

ident Engineer was obtained for discussion of the highway problems in the Community. This was done in 2 of the Community Clubs. Community Clubs have been very successful in getting different roads hard-surfaced and specific problems corrected in their Communities, as a result of discussing this with the Resident Engineer at their meetings.

At the request of a local veterinarian, the Agent worked out a schedule and publicized a Rabies Clinic for one-half-a-day in the County. Assistance was given to the veterinarian at 3 different locations in the vaccination of dogs.

#### XIX CONCLUSION

It can be noted throughout this report that the work could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the many different Adult Leaders in both Adult and h-H Club work. Also the work could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the many merchants and dealers and the President of the local Bank. Working with representatives of the other Agricultural Agencies, Representatives of the Power Company, fertilizer salesmen and Ministers and others, made it possible to carry out the many phases of the program planned at the beginning of the year.

Farmers have had a successful year, as a result of the favorable growing and harvesting season. It is believed that farmers, especially soybean and corn producers, are ready and willing to accept new recommended practices. The agricultural situation and outlook is good in this County.

line of work carried out during the year. It is estimated that 77 different homemakers, landowners, and others have been assisted. Detailed information on this work has been stated under Horticulture. The use and care of home equipment was emphasized through the h-H Farm and Home Electric Project with boys and girls.

Two meetings were held with reference to electric equipment and installation of sewerage and water systems. A survey was made to determine all residences in the County that do not have water under pressure. Plans were made to contact, by letter, the persons on the list and offer assistance in furnishing information and other help through local plumbers and credit agencies to install water systems. This work was not completed this year, however it is expected that a further survey will be made in January.

In 2 Community Improvement Clubs, an objective was included to improve home lighting, in a total of 13 homes. A Representative of the local Power Company was obtained who discussed "Lighting and Electrical Problems on the Farm and in the Home". At one of the Community Improvement Club Meetings, a Home Economist of the local Power Company discussed "Improvement in Lighting".

Better lighting was also discussed with h-H Club Members. Home lighting was improved in at least 15 homes, mostly through the use of proper lamps. The Agent worked closely with the local Power Company's Agricultural Representative, and discussed with him some of the electrical problems on farms. The Representative also discussed this with 2 of the Community Improvement Clubs.

#### XVIII HEALTH, FAMILY LIFE & SAFETY

Much of this work was conducted through the Community Improvement Clubs. Assistance was given in planning the objectives and assistance given in procuring speakers to help carry out the objectives. The local Health Sanitarian spoke on local health conditions and requirements for sewerage systems at one of the Club meetings. At h-H Club meetings, the Agent informed the members of some of the services offered through the local Health Unit Office, such as taking samples of drinking water. One Community Improvement Club had as an objective to have a dental check-up each 6 months; to participate in polio vaccine clinics; to have 6 people participate in the Bloodmobile, and have 4 people have improvement in diet. The Director of the local Health Unit discussed at 2 Community Improvement Club Meetings the services offered by the local Health Unit. One Community Improvement Club sponsored and conducted a First Aid Course for adults and made contributions to the TB Association. Members in each Club were encouraged to have chest X-rays made when the Unit was in the County.

More telephones and better service was an objective in one Community Club. A community house has been started by members in 1 Community Club. Members of the different Clubs worked for improvement in the hard-surfacing of roads, and the correction of different road problems. The Res-

5 meetings of the Board held during the year. Farmers were encouraged to participate in the Tidewater Soil Conservation District Program. Assistance was given in establishing the soil conservation practices through the ASC Program, and also in setting up objectives in the Tidewater Soil Conservation District Program.

In connection with the Wildlife Program, forty-two 4-H Club members completed this Project. Seed, obtained through the local County Game Warden, was distributed to 37 different members in this Project. Seed from the same source was also obtained for a number of farmers in the County for border planting of fields. It has already been stated that the 4-H Clubs conducted programs concerning Wildlife.

#### XV FARM BUILDINGS AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

One of the goals under this line of work was to assist farmers with plans for the construction of 8 new storage buildings to house home-grown grains. This would also include plans for trench or bunker or stack-type silos. During the year, 15 or more different plans have been distributed including plans for storage, feeding equipment for livestock, portable cattle feeders, farrowing pens and stalls, holding chutes and other types of farm equipment. As a result of the Brucellosis program, all beef cattle producers have constructed some type of holding chute for cattle. Some very excellent chutes have been constructed.

Through the 4-H Tractor Maintenance Project, 15 Four-H Club members and others have learned to give better care and maintenance to their tractors.

#### XVI PLANNING & MANAGEMENT OF FARM BUSINESS

At least 14 families have been worked with in the identifying, analyzing, and solving of complex inter-related problems of the farm and/or home. In this County, there are a number of farms in the Estate area, as designated in a land use map. In most cases, when the farm is purchased by a new owner, the Agent is called in to discuss farm enterprises and problems. The Agent is called on often in some cases to assist in getting the new farm owner started in his farm operations.

Many farmers request the County Agent to visit the farm for general farm management planning. It is estimated that 289 different farmers or other individuals have been assisted in this line of work. A number of farmers have been advised with reference to obtaining farm credit and in making contact with the different sources of farm credit, including the local bank. Assistance has been given with reference to filing for Social Security, and assistance given in contacting the local Social Security Representative. Farm record keeping has been encouraged with adult and 4-H Club members.

#### XVII THE HOUSE, SURROUNDINGS, FURNISHINGS & EQUIPMENT

The landscaping of home grounds has been the most important phase in this

Circular entitled "Spraying Fruit - A Spray Program for Home Gardeners". The spray chart includes spray information for apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, raspberries, and strawberries. Information from this Circular was also discussed at a meeting of the Garden section of the Gloucester Woman's Club. This information was also given on a radio program.

It is estimated that 252 farmers and other individuals were assisted with subjects relating to the vegetable garden. Each month, from January through November, 150 vegetable circulars which are prepared at V.P.I. are mailed to farmers and others in the County. Through phone calls, office visits, and Community Improvement Club meetings, information has been given about vegetable gardening. The 3 Community Improvement Clubs included objectives pertaining to improvement in fruits and vegetables.

