

Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1955

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INTRODUCTION

This year through the cooperation of the Agronomy and Livestock Committees, the 4-H Council and the Board of Agriculture a very good "plan of work" was adopted with goals set up for the various enterprises to be carried out. In some instances results have exceeded goals while in other cases we may have fallen short to some extent.

Our agronomy projects and goals were in the main attained, exception being in the worst drought stricken areas of the county. The livestock goals were successfully carried out.

4-H work made considerable progress by carrying out county-wide goals and a higher percentage of project completions over last year.

The Unit Test Demonstration Program was re-vitalized through the efforts of the Extension Agents including Ashton Sinclair, County Agent-at-Large and the fine spirit of cooperation of individual demonstrators, as well as the Board of Agriculture and Soil Conservation Association.

One (1) new Community Club was organized, which did good work and was awarded a prize in the Area Contest. Two (2) other Clubs did some good work also.

The work of the Natural Tunnel Soil Conservation District made good progress as evidenced by the fact that we were awarded second prize in the State for the most progress made in conservation.

Under the U.S.D.A. Bangs Control Program we got a late start owing to lack of a veterinarian, but the Agents contacted three hundred ninety-nine (399) farmers explaining the program and helping them to take advantage of this free testing service after a veterinarian was secured.

Considerable time was spent visiting and advising the twenty-five (25) new aromatic tobacco growers with production problems.

Forestry work consisted in taking applications for trees, and a planting demonstration by the Assistant Agent with his 4-H Club boys. The agents also conducted two (2) educational meetings for the ASC which were attended by four hundred fifty (450) farmers. The Farm and Home Development Program was not given very much time owing largely to the lack of personnel.

Nine (9) farmers and the County Agents attended the Annual Field Day at the Emory Experiment Station. A group of six (6) went to the Institute of Rural Affairs at V.P.I. in late July, and seventeen (17) from the county attended the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association at Abingdon last Spring.

AGRONOMY

Pastures

From two (2) to four (4) pasture demonstrations were set up in each of the seven (7) Magisterial Districts. Part of which were old pastures which were renovated with fertilizer and lime when needed and about half were new seedings of pasture. Community field meetings were held where neighbors came in to observe results.

Many of our old seedings of ladino-orchard grass pastures have been badly damaged by the three (3) year drought—this is especially true of the clover which has gone out in many cases. One fine exception being on the farm of G. C. Arwood at Strattonville. His pasture has been seeded five years and he still has as much clover as the first year. This came about by good rotational grazing practices, which left the grass and clover about the same height at all times, and not allowing one to smother out the other. That was the conclusion arrived at by farmers and Professional Agricultural workers while visiting this farm on a field tour in late September. Twenty-five (25) farmers took part in the pasture and soil and water conservation tours. This we find to be the best teaching method.

Corn

Three (3) farmers, C. B. Addington, O. H. Culbertson, and C. W. Carter, tested a new V.P.I. hybrid variety this year at the request of the Extension Agronomy Department. This corn was grown alongside of their regular hybrid varieties. They were well pleased with it. The yield was comparable, fodder free from disease, and maturity approximately ten (10) days earlier. An early maturing variety will enable farmers to harvest corn in time to seed small grain at the proper time and avoid late seeding and freeing out.

In most localities corn yields were excellent, exception was in drought areas.

- ① Fifteen (15) farmers were advised regarding control of the corn borer. Six hundred (600) growers were advised on varieties, and fertilization. Seven hundred (700) farmers used a 1-1-1 ratio analysis this year on corn for the first time—either a 10-10-10 or 0-30-30 with ammonium-nitrate.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa production in the county is increasing year by year. The drought years helped farmers to realize that they could not afford

to be without this dependable hay crop. Old growers are increasing acreage and forty (40) new growers seeded alfalfa this year. It is estimated that a total of two hundred fifty (250) additional acres were seeded in 1955.

Insect injury was severe on Spring seedings this year. And forty (40) farmers were advised on control methods.

Red Clover

Red clover acreage is increasing annually by replacing Lespedeza in the rotation. Twenty-five (25) demonstrators used the Konland clover this year to demonstrate better and longer-lived stands of clover. Twenty (20) farmers were advised regarding leaf-hopper control.

Wheat

Wheat acreage is static owing to the control program, but yields are up due to better methods, such as adapted varieties, soil preparation and adequate fertilization.

Barley

More and more farmers are growing barley to replace corn on our steeper lands, and to fit into the rotation instead of other small grains. Variety recommendations were sent growers and seed dealers of the county, which resulted in better adapted varieties and higher yields.

Data

Oats as an important crop for livestock and poultry is being grown more and more on a large per cent of the farms.

One of the main reasons for this is that our farmers are now making satisfactory yields, which was not true a few years ago. The increased yields have been obtained by better adapted varieties, earlier seeding in fall, proper time of seeding in case of Spring seedings, and adequate amounts of fertilizer.

Potatoes

Twenty (20) farmers demonstrated better methods in potato production. They used recommended adapted varieties, adequate amounts of fertilizer and other cultural practices. The average increase in yield was forty (40) bushels per acre.

Commercial Vegetable Production

Forty (40) farmers were given market information, were supplied with market grades and furnished information on varieties, and fertilization.

