

the entire farming operation was considered. Planning of the total farm operation was developed with certain flexible plans being made to meet unforeseen conditions.

VIII. RELATED AGENCIES.

Working relations that are harmonious and in accord, are important to greater agricultural needs in the county. Assistance has been given in helping them carry out the educational phases of their programs.

The special purebred pig chain has proved to be one of the major assets to 4-H member interest among the farm-boy members in the county. The agent feels that we do have a very good strain of Hampshire breeding gilts and they have improved the general farm breeding stock in several communities of the county.

4. 4-H Club Camps

62 members attended District Camp at Holiday Lake. Other counties attending were Buckingham, Prince Edward and Viuvanna. The week consisted of a full program of educational and recreational facilities and opportunities and was enjoyed by all.

11 delegates from the county attended State 4-H Short Course.

Two county club members attended State Conservation Camp at Virginia Beach.

5. Community Clubs

The 6 community 4-H Clubs of the county are really accomplishing more than the in-school clubs. Each of these clubs has at least two organizational leaders to help with the meetings. Meetings are held in the homes of the members and leaders. Project work is discussed and there are usually some games and refreshments at the end of the meeting.

One of the community clubs held an officer training meeting to train all county 4-H officers how to conduct their meetings in the most effective and efficient manner.

VII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

FES-21 would tend to indicate that this area of development has been completely forgotten. Though no work has been done on a formal basis, a number of operators have been helped through farm visits where

become 4-H Club members. The county agent works with all fourth grade groups, giving them the background knowledge of 4-H Club work. Each of the fourth grade members are enrolled in the Entomology Project.

The county-wide project was Wildlife. This has proven to be the most interesting project the agent has worked with before. There was 60% record cook completions, 60 bird feeders made, 78 bird houses made, and 180 Wildlife food patches sown for food and cover.

1. Electric Project

The County Extension staffs of Appomattox, Cumberland and Prince Edward Counties, along with local power suppliers supported a joint two-day Electric School at Holiday Lake. The primary objectives of this meeting were to offer recreational facilities as well as education to the club members. Thirty-eight members attended the Electric School from Appomattox County. County winners represented the county at the State Electric Congress in Richmond. They were Gene Chernault and Luella Martin. Percy Lucado was selected as a special delegate to the Congress to give a demonstration on "An Electric Hot Bed", and was chosen as the district winner to receive an award, a wrist watch. The Electric honor of the year for Appomattox was the state winner, Gene Carson, who won the trip to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago.

2. Livestock Project

One of the weakest links in our county 4-H program is the lack of livestock projects. We have excellent opportunities to exhibit project animals at the Five County Fair in Farnville and the Lynchburg Farm Show.

3. Special Swine Project

Social Security has developed new interest in record keeping over the past four years. The new electronic record keeping system was used by three farmers. It is helpful in that they have to complete the reports at the end of a month. Since this is a free service, others may plan to participate in 1960.

HIGHLIGHT - STRAWBERRIES BEAT TOBACCO

Often times specialists, among others, attend meetings without ever knowing if they motivated any action.

Two years ago, the small fruit specialist attended a farmers' meeting at the Pumpkin School to discuss the production of small fruits in Appomattox County.

One farmer in the group invested \$12.00 in plants, 200 pounds of fertilizer and his time. That summer he picked 12 to 15 quarts. The following October, he set another four rows, and in the Spring of 1959, another seven rows.

This past harvest season was his first real opportunity to see what kind of income he could expect. On a little less than one-half acre (including the new planting) he picked 2,530 quarts, and sold them for \$531.00. He explained that the strawberries brought in more money per acre than tobacco, and with a lot less work.

H. 4-H

The 4-H Club program in Appomattox County is rapidly moving toward community club organization. Community Clubs are proving to be the most efficient and satisfactory method. The entire program consists of 20 school clubs and 6 community clubs.