During the Summer and Fall, many very outstanding vegetable gardens could be seen throughout the County, and a number of 4-H Club members grew excellent gardens.

An Associate Extension Horticulturist, L. B. Wilkins, discussed vegetable gardening at 1 of the Community Improvement Club meetings. The Agent also discussed vegetable gardening at Community Improvement Club meetings.

At 2 of the Community Improvement Club meetings, A. G. Smith, Jr., Associate Extension Horticulturist, at V.P.I., discussed ornamental horticulture and landscape gardening. A meeting was also held in one Community at which time Mr. Smith demonstrated the pruning of shrubs and landscaping.

The Virginia Flower Growers' Association, which is an organization of daffodil growers in Gloucester, Mathews, and York Counties, held 2 meetings in Gloucester during the year. At one meeting, Mr. Smith discussed "How Picking Practices May Be Improved to Improve the Quality of the Flowers". At another meeting, marketing and freight problems were discussed and Directors and Officers were elected. It is estimated at least 43 different flower growers and others were assisted with daffodil production and information pertaining to ornamental shrubs.

#### XIV SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE

Some phases of soil and water conservation have been included in the Agronomy Program and in the Forestry Program. It is estimated that 193 farmers and other individuals were assisted in adopting recommended practices. This included such practices as proper land use, crop rotations, drainage, the use of recommended fertilizers, land clearing, and soil testing. The Agent attended 11 ASC meetings, and devoted 8 days working with this Agency to help further promote soil conservation. As Secretary of the Tidewater Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the Agent arranged and attended

The Agent attended the h-H Club Congress in Chicago and returned to the County in December, 1957. A h-H Club member also attended at that time, and was a National winner in Forestry.

The h-H Club program could not have been accomplished without the assistance of 21 Adult h-H Club Leaders and 17 Junior Leaders; also Adult Leaders of the different Commodity Committees, Community Improvement Clubs and business organizations. In recognition of the work done by Adult Leaders, four h-H Recognition Certificates and 6 Four-H Leader Recognition pins were awarded to Leaders; 1 for 15 years; 2 for 10 years; and 3 for 5 years as h-H Club Leaders.

### XII DAIRYING

The same h dairymen have continued to operate in the County during the year, however, dairy cows on farms have continued to decline.

An effort was made during the year to have all dairymen in the County become members of the Norfolk Milk Producers' Cooperative, and this was accomplished. Many benefits have come to the dairymen as a result of membership in this Cooperative.

Only 2 dairymen are members of the local D.H.I.A. Assistance was given by the Agent in planning the area meeting of the D.H.I.A. which includes 6 Counties. The meeting was held in Urbanna, in Middlesex County.

Through the Pasture and Forage Crop Programs, already discussed, dairymen were included in the programs. Special assistance has been given to 1 dairyman who has been included in the Farm Development Program.

Assistance was given in completing the dairy questionnaire by dairymen in the County. Dairymen were encouraged to attend local area meetings held in an adjoining County concerning bulk handling of milk. Plans were worked out for 2 dairymen to start in bulk handling, and assistance given another in helping to accomplish this. A third dairyman will have bulk tank handling facilities by the first of the year.

The County h-H Dairy Galf Club has not held regular meetings, as such, however, members enrolled in the Dairy Project were given special training in judging. The Dairy Galf Club awarded to one of the members of the Dairy Galf Club, a cow model. This was the fourth cow model awarded a member of the Galf Club for having judged in the National Contest.

### XIII HORTICULTURE

Disease and insect control with tree fruits and vegetables were the leading topics in assistance given home owners. Other subjects were also worked with during the year, including ornamental horticulture and the daffodil program.

It is estimated that h3 different farmers and other individuals were assisted with problems pertaining to fruit. A number of farms were visited and assistance given in pruning different tree fruits. Many requests for information on spraying were answered, and information given in the V.P.I.

1. Methods & Results:

Eight of the nine Club Secretaries turned in Secretary books for competition in the Contest. Awards were made at the Achievement Program in the form of savings accounts to 4 of the members. A total of \$25.00 was contributed by the Bank of Gloucester for the Contest.

I. Objective:

To promote 4-H Club work was an objective of the 3 Community Improvement Clubs and the Ruritan Club.

1. Methods & Results:

The Ruritan Club has sponsored the 4-H Dairy Chain Program. The Ruritan Club awarded \$15.00 to the most outstanding 4-H Club member this year, Arthur Streagle. Arthur was a member of the State Poultry Judging Team, and was high individual at the Atlantic Rural Inter-State Judging Contest. In the National Invitational Poultry Judging Contest, he was high individual in the production division of judging, at the Contest which was held in Chicago in 1950.

One Community Improvement Club made awards to the 2 most outstanding 4-H Club members in their Community. In addition to this, 2 of the Community Improvement Clubs contributed \$12.00 for the purchase of 20 subscriptions to the National 4-H News. The subscriptions were sent to 4-H Club Leaders, School libraries and to barber shops. Also the Community Improvement Clubs sponsored special recreational activities for 4-H Clubs in their Communities.

A total of 51 County medals were awarded to 4-H Club members for outstanding work done in 4-H projects and activities. Other awards which have not been mentioned, received by 4-H Club members and presented at the Annual Achievement Day Program include the Sears' Cow-Pig-Hen Project awards and the special poultry awards to nine 4-H Club members as a result of the Poultry Field Day scoring of individual projects. The awards were made possible by the members of the County Poultry Committee and the Fara Bureau.

250 baby chicks, two 4-H Club jackets, a poultry feeder and poultry equipment were the awards. The nine 4-H members who made exhibits at the Atlantic Rural Exposition received cash prizes amounting to \$12.50.

A Guernsey Cow Model was awarded by the County 4-H Dairy Calf Club to a 4-H member who was a member of the State Dairy Judging Team, and placed 6th high individual in judging Guernseys, and 8th high individual in over-all judging of 5 different dairy breeds in the National Dairy Judging Contest at Waterloo, Iowa. He tied with another member for the top score of 47 out of a possible 50 in giving written reasons on a class of dairy cows.

**E. Objective:**

Encourage h-H members to submit achievement records in competition for District and State Awards, was an objective with a goal of 6 records.