Orchard and Small Fruit

Timely information was sent to all orchard owners on pruning, spraying, harvesting, fertilization and marketing.

This office contacted approximately seventy-five (75) farmers who requested information on strawberry culture, such as varieties, when to plant, fertilization, harvesting, and marketing. Farmers of this county have a ready sale for all of their berries at the farm. Mr. A. S. Ruth kept the grass out of his berries this year by pasturing the plot with geese. He also irrigated his berries and made a very satisfactory profit on his crop.

Burley Tobacco

Since burley tobacco is the principal cash crop of the county, a great deal of time and effort is required of the Extension Agents in assisting the growers in every way possible.

New varieties are being tried out as fast as they are released by the Agronomy Department. Last year our demonstrators tested out Va.-29, found it very good, and as a result approximately one hundred (100) farmers grew it this year.

We had two (2) farmers who tested the latest recommended control measure for wildfire in plant bed. Just as a demonstration Mr. Gris Korrell treated his crop in the field for wildfire to stop the spread of the disease. The spreading stopped, though we cannot be sure that it was the streptomycin which did the job or if weather had something to do with it. We will have to wait for more similar tests to know the answer.

Three thousand (3,000) farmers were advised on plant bed management, varieties, fertilization, insect and disease control. Last year a new tobacco warehouse was put up in the county (our first) and this year a second house covering more than three (3) acres of land has been constructed.

Due to the tobacco control program and reduction of acreage this year we have seven hundred twenty-eight (728) acres less than for 1954. This reduced acreage will mean farm \$65,000 to \$70,000 less income for our county tobacco growers than last year.

Scott County Tobacco Market

Approximately two million six hundred thousand (2,600,000) pounds of tobacco was sold on the County's first tobacco market. The warehouse in Weber City was filled (an estimated nine hundred thousand (900,000) pounds) one week before the date of the first sale and much tobacco had to be turned away.

In Spring 1955 some warehousemen who operated in North Carolina and Kentucky approached officials of the Scott County Tobacco Warehouse, Inc. about building another warehouse. The officials, and later the stockholders, felt that this addition was needed in order to make this a competitive market and to attract more buyers from the Tobacco Companies.

The decision was made to construct a building containing one hundred thirty-four thousand (134,000) square feet of floor space. It was to have metal siding and the best bid was \$110,000. The contractor told officials that he would use concrete block in lieu of the metal siding for an additional \$8,000. This change was made. This warehouse will have twice the floor space as the one built last year.

On November 5th, the new house was dedicated. The dedication was preceded by the longest parade ever held in the county. It was three (3) miles long and included the following: nine (9) high school bands, and twenty (20) floats. The parade started in Gales City and ended at the warehouses, three (3) miles away.

Fifty-nine (59) girls competed in a Beauty Contest and eleven (11) boys in an Open Tractor Driving Contest. The latter was won by Edward Reed, a member of the Shoemaker Senior 4-H Club. Reed won the 4-H County Contest last May and placed second in the District 4-H Contest. He received \$10.00 as first prize in the festival contest.

A tobacco grading demonstration was planned; but was cancelled because the Beauty Contest took much longer than anticipated.

Visitors were treated to a free barbecue in which ten thousand (10,000) sandwiches were served.

A free square dance was held in both the Big Star and Farmers 1 & 2 Warehouses that night.

The crowd during the festival was estimated at twelve thousand (12,000).

Pictures were taken of the activities and will be used with those to be taken on the first sale date to make a half-hour program on the Johnson City Television Station, WJHL. It will be televised on Dec. 4th. Both warehouses are sponsoring this show. News article attached.



SCOTT COUNTY TOBACCO FESTIVAL

Aromatic Tobacco

The second year of the production of aromatic tobacco in Scott County was begun on January 18th with a meeting for all producers and those curious to learn more about this crop. R. L. Shaw, Jr., Assistant Extension Agronomist, showed slides and led an interesting discussion on this subject. Packages of seed were given to those of the sixty-five (65) present who decided to try this type of tobacco.

A list was made of these people along with their addresses and acreage they intended to grow. The goal for the County was set at seven (7) acres in order that at least six (6) acres would probably result in being grown—the minimum specified for a local sale. The goal was not set too high due to the close supervision which the Extension Agents felt would be needed.

A questionnaire was sent in May to the above mentioned mailing list. Each was asked to reply giving the acreage he was prepared to set and if he wanted an Extension Agent to visit him soon. Results of the questionnaire and later information showed that twenty-six (26) had set out a total of five and eight tenths (5.8) acres. Twenty-four (24) of these were visited by Extension Agents at least once and many of them several times. In several cases errors in too heavy applications of fertilizer, selecting too fertile soil, and wide spacing of plants were already committed.

A special visit was made to all farmers who were raising at least one-half acre. They were reminded of the fact that they would need a forced-air, temperature-controlled heating system for curing. One farmer, whose small experimental crop last year averaged ninety-five and five tenths cents (95.5¢) per pound, built a barn according to Extension Service plans and installed a conventional-type curing unit. Mr. Shaw made several trips and spent many hours helping with this building and installation.

In October eleven (11) producers sold part of their crop at a sale held in the Scott Farmers' Cooperative, a local feed and fertilizer store, in Gate City. The bottom and middle leaves from an estimated four (4) acres were sold. Results of the sale are shown in Table I on following page.