All children in fourth grades and above are given opportunity to

and, at the same time, help improve the quality of swine.

E. DAIRY

Dairy farmers are doing a better job of feeding and breeding than ever. This is reflected in increased milk production, lower cost of production, thus, increased returns.

A Dairy Banquet was held in March for dairymen and their wives.

Dr. Harry Love addressed the group.

Only two Grade A dairymen are not using artificial breeding. In 1960, telephones will be available to them and they will probably join the others in up-grading their cattle.

One manufactured milk producer has just completed construction of an elevated milking stall with cow to can milkers. Others will follow.

F. FARM AND HOME LIGHTING

Two homes were used as demonstration areas of good lighting. Open house was held at one in September - a cold, rainy night - yet 28 made the tour. 4-H members gave explanations as to how lighting was improved. The other home will hold open house in the Spring.

G. MINOR AREAS

A Town and Country Institute was held in April. The 1958 Institute was of such success that another was planned. Yet, for reasons yet undetermined, it did not meet with such success. Twenty-eight attended the 1959 Session.

A number of farm homes have access to their own honey. It is produced only for their own use, and perhaps to give to a neighbor. Two farmers receive a major portion of their income from honey sales. A bee school was held in March.

HIGHLIGHT #2 - 35% INCREASE IN FEEDER SALE CONSIGNMENTS

Sales through organized feeder calf sales have been from two to five cents higher than through conventional cattle sales.

Consignment forms were mailed all beef cattle owners giving sale requirements. This publicity, combined with visits to farms to discuss these sales, helped bring about this increase.

This increase should in 1960, aid in bringing other producers into the sale.

The ultimate goal is to have 75 to 80% of all calves produced sold through organized feeder sales.

HIGHLIGHT #3 - FIRST FEEDER PIG SALE

Every farm has some corn in rotation, much of which is sold as grain. Actually, we are not a heavy grain producing area, therefore, it is not feasible to consider finishing livestock. Yet, to sell grain on the market offers little opportunity for a reasonable net profit.

Feeder calf sales fit in with a large operation, but not the small farmer. A feeder pig sale would provide those who grow corn, an opportunity of marketing it through sows for pig production.

A survey was made of those farmers known to have sows, to determine if there would be sufficient pigs to attempt holding a sale. This survey was conducted in July. Indications were that there would be sufficient interest.

The first sale is scheduled for December 10, with 1,000 pigs from the seven surrounding counties of Lynchburg.

Four sales have been scheduled for 1960. This will be another way Extension can help farmers market their products at the highest price,

that farmers in this area can maintain incomes which will supply the family with their reasonable needs.

D. LIVESTOCK

Livestock production is rapidly replacing tobacco as the principal source of income, which is as it should be. The topography of our land lends itself to pasture and forage crops.

In October, 1958, three herds were treated with systematic (Co-Bal and Troiane) to control Grubs. These herds were visited in February to determine the extent of effectiveness. Troiane, which is in bolus form, was very effective. Co-Bal showed very little control over the check group. One point that should be considered is that Co-Bal is a spray and the coverage may not have been complete.

Wool was marketed with the South Boston Pool to the highest bidder. For the first time, the county clip did not go to Lynchburg for sale with United Wool growers. Producers were pleased with results.

HEALTHCARE #1 - BRUCELLLOSIS TESTING PROGRAM

The County Brucellosis Testing Program began September 1. This program is designed to clean up our herds that have reactors and to vaccinate bullocks between 4 and 8 months of age.

Kesterson's part was to inform cattle owners of what was to take place, how the program was to be conducted, and locate cattle owners on a map for the veterinarian. At visitations with leading farmers who knew the cattle owners in their communities, they helped plot the farms on a map and estimate number of cattle.

To complete the test will require at least one year.

or can be harvested when income from other farm revenue is down. In recent years markets have become available to timber owners, particularly pulpwood. There are few farms that don't harvest some pulp during the year.