**1. Methods & Results:**

Records were submitted for 10 different h-H Club members in the projects of Achievement, Poultry, Field Crops, Garden and Entomology. The awards won included a \$20.00 scholarship to the State Short Course in the Entomology Project; a \$25.00 Savings Bond and a \$15.00 scholarship to the State Short Course by a member in the Field Crops; and a \$15.00 scholarship to the State Short Course by a member in the Garden Project. William Weaver, Jr. won a trip to the h-H Club National Congress in Chicago, and a scholarship to the State Poultry Federation. Fred Stratton won a 17-jewel watch in the District Field Crop Contest.

To the 10 members who submitted Achievement records, 3 were awarded blue seal certificates; 4 - red seal certificates; and 3 - white seal certificates at the Annual Achievement Day Program.

**F. Objective:**

To select a banner club was an objective, and the goal set was for each Club to carry out all of the County objectives.

**1. Methods & Results:**

At the Annual Achievement Program, the banner trophy was awarded to the Club that carried out all the objectives most successfully. Most of the Clubs completed most of the objectives which were set up at the beginning of the year.

**G. Objective:**

Clubs to contribute to Jamestown Camp Fund, was another objective.

**1. Methods & Results:**

Ever since the Jamestown Camp was established at the new location, it has been an objective for different h-H Clubs to make contributions to the Jamestown Camp Fund. This year 8 of the 9 Clubs made contributions.

**H. Objective:**

Sponsor a h-H Club Secretary's Contest with each h-H Club Secretary participating.

Project. The Agent and 2 older h-H Club boys attended the District Training Meeting held in Tappahannock in January. The 2 boys then gave instruction to 15 Four-H members at 4 meetings held at a local Tractor Dealer's Shop.

Another specific enrollment goal was to enroll 40 boys and girls in the Farm and Home Electric Project. Forty-two were enrolled with 36 completing 96 articles. The number of girls enrolled did not meet the requirements for the District Contest and only a boy attended the h-H Electric Congress held in Richmond. The Agent attended part-time.

Although there was not a definite goal relative to the number to enroll in the Forestry Project, special emphasis was given to this. Fifty-two members enrolled with 39 completing. The members included in the different forestry projects offered, included forestry appreciation. The number of trees planted has been stated under Forestry.

Entomology was another project which received special attention during the year through the special assistance of an Adult Leader. Exhibits of the insect collections were displayed at the District Contest Day, also at the local High School and at the Annual h-H Achievement Program. Most of the 15 members who completed this project, carried on outstanding work during the year. Three of the members gave demonstrations at the Annual Achievement Program on the Unit I and Unit II Entomology Projects.

Activities carried on with h-H members in the Swine and Poultry Projects have been stated under Livestock and Poultry headings. However, in addition, assistance was given by the Agent in assembling and carrying to the Atlantic Rural Exposition 10 Poultry exhibits for nine h-H Club members. The prizes won were announced and awarded at the Achievement Program.

In October, a special h-H Club exhibit was put on display for 2 weeks by the Senior h-H Club at the Gloucester High School. Also a h-H Float was prepared by members from the three different h-H Clubs at the High School, for Homecoming. The float last year won first place, but this year's did not place.

#### D. Objective

To make All Star Recommendations was an objective with 1 boy and 1 girl and alternates nominated.

#### 1. Methods & Results:

Recommendations were made with the assistance of County All Star Chapter members, and 1 boy and 1 girl were accepted into the organization. Other All Star activities included a Recreational Program held in August at the home of 2 of the All Star members.

sex County on June 7th, with an attendance of 140 Four-H members, leaders and parents. Plans were made also for the observance of Rural Life Sunday, which was observed in May with a program at the Union Baptist Church, in one section, and the First Presbyterian Church, in another section, of the County. Through Committees appointed at the Council meeting, including Adult Leaders, the programs were worked out with the Ministers. The County-wide program was reviewed by the Agent at the April Council meeting. Plans were made also for the District and State Short Courses. Plans were also made at this meeting for the h-H District Contest Day held at the Atlantic Rural Exposition on May 10th.

The goal to have fifty h-H members to attend the District h-H Camp was exceeded as there were 63 Four-H boys and girls who attended, with 5 Leaders and the County Agent. A goal of 14 members and 1 Adult Leader was set to attend the State h-H Short Course. The delegation that did attend included 6 girls, 13 boys, 1 Adult Woman Leader and the Agent. Most of the members took part in different contests and activities of the Short Course. The results will be discussed later in the report. The goal to have 1 member attend the Forestry Camp, and 4 members attend the Conservation Camp was not attained, however, the Forestry Camp was held the same date as the State Short Course, and for this reason no member attended. Plans were made, and members enrolled to attend the Conservation Camp, however, circumstances developed that no one attended.

In the District Contests held on May the 10th, at the Atlantic Rural Exposition, h-H Teams from the County competed in the Jr. and Sr. Poultry and Livestock Judging Contests, and the Sr. Dairy Judging Contest. Demonstrations were given on the Egg Grading, Electric and Forestry Projects by Jr. and Sr. members. A Jr. and a Sr. member participated in the h-H Tractor Driving Contest. A total of 30 members, 8 leaders, and the Agent attended the contests. The members won a total of 36 ribbons. A County school bus was used for transportation.

At the September meeting of the Council, plans were made for the Annual h-H Achievement Program and plans for the completion of h-H Club projects. The different awards that were made at the Achievement Program will be stated later in the report.

#### G. Objective:

To enroll h-H members in the different h-H Projects offered was an objective with h-H members enrolled in 450 projects as a goal.

#### 1. Methods & Results:

Members enrolled in a total of 482 projects and completed 349. A specific goal was to enroll 20 members in the Tractor Maintenance

## XI 4-H CLUB WORK

This year, out-of-the-County 4-H Club activities attended by the Agent included: the 4-H Tractor School; the Jamestown 4-H District Short Course, as Director; the State 4-H Short Course; the Electric Congress in Richmond (part-time), and the State 4-H Adult Leaders' Conference. Participation by 4-H members in all of the events, relating to them, has been very outstanding by many. With the assistance of the County 4-H Council, Adult Leaders, and business organizations, the 4-H Club Program was carried out during the year with much interest by 4-H members and leaders. The accomplishments will be noted under methods and results.