TABLE I

RESULTS OF SCOTT COUNTY'S FIRST AROMATIC TOBACCO SALE SEPT. 29th, 1955

NAME	ACREAGE	POUNDS OF EACH GRADE							TOTAL POUNDS	TOTAL MONEY	AVERAGE PRICE	REMARKS	
		D	E	F	G	R	K	KK					
W. L. Nanier	0.2A		25	28	31	33			117	\$101.97	\$0.952	Quality was excellent. Sun cured.	
V. B. Tate	0.6A		25	104	285	15	31		460	413.27	0.898	Quality was excellent. Conventional type barn and curing system.	
Emitt Dameron	0.2A				16				16	14.08	0.880	Very good quality. Sun cured.	
G. F. Goode	0.1A		16		10	46	28		100	70.84	0.708	Fair quality. Cured in well-ventilated barn.	
L. B. Hurd	0.6A			54	115	38	108	20	335	233.53	0.697	Fair to good quality. Improvised heating syst.	
D. W. Stapleton	0.8A				150	80	270	88	588	318.12	0.541	Fair quality. Improvised heating system.	
F. L. Cox	0.2A				19	60		69	148	67.70	0.457	Very good quality. Cure in well-ventilated barn. Too crowded on wires.	
E. O. Hartsack	0.1A							16	18	34	10.01	0.294	Fair quality. Cured in barn.
W. T. Taylor	0.4A						25	358	383	70.07	0.182	Leaves too large. Cured in several outbuildings. Some sun cured. Too crowded on wires.	
James Fugate	0.2A							14	14	2.10	0.15	Crop turned over to young boy during season. Cured on open porch.	
C. D. Sanders	0.4A							85	85	12.75	0.15	Leaves too large. Sun cured.	
TOTALS			66	186	626	272	478	652	2280	1314.44	AVG. 0.579		
Per cent of total lbs. sold			2.8	8.2	27.5	11.9	21.0	28.6					
Prices of Grades @ lb.			\$1.375	1.21	1.045	0.88	0.66	0.40	0.15				

This report does not include ~~time~~. These will be sold later.

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Table I shows that one-half of the tobacco sold was in the two (2) lower grades. Selecting too fertile land, the application of too much nitrogenous fertilizer, wide spacings in and between rows, delay in harvesting, and improper curing are factors which contributed to this result. Slightly over one-fourth was in the 88¢ grade. All growers also raise burley tobacco. With the exception of "delay in harvesting" and some improvised systems used in "improper curing", the use to a variable extent of certain practices common to the production and harvesting of burley tobacco is evident.

The second sale for the 1955 crop is expected, in at least one case, to include some tobacco in the top grade. This one is Tate. Napier had ideal curing weather for the portion of his crop sold on the first sale, but poor weather conditions for the portion to be sold on the second one.

LIVESTOCK

Beef Cattle

Our beef cattle program goals are to place more and better pure bred bulls, cull the cow herds and keep better heifers as replacements--assist farmers market their feeder calves, and the pure bred breeders in better breeding, feeding and marketing practices. Fifty (50) pure bred bulls were placed--thirty-five (35) farmers culled their cow herds, and six (6) farmers sold their calves through the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale. These calves sold for two to three cents more per pound than they were selling on an open auction market.

The Agents met with the Pure Bred Beef Cattle Breeders on the average of once a month to discuss mutual breeders problems. The breeders sponsored the County 4-H and FFA Baby Beef and Heifer Show last Spring and awarded prizes amounting to \$125.00. One (1) tour was made of the Red Hill Hereford Farm in August with an attendance of approximately forty (40) people.

Dairying

One (1) producer constructed a trench silo this year, making a total of three (3) who now have silos out of a total of five (5) who produce "Grade A" milk. Three (3) of these producers are practicing artificial insemination with very good results. The others are not within reach of this service.

The two hundred seventy-five (275) farmers producing "Grade B" milk are building up better cow herds by keeping good sires, and using good replacement heifers. They are also improving pastures and making progress in better feeding. These dairy farmers purchased twenty-five

(25) good bulls this year. Three hundred ninety-nine (399) farmers were contacted in connection with the U.S.D.A. Bangs Control Program and sixty (60) were given assistance on general management practices.

Swine

Since swine production in the county is entirely a home consumption enterprise a great deal cannot be done about it.

All producers are advised on internal and external parasite control, pastures, better feeding and pure bred replacement animals.

Sheep

Information was furnished one hundred twenty-five (125) sheep owners on control of both internal and external parasites, better winter feeding, and saving of the lamb crop. All wool in the county was sold cooperatively through the aid of the County Agents; approximately eighteen (18) pure bred rams were purchased for replacement, and two hundred fifty (250) stock ewes were bought for replacement also.

Poultry

Housing plans were furnished thirty-six (36) poultry producers. Timely information was sent out to six hundred twenty-five (625) farmers and three hundred fifty-five (355) bulletins distributed on control or poultry diseases and control of internal and external parasites. Sixty-eight (68) farmers were assisted in diagnosis of diseases and approximately twenty (20) sent sick birds to the Wytheville Laboratory for diagnosis.

