groups can be developed to reach all eligible youth in each Magisterial District of Mecklenburg County.

In developing Project Groups and Community 4-H Clubs, meetings have been held in conjunction with various P. T. A. Groups and Civic Organizations. Community Clubs were discussed by County Extension Staff relating the advantages and disadvantages. Radio programs by Club members have explained the role of adult volunteer leaders in the 4-H Club Program. Then Club members and agents made individual contacts to the desired persons who could help our young people.

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Through the efforts of many individuals, it can be stated that a majority of the objectives stated above have been reached within the past 12 months to the partical if not complete satisfaction of many persons. Extension Agents arranged and conducted some fourteen (14) farmer meetings in January and February, 1962. Later meetings resulted in additional interest in getting a local market. After joining with other Southside Virginia counties and looking for possible sales pavilion building sites, it was determined that Halifax, Virginia, in Halifax County offered best possibilities.

An Association was formed, a pavilion was constructed which is servicing farmers in a four (4) county area including those counties of Pittsylvania, Charlotte, Halifax and Mecklenburg. A Mecklenburg producer is presently serving as President of the newly formed Association. Two (2) other county producers are members of the Board. The first sale in the new structure was held recently with a few less than 400 pigs actually sold on consignment. Mecklenburg producers sold a total of 105, representing approximately 28% of the sale's total number of pigs. Producers were favorably impressed with prices received. It is anticipated that this enterprise will progress as subsequent sales are scheduled and bring additional income to an area where its needed rather badly.

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FEEDER PIG MARKETING

The average size county farm being less than 100 acres in size and with not more than 25% to 30% of this as actual cropland, almost every farm is well adapted for the production of feeder pigs. Furthermore, with farm income dropping annually, due to unfavorable marketing conditions of the county's No. 1 cash crop, Tobacco, additional income is badly needed. The County Livestock Committee urged that top priority be given this program by all who can lend support.

The following objectives were decided upon by the County Livestock Committee early in the Extension year: (1) Arrange a series of community meetings and ascertain interest in production and marketing of feeder pigs. (2) Arrange tours of local farmers to areas where sales were being conducted. (3) Arrange meeting of representatives of adjoining counties to discuss possibility of organizing a Feeder Pig Marketing Association in this area of Southside, Virginia. (4) Appoint a committee composed of representatives of several counties to help determine possible sites for a sales pavilion and (5) begin conducting sales by year's end if possible.

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Twelve (12) producers consigned to sales this year as compared with seven (7) in 1961. The total number of calves sold through organized sales exactly doubled that of the previous year. 47.5% of this year's calf crop went in choice and fancy sale grades as compared with last year's 42.6%.

Producers are becoming quality conscious and are employing management practices to help assume it at the market place. The grade summary referred to above affords an opportunity for the producer to compare his grade status with other county producers. The recently completed summary also lists the producers grade status in the 1961 sale. Thus the individual producer can compare both years' grades with other producers and observe trends, some of which show progress, others not as much as desired. Producers willingly furnish this Agent with certain data to prepare this summary which is, in the final analysis only a tool for measuring the producers progress, or no progress as the case might be.

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FEEDER CALF PRODUCTION

The production of beef and resulting income to farmers on many farms is rated as No. 2 in importance. (Sale of Flue-cured tobacco tops list in dollars received). Additional farmers are becoming more interested each year and going forward in the enterprise. Based on the request and recommendations of the Livestock Committee, the following objectives were decided upon: (1) Secure increased participation in the organized feeder calf sales held in the State. (2) Stress quality through the purchase of good purebred sires to help assure a larger percentage of calves going to higher grades in sales and (3) After conclusion of sales secure data from producers and prepare a grade summary on all county calves sold through the various sales.

Personal contacts, many through farm visits paid best results in partially reaching some of the above objectives. Livestock Committee members are due much credit for helping to reach some of the outlined objectives. A fair amount of progress was made in that more individual farmers participated in organized sales than at any time before. Never before this selling season had producers participated in four (4) different sales held in separate localities in the State.

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but had failed to do so until this year. He also stated that his production cost was well below one dollar (\$1.00) per bushel and considerably below his pprevious year's cost of \$1.15 to \$1.25 per bushel.

All concerned with this activity or project area were pleased with results. The demonstrations caused considerable "talk" and it was of the good kind. Figures are not yet available on a county-wide basis to determine the county yield. It has been predicted by many to be greater than at any time in the county's history.

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CORN FOR GRAIN PRODUCTION

Because corn for grain occupies second place (flue tobacco first) in over-all crop production and the history of consistently low yields experienced by a great many farmers, the Agronomy Committee requested major emphasis be placed in this activity.