### A. Objective:

The reorganization of nine 4-H Clubs with an enrollment of 380 members was the first objective and goal for the year.

#### 1. Methods & Results:

In November, nine 4-H Clubs were reorganized, officers elected and boys and girls enrolled. Girls are enrolled although there is no Home Demonstration Agent in the County. A total of 364 members were enrolled.

### B. Objective:

Reorganization of the County 4-H Council was an objective with a goal of 3 meetings to be held during the year.

#### 1. Methods & Results:

At the meeting of the 4-H Council held in January, officers were elected, objectives for the County-wide 4-H Club Program were set up by the members. This included a discussion and plans for programs for meetings of the different clubs. "Conservation of Natural Resources" was the general subject selected for programs. Each Club conducted programs on the subjects of Forestry, Water, Soil, Minerals, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

In March, National 4-H Club Week was observed in the County with a display of printed posters at 3 different schools, and also posters made by 4-H members at 3 different schools. A special display was prepared by 4-H members at the H.S. and remained on exhibit for the week. A radio program was given with the use of the tape recorder which included a program consisting of group singing of the "Flowing Song", by one 4-H Club, and an interview by the Agent of 5 older 4-H Club members and 1 Adult Leader.

At the April Council meeting, plans were made for the Annual Rally Day Program which was held at Camp Woodcliff in Middle-

At the 4th Annual County Forestry Club Supper Meeting, forestry certificates for the first time were awarded by the V.P.I. Agricultural Extension Service to 6 Adults who were first-place winners in the different forestry improvement practices. Certificates were also presented with \$75.00 in cash, to five h-H Club members who were first-place winners in the different forestry improvement practices. A total of 48 different people attended the supper meeting.

A total of 95½ acres were approved for chemical treatment to control undesirable hardwoods, and a total of 45 acres were thinned for forest stand improvement. The most outstanding accomplishment in this line of work was the planting of 463,000 pine seedlings including the trees planted by the h-H members. It is estimated that a total of 79 different farmers and other individuals were assisted directly, or indirectly, to adopt recommended practices. The County Agricultural Extension Service Forestry Committee, the local ASC Office Manager, the Soil Conservationist, and the local Representatives of the Virginia Division of Forestry, working with the County Agent, and through the County Forestry Club, made it possible to carry out the objectives and almost obtain the goals.

The Agricultural Committees of the 3 Community Improvement Clubs also helped in carrying out the objectives.

#### I FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the year there were 11 farmers participating in the Farm and Home Development Program. Work was started on an individual basis and has continued in this manner. No home development phase is included in the program in the County, as there is no Home Demonstration Agent.

##### A. Objective:

An objective was to work with the 11 families in the Farm Development Program with a goal of each family's adopting at least 2 recommended practices. All families were visited during the year, and assisted with some phases of farm development.

##### 1. Methods & Results:

One farm was visited 10 times; another farm - 9 times; and 2 families - 8 each; one was visited 7 times. Assistance was given in the following farm practices: Crops & Rotation, Pasture Improvement, Livestock Improvement, Health, Farm Plans, Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation, Poultry Improvement, Community Activities, Dairy Improvement, Farm Machinery, Marketing & Outlook Information and Farm Water Systems.

##### B. Objective:

The objective and goal to work with 4 new families was not accomplished. However, a total of 21 days was devoted to work with the Farm Development families.

B. Objective:

Working through the organization of the County Forestry Club, members and other landowners were encouraged to plant pine seedlings and carry out other forestry improvement practices, with a goal of 500,000 seedlings to be planted in the 1958 planting season. Another goal was to improve 250 acres of forest land through chemical control of undesirable hardwoods, also 225 acres to be bulldozed for planting pine seedlings, and 500 acres of forest stand improvement by thinning.

1. Methods & Results:

At h-H Club meetings, applications were filled out by 29 Four-H Club members who received a total of 12,400 seedlings which were planted by them. The trees were obtained without cost through the Virginia Division of Forestry with a limit of 500 per member. However, 1900 trees were given to the h-H members by the President of the local Bank. The trees were delivered by the Agent and the members given instruction in "heeling in", and "how to plant". In March, the third Annual County Forestry Tour was held beginning with a luncheon held at the local Hotel, through the courtesy of the local Bank. In the afternoon, 5 different forestry areas were visited by 40 different h-H and FFA members, and Adults, at which time forestry improvement practices in planting open and cut-over areas, killing nuisance hardwoods, spacing and thinning of planted areas, and bulldozing areas, were seen.

As a result of forestry improvement practices which have been carried out in the County during the past several years, 12 landowners were selected, and Tree Farm Certificates and Tree Farm Signs were awarded to them at a special Forestry Supper Meeting, held at West Point. Following this meeting, a special program on "Forestry" was presented at the May meeting of the Gloucester Huritan Club, and a representative of the Chesapeake Corporation presented Tree Farm Certificates and Signs to the members who were not present to receive the awards at the West Point Meeting.

Assistance was given by the Agent in July to a representative of the Chesapeake Corporation in visiting 17 farms to check areas to be bulldozed by the Chesapeake Corporation. This operation was conducted only for members enrolled in the County Forestry Club, at a low cost to the owner, to promote forestry improvement practices. A total of 112 acres were bulldozed during the year. This did not equal the number of acres set in the goal, however, several landowners employed private operators to bulldoze forestry areas.

The Agent arranged for the annual judging of the forestry improvement practices carried out by the members of the County Forestry Club. This was done for 19 Adults and 24 Four-H members. Members of the Judging Team included Forrest Patton, Chesapeake Corp., John Graff, Virginia Division of Forestry, and Ed Gill, Associate Extension Forester, at V.P.I.

same day as the Poultry Tour. Members of the County Poultry Committee, with the assistance of the Poultry Specialists at V.P.I., visited 29 Four-H boys and girls enrolled in the 4-H Project. The projects of the members were scored as a basis for awards which were presented at the 4-H Achievement Program in November.