A hardwood elimination demonstration was set up to show control of hardwoods by using:

1. Amate crystals on stump
2. Amate crystals in solution on stump
3. Frill and treat with 2,4,5-T in oil
4. 2,4,5,-T and oil on stumps
5. Cut hardwoods, spray sprout growth with 2,4,5,-T
6. Check plot cut trees - no treatment

Loblolly pine seedlings were planted in these areas. Each area was one-tenth acre in size.

HIGHLIGHT - CHRISTMAS TREE SPECIE PLOT

Growing and marketing of Christmas trees seems to be one way to profitably use land not in cultivation. It would appear from reports that a greater return could be expected from Christmas trees than from seedlings planted for pulp and timber production.

One land-owner is planting 2,000 white pines for Christmas tree production.

Actually, we do not know which specie will do best on our soils and with our climactic conditions. For this reason, this grower has agreed to plant 100 each of several species to help determine what tree should be recommended in this area. It will take 4 to 7 years, or until they reach marketable age before final analysis can be made.

It is, with this information, that another way may open up so

by many growers to be reflected to the graders. Should this be true, it will be helpful. With this change the variety plots are of little value as an educational demonstration while growing. It will be helpful to interested farmers at selling time.

HIGHLIGHT - NEW TOBACCO PRODUCED IN AFFRATTON COUNTY

With the curtailment of dark fire-cured tobacco, and the small acreage of flue-cured and burley which are also controlled with allotments, the need arises for something else to take its place, or at least supplant that which has been lost. Many farms have small areas of open land. Some families have adequate labor to supply the farm. Aromatic tobacco seems to be a possibility. Cost of production is low - no allotments - no additional building requirements in most instances - good return per pound of quality tobacco sold. All of these factors add up to a commodity that on many farms, can replace lost income. 4

Two farmers grew aromatic tobacco in 1959 for the first time. Fred Jones grew .77 acres and Willie Hix grew .23 acres. The latter harvested approximately one-third of his crop thus figures obtained will not be representative. Jones sold 950 pounds for \$765.67. Production costs were \$413.90, giving him a net of \$351.77. Throughout the harvest season, he was about two weeks behind in harvesting, which lowered the quality. Another year, ye plans to grow two acres, using a curing system that will more nearly meet curing requirements for this type tobacco.

With the success of one grower it is expected that another year there will be others who will begin production of this type tobacco in 1960.

C. FORESTRY

Forestry products are like money in the bank - it can be left to grow

made for leaving soil sample boxes and record sheets. A display showing how proper fertilization could increase corn yield and lower the cost per bushel, thereby returning the farmer a greater return per hour labor, was set up for two weeks in a local bank. News articles directed toward soil testing - radio programs telling why, were used to develop interest.

Results - 44% increase in soil samples brought to extension office.
No check was available from other agencies.

B. TOBACCO

Dark fire-cured farmers in particular, might as well face up to the fact that no longer can they think of this as their primary source of income, but as a secondary source. Federal controls, which come through less demand from this type tobacco, are slowly reducing the acreage planted. Extension should set the pace and help farmers adjust to what seemingly, is inevitable.

For several years farmers have relied on chemicals to help control suckers. This year buyer demands ruled it out.

Dark fire growers have used large amounts of water to bring tobacco in "order". Now buyer demands have countered this practice. Growers have been led to believe by warehousemen and buyers that water applied to quality tobacco brings out those desirable qualities. A great deal of concern is mounting among growers, fear that their tobacco will be graded "W" (wet).

The variety test on T. H. Tanner's farm was continued this year with one principal change. The tobacco was assigned a number rather than identifying it by name. When graded and sold it will be identified. Some buyers have indicated a dislike for certain varieties and this was felt

An attempt was made to set up a three-year fertility test. The rotation being corn, small grain and red clover; the corn would show three rates of fertilizer and two rates of corn planting. Difficulties occurred in the distribution of fertilizer and seed planting, thus no results could be obtained. It is anticipated that a new attempt will be made in 1960.