SCOTT COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

This is an organization which was formed at the beginning of the Extension-T. V. A. Test Demonstration Program for the purpose of sponsoring the Demonstration Program for the advancement of agriculture in the county. They set up goals and encourage member demonstrators to carry out the goals and projects. They approve all new demonstrators, and graduate old members whose five (5) years have expired.

This organization has been a tower of strength to the entire Extension program by their support and cooperation. They contribute to the 4-H Club prize fund, and sponsor various activities of the county-wide program which require cooperation in time and money. It has been their policy to send one (1) or more adult leaders to the 4-H Camp each year and/or State Short Course.

UNIT TEST DEMONSTRATION FARMS

Our Unit Demonstrators have been reduced in number to eight (8) active demonstrators. This year they applied for and used the maximum amount of test demonstration material, seeded new pastures, an additional twenty-five (25) acres of alfalfa and tested out new varieties of corn and tobacco in cooperation with the Extension Agency Department. All of the demonstrators are improving their farms and livestock. They are using pure bred sires altogether and are making definite progress in soil building and conservation. The most of them visited other demonstrators this year either on tour or otherwise. This year they all had soil tests made and applied lime and fertilizer according to the recommendations following the tests. Seventeen (17) demonstrators attended the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Virginia Agricultural Association at Abington in April and twenty-five (25) attended one (1) county-wide planning meeting.

SPECIAL HEAVY APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION FARM

This farm operated and owned by Fred Oullien near Dungenon was carried as a special heavy application farm for five (5) years. The demonstrator has been graduated, but is still working with the County Agents.

During the five (5) years he limed all of his cropland, and old pasture where needed. He seeded fifty (50) acres of ladino-crowland grass pastures, put in thirty (30) choice beef heifers for cows, and kept ten (10) head of his best heifer calves each year to build up his herd, culling the herd annually. He markets his calves through the Feeder Calf Sale.

EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS OF INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATORS

O. H. Collierston

"I would not attempt to estimate the value of the Extension--F.V.A. Demonstration Program in terms of dollars and cents. To me the participation in the program has been profitable in both the increased income and increased knowledge. The application of the knowledge gained through the experience as a participant in the program has brought about a wonderful change in my own farm. This, of course, has increased the value of the property. The increase in farm yields has meant an increase in income and better living."

"I hope that I have been instrumental in the changes that have taken place in my community. Everywhere there is evidence of better farming practices. Farmers have awakened to the fact that the old time methods of farming are relics of the past. The use of fertilizer is steadily increasing; better seeds are being bought; better livestock is being raised; better pastures. A richer, fuller life is the evidence everywhere. My greatest compensation is derived from the feeling that I have served."

Hor Detron

"We have limed all of our cropland and more than doubled our fertilizer applications on crops. All of our old pastures have been treated with phosphate and potash where needed most."

"We have seeded thirty (30) acres of new pasture, and now have six (6) acres of alfalfa. This year we spent \$1,500.00 for home improvements including a new well and pressure water system."

G. W. Garter

"The Extension--F.V.A. program has created more interest in our community in better farming than any other program. It caused the farmers to improve pastures, repair and heal sheet and gully erosion which was wearing away the fertility."

G. W. Franke

"The Extension--F.V.A. program has increased the amount of livestock very much on my farm, and has enabled me in maintaining green fields which prevent leaching of the soil throughout winter months."

NATURAL TUNNEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A member of the Board of Supervisors and Secretary of the District the County Agent attended all of the Board meetings, and kept records of the proceedings; also, wrote seven (7) news stories in regard to the District program and plans. This year the District was awarded second honor in the State for the amount of work accomplished.

The two (2) technicians have completed about seven (7) farm maps and plans, have assisted with the ASC practices on a large number of farms, developed one (1) spring for livestock water and completed ten (10) livestock ponds. They have also, with the help from the District Engineer, layed out and supervised six (6) ditching projects for the number of farmers well distributed throughout the county. The ditching machine has just recently completed the last project in the Fairview section. Farmers are well pleased with these projects and it is felt that interest is sufficient to warrant the assumption that this work will be expanded in 1956. The Board has observed all of the conservation drives for soil and water conservation and tree planting. They have promoted county contacts designed to awaken more interest in conservation and what the District is trying to accomplish in the way of soil and water conservation and better land use.

IRRIGATION

Three (3) farmers are operating irrigation systems to grow better crops when rainfall is short. They are irrigating tobacco, strawberries, bunch beans, and other vegetables, as well as alfalfa and pasture on the R. G. Craft farm. Two (2) other farmers have had the advice and recommendations of J. A. Waller, Jr., Agricultural Engineer at V.F.I., to determine the feasibility and practical application to their conditions when and if they decide to install systems.

COUNTY WATER SYSTEMS

County Extension workers and heads of the other Agricultural agencies, and Health Department officials have been working on farm and home water systems for two (2) years.

This year there were approximately fifty (50) new systems installed. As a result of the drive for more water systems, or water under pressure in the homes; we now have a total of one thousand one hundred fifty one (1,151) farm homes with piped or water under pressure in the home. The farmers were reached through press and mass meetings as media of publicity.

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GOVERNMENT BONDS

This year we assisted with the Government Bond drive by distributing approximately two thousand five hundred (2,500) circulars to rural people.