**F. Objective:**

Another objective was to have poultrymen vaccinate for bronchitis with a goal of 5 producers doing this as a new practice.

**1. Methods & Results:**

This was encouraged at poultry meetings, especially the Regional Meeting, and through poultry publications. No definite information is available as to the number of producers who have adopted this as a new practice. Through the work of the County Poultry Committee, assisting the Agent, a total of 130 different farmers and other individuals have been assisted directly, or indirectly to adopt recommended practices.

## IX FORESTRY

Forestry has become one of the most active phases of the County Extension Program. At a meeting of the County Extension Service Forestry Committee, held in January, the members discussed the County Forestry situation. Statistics were submitted relative to bulldozing work which had been done, and other information on improvement practices in forestry. Also discussed was the amount of drain from the County of hardwood and softwood, pulpwood cut, sawmill operations, and other forestry facts. From this discussion, the Associate Extension Forester, C. E. Gill, and the District Forester of Virginia Division of Forestry were asked to obtain further facts which may be used as a basis for further planning the forestry program to further help with forestry improvement practices in the County.

**A. Objective:**

The first objective was to continue the County Forestry Club, and the activities of the Club, with a goal to increase the membership to 50.

**1. Methods & Results:**

An activity which was pushed more than ever this year, was to encourage 4-H members in the Forestry Project, especially the "Tree Planting Project", and also to enroll the 4-H members in the Forestry Club. Adults were encouraged to carry out forestry improvement practices, and to join the County Forestry Club. Special news articles were written with reference to using the local ACP Program to assist the landowners in carrying out forestry practices. A Committee also solicited new members in the Club. A total of 58 adult and Junior members enrolled in the Club during the year.

This practice has been discussed with poultrymen at meetings and on farm visits of the Agent. At least 2 flock owners have provided lights in poultry houses.

**C. Objective:**

The County Committee sponsored with the help of the Agent, the 12th Annual all-day Regional Poultry Meeting.

**1. Methods & Results:**

The Tri-County Committees and Agent worked with the Agent in Middlesex and the meeting was held in Urbanna. Attending the Regional Meeting, from Gloucester, were 7 poultrymen, with a total of 45 poultrymen and others from 9 Counties. The Chairman of the Gloucester County Poultry Committee presided at this meeting. Topics discussed included "A Management Disease Control Program" by Dr. W. B. Gross; Poultry Pathologist, "Stress Factors - What Are They - What to Do About Them?", by Dr. Arthur Rinrose; and "Cost Cutting Efficiencies in Egg Production", by Denver D. Bragg, Associate Extension Poultry Husbandman, all of V.P.I. Dr. R.J. Krenger, of a commercial feed company, Roanoke, Virginia, discussed "What is the Picture in the Egg Industry?". The meeting place of the Regional Poultry Meeting alternates between the Counties of Mathews, Middlesex and Gloucester.

**D. Objective:**

The 6th Annual Poultry Tour was nother objective with a goal of 20 poultrymen to take part.

**1. Methods & Results:**

The Tour was held on the afternoon of August the 15th, with 3 farms visited. At the first farm, a feed-mixing operation was seen and explained by the operator, and D. D. Bragg. Also seen was the low-cost housing, egg cellar, and other outstanding poultry practices. A new brooder house 27' x 6 1/2', with pullets in the house, with poultry equipment was seen at the next farm. At the third farm, a bulk feeding operation and feeding practices were observed. This Tour was conducted by members of the County Poultry Committee in the absence of the County Agent, who had to be out of the County on this date, because of an emergency.

**E. Objective:**

The County Poultry Committee sponsored as an objective the County Poultry Field Day and the County Egg Grading and Poultry Judging Teams with a goal of having a County, District and State Team.

**1. Methods & Results:**

The Annual h-H Field Day was held on the morning of August 15th, the

Different types of equipment used in the feeding and management of beef cattle and hogs has been stated under this line of work. A number of farmers have made much improvement and constructed many new types of equipment in connection with the feeding and handling of livestock. A number of holding chutes were constructed during the year in order to complete the Brucellosis Testing program.

**C. Objective:**

The Sear's Cow-Pig-Hen Project has been in operation in the County for 13 years. During this time, 4 different breeds have been used with the h-H members. These are Berkshires, Durocs, Hampshires and Yorkshires. This project has helped, beyond any other project, in promoting swine of improved breeding throughout the County. It has helped h-H Club members to become more interested in the Swine Project and other farm projects. This year awards were presented to five h-H Club members who completed the project. These awards amounted to \$65.00.

Only 1 member is enrolled in the sheep project, however, this project has been encouraged among other h-H members.

In 2 of the 3 Community Improvement Clubs, objectives were included relative to livestock. Members of the Clubs have encouraged the feeding of more hogs with improved practices, as has been indicated by the 8 members' visiting a farm in another County.

#### VIII POULTRY PRODUCTION

The number of commercial egg producers has continued to decline since a year ago. The number of broilers raised during the year has declined. The County Poultry Committee has not encouraged the production of broilers in the County, however, egg production has been encouraged.

**A. Objective:**

In setting up objectives and goals for the year, the Poultry Committee realized the trend to larger commercial egg laying flocks. The chief objective was to encourage poultrymen to purchase pullorum clean chicks from U.S. Supervised Hatcheries located in the County.

**1. Methods & Results:**

Through news articles, the mailing of the publication "Peep and Moo", published at V.P.I., to 92 commercial poultrymen in the County each month, has helped to encourage this among poultrymen.

**B. Objective:**

Another objective was to have poultrymen use artificial light in the laying house, with 2 flock owners to adopt this as a new practice.

**1. Methods & Results:**

commended management practices, such as castrating, and docking sheep, with a goal of 5 farmers adopting a new practice.

1. Methods and results:

Work was started last year in testing all cattle in the County for Brucellosis. Since the work was not completed the first year, the Agent worked with the veterinarian in visiting 80 or more farms, completing the work in October. This work was done in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating with the State Veterinarian. A certificate, received from the State Veterinarian's Office, certifying that Gloucester County has been declared a modified certified Brucellosis free County, was presented by the Agent to the County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting in November.