The Committee's objectives were to attempt by various educational means to: (1) Increase the over-all county corn yield, and (2) at the same time reduce acreage and cut production cost to a minimum.

Farm Supply Dealers, dealers in fertilizer and herbicides, all made contributions to the program through the contribution of materials which were used in demonstrations conducted by several farmers.

Certain specific practices were employed, namely, applying fertilizer and lime based on soil test results; application of herbicides to control grass and weeds and the planting of a sufficient amount of seed at definite spacings to assure a stand of at least 15,000 stalks per acre.

Demonstration areas were measured by a committee to determine and evaluate results. Rather striking differences were observed between demonstration and check areas. Yields were substantially higher on demonstration areas. One (1) farmer conducting the demonstration stated that he had always wanted to produce one hundred (100) bushels per acre,

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9. The Agents made as many individual farm visits as possible to discuss certain problems and production practices.

Work that was conducted of an unanticipated nature was a survey of twelve (12) farms in November. Twelve (12) farmers in the Buffalo Junction area requested the Extension Service to run a survey to try and find out what their problems were concerning the large percentage of tobacco going to Stabilization.

The agents ran this survey on November 15th and 16th. Included in the survey was a complete questionnaire and soils survey of each field on these farms.

Three Specialists will be asked to compile this information and try to provide some information that will be helpful to these farmers.

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3. One (1) fertilizer placement demonstration was conducted on Veritill and conventional placement of fertilizer. There was no difference in the yield and quality of tobacco from these different placements of fertilizer.

4. Informative type letters on tobacco production were mailed periodically to tobacco growers. This information was based on North Carolina and Virginia experimental data.

5. The County Agent's Office has received more soil samples from tobacco fields this year than at any time in the past five (5) years. I think this is due to the increased educational material on fertilization being distributed by Extension personnel. Farmers are becoming more interested in their fertilizer needs and soil requirements.

6. A tobacco meeting was held in South Hill during August at which Mr. Hope, Extension Specialist from South Rhodesia was principal speaker. He discussed the production of tobacco in South Rhodesia.

7. Information on loose leaf sale of flue tobacco was mailed to all farmers in Mecklenburg County. The sale of loose leaf tobacco in this area was not successful this year.

8. The Agents were invited to speak to several Civic Clubs on certain tobacco problems. The agents also spoke to Adult and Young Farmer groups on tobacco production.

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II REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

There are 10,581 acres of Flue-Cured Tobacco in Mecklenburg County with an average yield of 1,481 lbs. per acre. Approximately 70% of the county's farm income is derived from the sale of Flue-Cured Tobacco.

The main objective of the Extension Service is to assist tobacco farmers in increasing net income and improve the quality and yield of flue-cured tobacco.

The main methods used by the Extension personnel in carrying out the objectives were the following:

1. Twelve (12) tobacco production meetings were held in Mecklenburg County this year in different sections of the county. Tobacco varieties and bulk curing were the main topics of discussion with the farmers attending these meetings. The average attendance per meeting was approximately thirty (30) farmers.

2. Five (5) tobacco variety demonstrations were grown in Mecklenburg County. The purposes of these demonstrations was to show farmers new varieties of tobacco growing under field conditions. Two (2) field meetings were held and eighty (80) farmers attended these meetings.

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In a general appraisal of the leadership in the county, it is the unanimous opinion of the Extension Staff that interest and support is at an all-time high. Certainly this County can take credit for an involvement of a greater number of individual leaders than at any time in its history. These leaders give freely their time. An invitation has just come to this office from a nearby county for certain local leaders to visit that county in the near future and explain its personal experiences in a local Extension activity, with a group that Extension personnel in that county is trying to interest. This invitation is somewhat indicative of the leaders and/or committeemen with which this county Extension Staff is privileged to work.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1962

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

I INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING
OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM.

Special interest commodity planning committees are largely responsible for many of the programs and activities of the County's Extension Staff throughout the Extension year. These specific committees, which number six (6), meet usually twice each year, once for reviewing the past year's activities and accomplishments and later to outline objectives and specific programs, based on the needs of people in the various communities. Prior to planning meetings, many individual members contact neighbors informing them of the meeting and solicits their suggestions for program activities. This contact has been extremely helpful in getting to the "grass-roots" on those problems needing the attention and future action of the total Extension Staff.

A somewhat different approach was used this year in the leader-committeeman training phase of Extension, that of not only training the leader and/or committeemen in specific subject matter fields, but also in the methods and manners of the leader and/or committeeman training others in the Clubs and Communities.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Lewis R. Copley

Extension Agent

(Mrs.) Judy S. Minter

Extension Agent

Dean P. Agee

Assistant Agent

Lloyd M. Harrison, Jr.

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1962

Mecklenburg
County