COMMUNITY CLUBS

Of the original five (5) Community Clubs two (2) were rather inactive this year. One (1) active part of the year and the other two (2), Rye Cove and Slant accomplished most of their goals set up in their "plans of work". Slant was the only one to enter the contest. They were judged by Area Judges on Thursday, November 11th and sent seven (7) of their members to the Area Luncheon meeting sponsored by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and held at Hotel Bristol, November 17th.

The Home Agent and Assistant County Agent also attended this meeting. Some of the things accomplished by Slant Club was to improve and grade the grounds of church building, paint mail boxes and completed other lesser community projects.

They won a white ribbon and \$83.50 as prize in the Area Community Club Contest.

The Rye Cove Club prepared the land and seeded grass on the lawn of the new Rye Cove Consolidated High School. They also held "Open House" at the new building in August and served free lunch to three thousand five hundred (3,500) people attending.

FARM BUILDINGS

This year one hundred thirty-six (136) farm building plans were furnished farmers for general barns, tobacco barns, dairy barns, silos, houses and practically all out buildings and equipment, such as cattle holding chutes, poultry houses, tool and machine sheds.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION

The present organization of the County 4-H Clubs is shown in Figure 1.

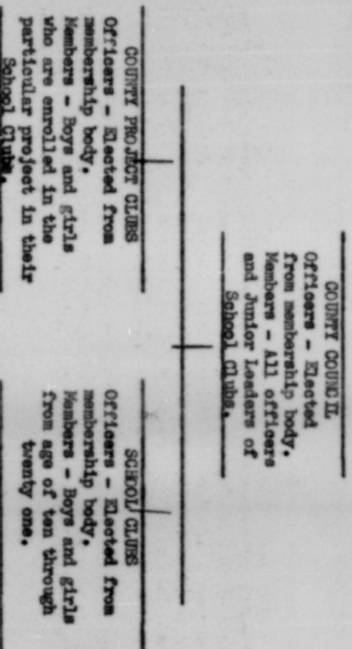


Figure 1 - 4-H Club Organization

Eight (8) officers were elected in the County Council and the Project and School Clubs. These were: President, Girls' and Boys' Junior Leaders, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Reporter, Song Leader, and Pledge and Motto Leader.

The following changes are planned in offices for 1955-56: County Council - Omit Junior Leaders and Pledge and Motto Leader. Add Game Leader. Project and School Clubs - Omit Pledge and Motto Leader. Add Game Leader.

Due to the fact that Junior Leaders are not entitled to use the Franking privileges, those holding this office on the Council level were of no value in helping to get records completed and turned in—this office was established primarily for this purpose. The only assistance they gave was in helping arrange some County-wide activities. They could have assisted in training Junior Leaders of the Clubs, but it is felt that this important job needs to be done by an adult. The Pledge and Motto Leader of the Council and Project and School Clubs will be omitted and the duties of this office will be performed by a member chosen by the Program Chairman. The duties were very small and more members will have an opportunity to lead the Pledge and Motto at the meetings.

Realizing the past weaknesses in recreation at Council and Project and School Meetings, Game Leaders will be elected in these three (3) groups to help correct this deficiency.

COUNTY COUNCIL

A County Council to serve for the 1954-5 year met twice—once, to elect officers and plan achievement Day and second, to make an overall plan for County-wide activities for the 1954-5 year. The latter includes an Officers Training Meeting in October.

Adult Leaders and Extension Agents served in an advisory capacity for these meetings.

SCHOOL CLUBS

In January 1954, there were twenty (20) School Clubs which either had been newly organized or reorganized the previous September. There were the same number the previous year. The latter twenty were Alley Valley, Cleveland, Clinedipport, Dunganon, Fairview, Fort Haddock, Hallows, Kenville, Mahony, Mountain View, Mohrsville, Patersonville, Rye Cove Senior, Rye Cove Junior, Shoemaker Senior (9th-11th grades), Shoemaker Junior III (7th and 8th grades), Shoemaker Junior II (6th grade), Shoemaker Junior I (5th grade), Weber City Junior II (6th and 7th grades), and Weber City Junior I (4th and 5th grades).

During the year, the county enrollment was reduced from five hundred eighty-two (582)—two hundred thirty-three (233) boys—in September, 1954 to three hundred fifty-six (356)—one hundred fifteen (115) boys—in April, 1955. This reduction was made largely through a screening process to drop the "deadwood". In September members were given their choice of taking either the Farm and Home Electric, Safety, or Health Projects and were told that they were to turn in these records in March, 1955 or be dropped from their Clubs. Along with this reduction, some Clubs merged and the final number was eighteen (18). Monthly meetings were held September through May.

TABLE II - MEMBER AND PROJECT ENROLLMENTS

	1953-4	1954-5
Number Clubs	20	18
Enrollment - Boys	182	115
Enrollment Girls	289	241
Enrollment - Total	471	356
Projects - Boys	252	207
Projects - Girls	549	479
Projects - Total	801	686

PROJECT CLUBS AND PROJECT WORK

I. Project Clubs

Three (3) 4-H Project Clubs were organized. These were the "Tractor Club", "Electric Club", and "Livestock Club".