Arrangements were made at intervals during the year and assistance given to local farmers in vaccinating both dairy and beef calves to prevent Brucellosis.

News articles have been prepared during the year relative to equipment and management practices recommended for swine and sheep. This has been brought out under the first objective, when farmers were visited on the Tour. Many farm visits were made during the year assisting farmers with parasite and disease control work, also feeding and other management practices, especially with swine. Farmers and others have been assisted directly, or indirectly to adopt recommended practices as follows: beef cattle - 23, sheep - 19, and swine - 237.

This year a tape recording machine was obtained by the Agent. With the use of the recording machine, Specialists have been interviewed on their trips to the County, the tapes to be used at a later date on the scheduled time on the local radio. George Allen, Associate Extension Animal Husbandman, at V.P.I., was interviewed relative to "Feeding & Management of Sheep", and the broadcast made in November.

In further reference to sheep, assistance was given in arranging for sheep shearing by two Augusta County boys, one a 4-H Club member, later a State winner in the Sheep Shearing Contest, to shear a total of 128 sheep for 5 different producers in the County.

A project which was attempted, but not realized, was to obtain feeder lambs for a farmer in the County. The lambs were to be purchased by Swift & Company, and placed on the farm for feeding in November and fed until about February, and then resold to the Company. The producer was to be paid 25¢ per lb. for the net gain of the lambs. The Agent worked through Mr. Allen who made an all-out effort with the Company to get the project started.

pointed out that there are many different feeding operations with beef cattle. As a result of this discussion, the owner changed his farming operations and produced corn for grain which he will use for feeding his beef cattle this winter.

It can be definitely stated that more farmers are using home-grown grains and taking advantage of the facilities for having home-grown grains ground and mixed with supplement. The feed grinding facilities are: Tidewater Feed Mills, Kemp Feed Mill, and R. P. Hart and Son, in an adjoining County, and a mobile grinding and mixing unit. A number of farmers have grinding and mixing equipment on the farm.

The Agent cooperated with the Agricultural Representative of the local Power Company in sponsoring a demonstration of a special electric feed-grinding and mixing machine which was set up at one of the local feed mills. About 20 farmers visited the feed demonstration during the day. Some brought their home-grown feed and had this ground. The Agent and this Representative arranged, and carried 8 farmers of one of the Community Improvement Clubs to a farm in Essex County where they saw a pig parlor arrangement in operation and a feed-grinding establishment. The farmer was using locally produced grains and he has installed one of the special electric feed-grinding units, the same which was used in the demonstration held late in Gloucester County. This same type feed-grinding unit was seen by the Agent and a farmer while attending the Institute of Rural Affairs, at V.P.I., this year.

Assistance was given by the Agent with 3 livestock producers in getting their herds TB and Bangs tested and calves vaccinated by a veterinarian, and also assistance in getting the calves vaccinated in time to meet the health requirements for sale through the Feeder Calf Sales. Fifty-three calves were sold through the sale. Assistance was given by the Agent with the receiving and grading arrangements at the Livestock Market, when calves were brought to market.

During the year, publicity was given to the different sales of feeder calves, sheep and lambs and also purebred swine sales. One farmer purchased 3 Yorkshire gilts at the Purebred Swine Sale held in Tappahannock. As a result of the assistance given a farmer in selecting and purchasing a bred Yorkshire gilt, from Hanover County, and another farmer to purchase a Yorkshire boar in 1955, many Yorkshires can be seen throughout the County, although many have been crossed. From this source, also, purebred pigs were obtained for the Sears H-H Pig Project for this year. The effort was started to promote the feeding of meat-type hogs for market.

#### B. Objective:

The second objective set up through the Livestock Committee was improvement in parasite and disease control, equipment and other rec-

## VII LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

The County Livestock Committee, in planning the program and setting up objectives for the year, discussed the different problems among beef cattle, swine and sheep producers. The Committee decided to emphasize improvement in feeding.

### A. Objectives:

The first objective was to carry out a program that would influence at least 9 farmers to adopt new practices in utilizing more of the home-grown grains and roughage, in feeding cattle, sheep and hogs on the farms in the County.

#### 1. Methods & Results:

The County Committee sponsored the Livestock Tour in March. Publicity was given to this through the newspapers and local radio. A circular was not sent out about the Tour, and it was interesting to note that the attendance was exceptionally good for the Tour, amounting to 25.

The first place visited was White Marsh farm where the group saw the bunker-type silo with silage yet to be fed to beef cattle. The herd of fat steers was seen and also the method used for self-feeding of the silage. Before leaving the area of the bunker silo, Curtis Mast, Extension Animal Husbandman, at V.P.I., discussed different types of feeding of livestock, emphasizing the feeding of steers for slaughter. Different grades of steers were pointed out by Mr. Mast, also the time required for feeding cattle for slaughter. The prices which beef cattle producers received at the Graded Fat Cattle Sale held in Richmond on March the 13th, were reviewed by Mr. Mast.

The feeding of the cow herd which was seen on this farm was discussed by Mr. Mast. The method of feeding silage was explained by the Manager.

Changing to swine, the group saw newly arranged farrowing pens and also heard the manager discuss the feeding and handling of sows before and after farrowing. To learn more about the feeding and managing of hogs, the group visited the farm of J. W. C. Catlett. Here a group of hogs which were being fed for slaughter were seen. Different types of farrowing pens, which were the movable type, and the feeding and handling of sows was explained by the owner. He uses his home-grown grains with purchased supplement. At both farms, the group saw facilities for creep feeding of pigs. At the third and last stop on the Tour, producers saw the owner demonstrate the loading, by tractor, of silage from a stack silo into his tractor-drawn combination manure spreader wagon for unloading to the feeder cattle. Here, Mr. Mast discussed the owner's feeding practices. He pointed out the necessity of feeding more grain with the silage. He also

Cover crops used were vetch and crimson clover.

At the meeting of the Pasture Club, with the Corn and Soybean Clubs, 6 pasture certificates awarded by the V.F.I. Extension Service will be presented to producers who have met the eligibility requirements with the pastures.