Twelve farmers visited the Beltsville experiment station for one and one-half days.

One of the T.V.A. Test Demonstrators discontinued his farming operation during the year, reducing the number to four. Because of controls on fertilizer allocation from T.V.A., the fifth farm will not be replaced.

Three farmers enrolled in the 20-Ton per acre Corn Silage Contest. Clarence Moore produced 20.5 tons. Others were from 5 to 8 tons above the county average.

One farmer began production of certified wheat. This is an area where farmers can realize additional income from their grain crop.

HIGHLIGHT - 44% INCREASE IN SOIL SAMPLES

As mentioned in the 1958 annual narrative, a report from fertilizer dealers indicates that generally farmers are not particularly interested in the analysis - but what is the cost. Cost is important - so are returns. There are indications that lime is used most often in large amounts, three to four tons per acre, or not at all.

If soils could be fertilized and limed according to soil type, crop to be grown, previous practices and soil test, perhaps the end result would be more important than the initial cost of fertilizer.

Calls were made to distributors of fertilizer and arrangements were

V. EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

Insofar as possible, the extension program for Appomattox County is developed through committees. Yet, in the planning of an extension program, it must be flexible enough to permit deletions and additions as changes occur.

Program development through committees allows the individual farmer to grasp some idea of agriculture county-wide and occasionally, even broader concepts. Thus program development aids the farmer who serves his county.

Committee members are appointed by the Agricultural Council which is made up of the chairman and secretary of the several commodity committees.

The missing link in Extension and other rural work, is dynamic rural leadership.

VI. PROGRAM EMPHASIS IN AGRICULTURE AND 4-H

A. AGRONOMY

New interest in certain phases of agronomy was noted this year; liquid nitrogen for top dressing small grain - more fertilizer was being spread by spreader truck. Others have found that the testing of seed for germination and weed seed is important. Other interests have been generated toward chemicals for weed control.

There were other areas where more detailed work was done:

A Soils School was held in April with attempt being made to familiarize farmers with soil types in order that they might better manage the soils on their farm and select crops that are adaptable to their soil conditions.

Three corn variety demonstrations were conducted, one using two V.F.I. varieties and the other using Pioneer varieties.

IV. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Historic Appomattox County is located in the geographic center of the State on a Piedmont Plateau, bordered on the north by the James River, the east by Prince Edward and Charlotte Counties, and by Campbell in the south and west. Here originates the Appomattox River.

343 square miles of gently rolling soil forms the land area. Soil types vary, as is peculiar to the many counties located in Piedmont Virginia. Soils range from Rhinoceros, a transported soil of streams, to the heavy Davidson found in the northwest section and interspersed with Lloyd, Cecil, Appling, Meddison, Tatum and Mason. Forest area covers approximately 611 of the County.

Appomattox County is served by the main lines of the Norfolk and Western Railway. Route 460 is the predominant highway running from Lynchburg, 21 miles west, to Farmville, 32 miles east, and in addition, Routes 24 and 26 service areas to the north and south.

Holiday Lake, located in the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest, attracts many visitors who utilize the recreational facilities during the summer months.

The Surrender Grounds, operated by the United States Park Service, is a year-round attraction which commemorates the ending of the War Between the States.

Industry-wise, the county is unbalanced. Two garment factories provide work opportunities for women, whereas saw milling provides the only source of off-farm work for men. There is a great need for industrial employment of men. Many men now commute to Lynchburg to find work in industry.

This is a county abundant in tradition settled by a people who believe in themselves, their soil, and freedom of the individual.

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1959

NARRATIVE REPORT

Appomattox County

JAMES A. SMITH, COUNTY AGENT

G. D. GILLIAM, JR., ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

JAMES A. SMITH

Name

COUNTY AGENT

Agent

Title

G. D. GILLIAM, JR.

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



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County