The "Tractor Club" had ten (10) members—four (4) enrolled in Unit A of the Tractor Maintenance Project and six (6) in Unit G. The Ferguson dealer is the only active farm machinery dealer in the county. His facilities in Weber City were used for the instruction.

Eight (8) meetings were held in the Spring. First-year members were encouraged to attend all meetings and third-year members only the first, fourth, and seventh. At the first meeting the latter were given record forms for keeping account of tractor operating hours, services, and expenses. They gave progress reports on these at the fourth and seventh meetings.

At the seventh meeting the Tractor Operators' Contest was explained to all members and plans for this event were made.

Ed Reed placed first in the County Contest and second in the District Contest at Parlon. Because of custom work that he had already promised, he was not able to compete in the State Contest at V.P.I.

Instruction at the meetings was given by older members of the Club, the dealer, and the Assistant County Agent.

The "Electric Club" had two (2) meetings in the Gate City Appalachian Electric Power Company Auditorium.

Instruction was given in "Lighting" and "The Care of Farm and Home Electrical Appliances". Those taking part in the instruction were older project members, Power Company Home Economist, Home Demonstration Agent, and the Assistant County Agent.

The "Livestock Club" met once in the local Appalachian Electric Power Company Auditorium for the purpose of organizing and receiving basic instruction in judging cattle, sheep, and hogs, by use of photos.

All members participated during the year in at least one of the following: judging practice held at the County Baby Beef and Heifer Show, Judging School held in Seyth County, County and District Judging Contests.

Instruction was given by Hugh Henderson, 4-H Livestock Specialist; K. G. Williamson, Livestock Marketing Specialist; the County Agent; and the Assistant County Agent.

TABLE III - MEMBERSHIP IN PROJECT CLUBS

Club	No. Enrolled in Project	No. In Club	Per Cent in Club
Tractor*	10	10	100.0
Electric#	47	12	25.6
Livestock	25	7	28.0

*Members were not allowed to take this project without belonging to the Club.

#Girls not included in these figures.

All of these Project Clubs were considered very worthwhile and a fine opportunity for members enrolled in certain projects to learn more about those things in which they had indicated an interest. The response to such opportunities was surprisingly small and discouraging. At the school meetings when the possibility of establishing such Clubs was mentioned, practically all taking the particular projects seemed enthusiastic toward the idea.

II. Project Work

One hundred fifteen (115) boys enrolled in two hundred seven (207) projects. A breakdown of projects into Crop, Livestock, and general groups is shown in Tables IV, V, and VI.

TABLE IV - SUMMARY OF CROP PROJECTS

Name of Project	No. Members Enrolled	No. Members Completing	Total Receipts	Total Expenses	Labor Income	Value of Prizes Won
<u>Conservation</u>						
Soil and Water - Unit I	5	0				
<u>Forestry</u>						
Tree Identification	10	2				
Tree Planting	7	7				
Corn	6	1	\$2547.50	\$1120.46	\$1427.04	
Small Grain	2	0				
<u>Tobacco</u>						
Burley	4	2	970.00	210.98	759.02	\$1.50
Aromatic	2	0				
Potatoes, Irish	2	1	30.00	28.15	1.85	
Garden, Home	2	1	131.20	18.00	113.20	
Small Fruits, Strawberries	1	0				
TOTALS	41	13	\$3678.70	\$1777.59	\$2301.11	\$1.50

Table IV Shows that forty one (41) members enrolled and thirteen (13) completed their projects for a thirty one and seven tenths (31.7) per cent completion record. This is a twenty-five and seven tenths (25.7) increase from last year. The \$3678.70 total receipts and \$1377.59 total expenses resulted in the members receiving a labor income of \$2301.11. A total of \$1.50 in prize money was won.

TABLE V - SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Name of Project	No. Members Enrolled	No. Members Completing	Total Receipts	Total Expenses	Labor Income	Value of Prizes Won
<u>Beef</u>						
Baby Beef	2	2	\$ 568.16	\$ 296.76	\$ 271.40	\$ 5.00
Beef Heifer	1	1	150.00	135.95	14.05	25.00
Market Beef	2	2	115.00	73.45	41.55	
<u>Dairy</u>						
Dairy Production	2	2	766.40	563.60	202.80	
<u>Swine</u>						
Scow and Litter	3	2	412.00	200.45	211.55	
Market Pig	14	3	308.67	290.10	18.57	19.00
<u>Sheep</u>						
Farm Flock	3	2	1056.00	212.55	843.45	
<u>Poultry</u>						
Broilers	1	1	237.84	206.65	31.19	
Egg Production	1	0				
Rabbits	1	0				
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>\$3614.07</u>	<u>\$1979.51</u>	<u>\$1634.56</u>	<u>\$49.00</u>

Table V shows that thirty (30) members enrolled and fifteen (15) completed their projects for a fifty per cent (50%) completion record. This is twenty-eight and five tenths per cent (28.5%) increase from last year. The \$3614.07 total receipts and \$1979.51 total expenses resulted in the members receiving a labor income of \$1634.56. A total of \$49.00 was won in prize money.