Approximately 810 acres of pasture were topdressed during the year. It is estimated that 300 acres of new permanent pastures have been seeded, or re-seeded this year. Farmers indicated much interest in the seeding of winter cover crops. Much of the acreage will be used for supplementary pasture. Emphasis has been given to the seeding of crimson clover either alone or in mixtures with small grain. During the past 12 months 30 news articles were prepared concerning the seeding and fertilization of pastures, winter cover crops and other crops in connection with the Forage Crop Program.

A tape recording was made of an interview with the Pasture Specialist of V.P.I. on his visit to the County relative to the 12 Months Forage Program. This tape was broadcast over the local radio station. Livestock producers are giving more emphasis to the value of pasture and other forage crops.

On the Livestock Tour, held last March, a group of 25 farmers, agricultural professional workers, and others saw a large bunker-type silo arranged for self-feeding of beef cattle. A total of 4 radio programs was given on pasture and forage crops. On the Livestock Tour and the Agronomy Tour, farmers had an opportunity to observe different forage crops, equipment used in handling the crops, and the different types of silos. The Tours also emphasized to farmers the need of following good management practices with pasture and also the importance of topdressing. The number of acres of alfalfa in the County is approximately 177 with 52 acres seeded in 1958. Approximately 885 acres of winter pasture were seeded in 1958.

Producers of corn and soybeans have harvested excellent yields resulting from improved cultural practices with both crops, and excellent harvesting weather during the Fall. The yields of corn has averaged about 65 - 75 bushels per acre. The yield of soybeans has averaged from 25 - 30 bushels per acre. The top yield of soybeans produced by a member of the Soybean Club was 42.64.

the other demonstration. W. W. Lewis, Extension Agronomist at V.P.I., discussed different points about the different hybrids. About 31 farmers on the Tour had an opportunity to see and check by hand the different varieties and also obtain information about them. The VPI variety h26 was one of the outstanding varieties. A large acreage of this variety was seeded in the County and harvested with excellent results in yields, this Fall. Farmers used hybrid varieties mostly that matured early and medium, which makes it possible to begin harvesting early, complete the harvesting of corn, and be ready to harvest soybeans during weather that is suitable.

Due to unfavorable weather conditions, only 1 farmer and the Agent attended the Field Day held in October at the Warsaw Research Station.

### 3. Objective:

With such a favorable growing season and rainfall, as farmers have in this section, the Agronomy Committee realized the need for more farmers to take advantage of the favorable conditions, and grow more forage crops to supply forage for all types of livestock, during the year. The objective was to emphasize a year-round forage program with a goal of 10 farmers adopting a new practice. At the Agronomy Committee meeting, emphasis was given and it was decided to include this as an objective. The County Agricultural Extension Service Board adopted this objective. The 3 Community Improvement Clubs included this in their objectives. Plans were then made to carry out this objective and include the continuance of the fertilizer demonstrations, although no fertilizer was furnished free to the producers this year.

#### a. Methods & Results:

On the 13th Annual Agronomy Tour, a visit was made to one of two ladino tall-grass permanent pasture demonstrations.

On another farm, where special assistance has been given through the Farm Development Program, with forage crops, about 31 farmers saw an excellent stand of ladino Kentucky 31 Fescue pasture. Earlier in the season, a cutting of pasture had been put into a stack silo. This stack-type silo was visited and the producer explained in detail the making of the silage and the equipment used in harvesting and placing this silage in the silo. The group also saw the special material used for covering the stack silo.

Also seen on the Agronomy Tour were results of winter cover crops which could be grazed and followed by row crops.

On the Agronomy Tour, held on August the 27th, 7 different farmers were visited. At 2 of the farms, the demonstrations which were arranged and started in the Spring, were seen in the use of fertilizer recommended in the objective and also fertilizer used on heavy soils and light soils, including different analyses.

The results of using the County 100 Bushel Corn Club, Soybean Club, and Pasture Club, is indicated especially when the Annual Supper Meeting of the Clubs is held in December. The meeting is made possible through the dues of the different members to the Club, or more than one Club. Awards are made possible through the contributions of different merchants and dealers and others in the County. At the supper meeting to be held on December 11th, the awards to the 5 high producers in the Corn and Soybean Clubs will include a sterling silver pitcher by the Bank of Gloucester to the high corn and soybean producers. Ten bushels of corn have been contributed by the seed dealers; 1½ cases of oil by oil dealers and distributors, \$35.00 in cash by an Insurance Company and a local buyer of corn, soybeans and small grain, and 1 3/4 tons of fertilizer by fertilizer dealers and 6 tons of lime, and other awards including the special Trophy by the 100 Bushel Corn Club.

This year certificates awarded by the V.P.I. Agricultural Extension Service will be presented to 11 corn producers who produced at least 100 bushels per acre and to 3 soybean producers who produced at least 40 bushels per acre.

The winner in the Corn Club, James M. Thrift, who produced 113.25 bushels per acre, used 900 lbs. of a 10-10-10 fertilizer which was the recommendation. Many of the other members used 700 to 1000 lbs.

## 2. Objective:

The County Committee realized the need for more farmers to use recommended varieties of crops. An objective was set to encourage the use of recommended varieties with a goal of at least 30 producers.

### a. Methods & Results:

In March and April, plans were made with producers to conduct 2 corn hybrid varietal demonstrations and 2 soybean varietal demonstrations. Sample corn varieties were obtained from local seed dealers in Richmond for use in the varietal demonstrations. On the 13th Annual Agronomy Tour the corn and soybean demonstrations were visited. In the corn demonstrations, 13 different varieties were seen and checked in one and 16 different varieties were checked in

## 1. Methods & Results:

A total of 21 adult result demonstrations were conducted during the year through the cooperation of the different leaders of the Commodity Committees, Production and Marketing Organizations and Special Interest Groups, such as the local Bank, and other commercial organizations.

The 12th Annual Supper Meeting of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board was held with an attendance of 29 members. At this meeting, mimeographed sheets were distributed to each one showing the results accomplished in Agronomy, Livestock, Poultry, Forestry, 4-H Club work, Community Improvement Clubs, Soil Conservation, Flower Growers' Association and the County Farm Bureau.