TABLE VI - SUMMARY OF GENERAL PROJECTS

Name of Project	No. Members Enrolled	No. Members Completing	Value of Prizes Won
<u>Farm and Home Electric</u>			Trip to Richmond
Unit I	39	39	
Unit II	8	8	
<u>Entomology</u>			
Unit I	2	0	
<u>Tractor Maintenance</u>			
Unit A	4	2	
Unit C	6	6	
<u>Home Grounds Beautification</u>			
Unit I	1	0	
<u>Health</u>			
Home and Family	33	33	
<u>Safety</u>	43	43	
TOTALS	136	131	

Table VI shows that one hundred thirty-six (136) enrolled and one hundred thirty one (131) completed their General Projects for a ninety-six and four tenths per cent (96.4%) completion record. This is a sixty-three and seven tenths per cent (63.7%) increase from last year. A girl and a boy won an expense paid trip to the Electric Congress in Richmond in September.

TABLE VII - RECORD COMPLETIONS - Based on Total Different Boys Enrolled and Total Projects

	1953-54	1954-55
1. Number of Different Boys Enrolled	182	115
2. Number Members Completing a Project	55	115
3. Percentage Completions (Based on "1")	30.5	100.0
4. Number of Projects	252	207
5. Number Completed Projects	55	159
6. Percentage Completions (Based on "4")	21.8	76.9

Table VII shows that percentage completions based on number of different boys enrolled increased sixty-nine and eight tenths per cent

(69.8%) from 1953-4 to 1954-5 while the completions based on number of projects increased fifty-five and one tenth per cent (95.1%).

The one hundred per cent (100%) completion figure shown in the table was obtained in March when all members who had not turned in a record for either the Electric, Health, or Safety Project were dropped from their Clubs. This represented a fifty-five and six tenths per cent (55.6%) record completion (based on total projects carried) as of that time. This completion was made on the easiest projects carried, with the exception of Electric Unit II. The remaining twenty one and three tenths per cent (21.3%) completions were made on records which require more time and effort. This figure is approximately the same as the twenty one and eight tenths per cent (21.8%) completions for all projects in 1953-4, including both the simple and more difficult project records.

These results show that through a more effective screening process the weak, lazy, and disinterested members were culled, leaving those members who had shown some feeling of responsibility to carry on their Club work. In several cases Presidents, Junior Leaders, and other officers in Clubs were dropped.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

I. Achievement Day

The 1954-5 County Council Officers held the Annual 4-H Achievement Day on March 19, 1955. This event had been postponed three (3) times due to conflict with the County's first Tobacco Festival and due to snow on the roads. The day was rainy and only an estimated one hundred twenty-five (125) people attended. The planned Parade was cancelled because of the weather. The Awards Program and Junior and Senior Basketball Games were held.

The Midway Club won a set of table 4-H and United States Flags with the Plaques inscribed on their bases for having the best attendance on Achievement day (91.7%).

The Fort Raccoon Club won an Inscribed Gavel for having the best record completions for the year (97.5%—this was for the year 1954-4).

Twenty-two (22) medals were awarded to boys and girls taking Farm-type projects.

II. National 4-H Club Week

Members of the 4-H County Council were requested to write short news articles of their accomplishments in 4-H work and of other leadership activities. Their pictures and articles were in both of the county



NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

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newspapers during this week. Copies of these articles are attached. Three (3) Clubs put window displays in Gate City business places.

III. Baby Beef and Purebred Heifer Show

A County FFA and 4-H Club Baby Beef and Purebred Heifer Show was held in the Weber City Big Star Tobacco Warehouse on April 9th. Seven (7) baby beeves and three (3) heifers were shown.

4-H members had two (2) baby beeves and one (1) heifer. Charles Flanary of the Shoemaker Senior Club had the Champion Heifer. Thomas Page of the Clinchport Club had the third place baby beef and his brother, Roy, had the fifth place one.

Flanary received \$15.00 prize money and Thomas Page \$10.00.

This event was sponsored by the Scott County Purebred Breeders' Association and the Gate City Merchants. The baby beeves and heifer were shown and sold at the Bristol Show and sale the following week.

IV. 4-H Livestock Judging Team

Jimmy Kilbourne of Shoemaker Senior Club, Billy Rogers of the Fairview Club, and Thomas Page of the Clinchport Club competed, unofficially, in the District Livestock Judging Contest at V.F.I. on April 23rd. The County Team was not official because Page was not old enough. Of the five (5) teams competing, this team placed fourth.

Kilbourne, Rogers, and Billy Wayne Daugherty (Midway Club) competed in a Livestock Judging Contest at the Scott County Fair. Of the four (4) teams competing, this team placed third.

V. 4-H Rally Day

The second Annual County 4-H Rally Day was held on May 7th in the Weber City Big Star Tobacco Warehouse.

at the School Meeting in March, each Club elected a Rally Day Manager. This person's job was to collect ideas of activities and contests from members of his Club, come to a County-wide meeting where these ideas would be pooled, represent his Club by helping select contests to be held (done by voting), and be responsible for holding eliminations within his Club to determine who would represent it in the County-wide competition on Rally Day.

With the exception of the Talent Show and Horseshoe Fitching, contests were divided for Junior and Senior competition--Junior, being

4-H RALLY DAY

development is our use
the many features which make

grade school members and Senior, high school. For the softball, Clubs were divided into North and South Teams. The younger members played the first two (2) innings of each game.

Fourteen (14) of the eighteen (18) Clubs participated. At the first event, in 1954 eleven (11) of the twenty (20) Clubs participated. An estimated two hundred fifty (250) attended, compared to three hundred (300) the first year.

Twenty (20) contests were held. The Fort Blackmore Club successfully defended its Championship of the Junior Division and the Shoemaker Senior Club won the Senior Division award. These Clubs were awarded plaques, to be inscribed, and will be kept by them until next year when they have to let another Club have them unless they are successful again.

Individuals or members of teams were awarded ribbons if they placed first, second, or third in any of the contests, except softball.

Merchants of Weber City cooperated in sponsoring this event. A Program is attached.

VI. Talent Show

The Talent Show was held in connection with Rally Day. Six (6) of the eighteen (18) Clubs participated. The first contest was held in 1954 and six (6) of the then twenty (20) Clubs participated.

Mickey Ehea Hendricks, President of the County Council, won with a reading. She also won in 1954. She participated in the State Contest during Short Course.

VII. 4-H Camp

Twenty-three (23) girls and boys attended 4-H Camp in June at Camp Clyde Austin near Greeneville, Tennessee. They were accompanied by Miss Analeta Thomas, Adult Leader of the Fairview Club; the Home Agent; and the Assistant County Agent. In spite of the cold, rainy weather the members seemed to enjoy their camping. Activities and classes they participated in were swimming; folk games; softball; handicrafts; archery; firearms safety; shuffleboard; Indian Tribe Challenges; Candle-light Ceremonies; Rocks, Minerals, and Soils; and Forestry.

VIII. 4-H Short Course

Two (2) girls and two (2) boys attended the State Short Course at V.F.I. in June. They were Mickey Ehea Hendricks and Jimmy Kilbourne of the Shoemaker Senior Club and Marie Carter and Charles Hart of the

Hiltens Club.

These four (4) were accompanied by Miss Elisabeth Salling, Adult Leader of the Fort Blackmore Club; the Home Agent (Induction Training); and the Assistant County Agent.

Miss Hendricks represented the County in the Talent Show.

IX. 4-H Farm and Home Electric Congress

Marie Carter of the Hiltens Club and Billy Wright Rogers of the Fairview Club attended the 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond in September. They won these expense-paid trips as a result of being County Winners in the 4-H Electric Project. They were accompanied by the Assistant County Agent

X. Hog Show and Sale

Two (2) boys exhibited four (4) hogs in the Bristol Hog Show and Sale in September. All of these hogs were placed in the U.S. No. 1 Grade groups and averaged \$19.75 out.

XI. Scott County Fair

4-H Members entered exhibits in the following classes: tobacco, corn, and feeder calf.

Charles Gluss, Dugannon Junior Club, won the second prize of \$12.50 with his feeder calf.

Total prize money won by members amounted to about \$15.00.

XII. Sheep Shearing School

Jimmy Kilbourne, Shoemaker Senior Club, and Billy Rollins, Rye Cove Junior Club, attended a Sheep Shearing School in Lee County. This school was conducted by George Allen, Extension Sheep Specialist. The boys were accompanied by the Assistant County Agent.

XIII. Livestock Judging School

Billy Wayne Daugherty, Midway Club; Billy Rogers, Fairview Club; and Jimmy Kilbourne and Charles Flannery of the Shoemaker Senior Club attended a Livestock Judging School in Smyth County. The school was taught by Hugh Henderson, 4-H Livestock Specialist. The boys were

accompanied by the Assistant County Agent

XIV. Tractor Operators' Contest

Following the County Tractor Operators' Contest which was won by Edward Reed, Shoemaker Senior Club, he was taken by the Assistant County Agent to Marion to compete in the District Contest. Of the three (3) contestants, he placed second.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Good public relations is essential to the successful carrying out of Extension programs. We have maintained good relations with the County governing bodies, the press, civic organizations, schools and health department. We have always enjoyed wholehearted cooperation with all other agricultural agencies. The county agents assist these agencies with all of their educational activities and this year attended and took part in a total of seven (7) meetings of the ASC.

PUBLICITY

Since we have no radio or T.V. facilities locally it is necessary that we rely on the two (2) local weekly newspapers, and daily newspapers of Kingsport and Bristol. It is also necessary that we use circular letters and both community and county mass meetings as media of publicity.

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CONCLUSION

In reviewing the results of the year's progress we feel that most of the goals were carried out successfully--there are exceptions. The livestock goals were reached and in some cases exceeded--which is also true in the agronomy projects.

Marketing was not a major project but considerable time was spent in helping farmers market livestock and livestock products as well as certain crops.

Three (3) of the five (5) Community Clubs did not accomplish a great deal, which was due largely to lack of good planning. The other two (2) Clubs set up goals and carried them out successfully.

The Farm and Home Development Program made little progress due to lack of personnel and planning.

4-H Club work was well planned by Extension Agents and 4-H Council and results prove that it was a year of success and progress.

Work done with other agencies such as ASC and FHA and Natural Tunnel Soil Conservation District was carried out as planned, and we feel that the relationship with all agencies is most excellent.

The successful completion of the various projects was attained through the wholehearted cooperation of the V.P.I. Specialists, the District Agent, County Extension personnel, local newspapers, local leaders and the fine spirit of cooperation of all other County Agricultural Agencies.