The 2 Ruritan Clubs have continued to be active Civic Clubs in the County in carrying out objectives set up by the different Committees in the Clubs. Some of the objectives of some of the Committees have included phases of the Extension Program, especially 4-H activities. One Club has helped to sponsor the 3 Community Improvement Clubs in the County.

## VI CROP PRODUCTION

### A. AGRONOMY

Since corn and soybeans are the leading sources of income in crop production, agronomy is one of the subjects which has been given major emphasis. Following a year of drought in 1957, the Agronomy Committee members decided to give special emphasis in the objectives to the improvement in crop fertilization. It was definitely realized also that many farmers were not following recommended practices in the use of fertilizer especially relative to amounts, being used.

#### 1. Objectives:

The first objective under this line of work was to improve, or increase the use of fertilizer in the main crop rotation and with a goal of 50 farmers adopting the recommendation. In more detail, the objective was for a 2-year corn-soybean rotation with 900 pounds per acre of a 10-10-10 fertilizer, or on light soils, a 5-10-10 fertilizer plus nitrogen as a sidedressing on corn, or the equivalent in other analysis. All fertilizer, if a farmer wishes, may be applied to the corn crop. When small grain is used in the 2-year rotation with corn and soybeans, apply 800 lbs. of fertilizer on corn and 400 lbs. on small grain with none on the soybeans.

#### a. Methods & Results:

## V EXTENSION ORGANIZATION PLANNING

A total of 69 persons make up the membership of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board which includes members of the different Commodity Committees, special Commodity Production and Marketing Organizations, County h-H Council officers, officers of the different County Agricultural Associations, men and women chairmen of the 8 different Agricultural Communities, officers of the 3 Community Improvement Clubs, officers of the County Farm Bureau and the different Agricultural Professional workers in the County. A total of 158 Adult Leaders and 12 Junior h-H Club Leaders assisted in carrying on the Extension program during the year.

The following 5-year long-time objectives set up by the Board in 1957 to continue through 1962 were reviewed at the Annual Supper Meeting of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board:

1. Follow recommended rotations which include adequate cover crops.
2. Use proven production methods and seed varieties.
3. Emphasize a sound year-round feeding program with forage crops.
4. Increase forest production through approved management practices.
5. An improved livestock and poultry program through better feeding, breeding, disease and parasite control, and marketing.
6. Take full advantage of aids offered by State and Federal programs to maintain our soils, and improve them.
7. Be on look out for good supplementary crops or enterprises for additional income.
8. Continue working with the County Youth Program.
9. Obtain services of Home Demonstration Agent.

For 1958 it was decided to give emphasis to the Agronomy, Forestry, Livestock, Poultry and h-H Program objectives.

### A. Objectives:

Committee objectives previously set up for 1958 for Agronomy, Forestry, Livestock, Poultry and h-H Club were reviewed and accepted at the Board Meeting. The special speaker for the program was K. E. Loope, Associate Extension Agricultural Economist, at V.P.I., who discussed the subject, "The Economics of Farming".

Special Committees of the 3 Community Improvement Clubs, when setting up objectives on a Community basis, gave emphasis to some of the County objectives such as pasture and forestry programs. As a means of promoting the Extension Program and informing people of results, news articles were written weekly for the County Agent's Column entitled "Notes from the County Agent", published in the local weekly paper. Copies of the same articles were furnished 2 daily papers, which have representatives in the County.

Emphasis was given during the year in carrying out the Extension Program with the use of Tours in Agronomy, Livestock, Forestry & Poultry.

### III INTRODUCTION

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is the County Organization which has sponsored Extension work in the County.

The different methods used in accomplishing the objectives, and the results obtained, are stated under appropriate headings for the more important lines of work accomplished for the year ending November 30, 1958. Results are given for the minor lines of work carried on in the Extension Program.

### IV TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Gloucester County is located in the Tidewater area bordered on the Northeast by the Plankatanck River and Middlesex County, on the Northwest by the Poropatank Creek, King & Queen County, on the Southwest and South by the York River and on the East by the Severn, Ware and North Rivers which empty into the Mobjack Bay. Mathews County also borders Gloucester on the East by land from the head of North River across to the Plankatanck River.

The County has an area of 223 square miles and the number of white farm operators is 432 which is a reduction of 133 since the census of 1950. However, the total families in the County has increased and the total population is about 11,000.

The average size farm in the County is 85 acres as reported in the 1954 census. Both small and large farm operators rent additional land to justify the operation of the more modern farm equipment, such as self-propelled combines, corn picker-shellers, diesel tractors with 4 bottom plows, 4-row corn planters and other farm equipment used to carry out a more efficient farm operation.

Corn & soybeans are the leading crops and the income from each was about the same this year. The acreage continued about the same for both crops and harvesting methods improved with more of the corn harvested with picker-shellers, some tractor mounted, and some self-propelled. About 95% of the soybeans were combined in bins and elevated to trucks or wagons in bulk without bagging, and stored in this manner, or either hauled to the local buyer. The land taken out of production amounts to 492.6 acres and is under contract under the Conservation Reserve Program. Of this acreage 102.8 will be planted to trees. However, much of this land is not the most productive. It is of about average fertility.

Much emphasis has been given to forestry improvement practices during the year, with outstanding results which will be stated under the Forestry heading.

II TABLE OF CONTENTS ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 1958

III	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	3.
IV	TYPE OF AGRICULTURE . . . . .	3.
V	EXTENSION ORGANIZATION PLANNING . . . . .	4.
VI	CROP PRODUCTION . . . . .	5.
	A. Agronomy . . . . .	5.
VII	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION . . . . .	9.
VIII	POULTRY PRODUCTION . . . . .	12.
IX	FORESTRY . . . . .	14.
X	FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT . . . . .	16.
XI	h-H CLUB WORK . . . . .	17.
XII	DAIRYING . . . . .	22.
XIII	HORTICULTURE . . . . .	22.
XIV	SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE . . . . .	23.
XV	FARM BUILDINGS & MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT . . . . .	24.
XVI	PLANNING & MANAGEMENT OF FARM BUSINESS . . . . .	24.
XVII	THE HOUSE, SURROUNDINGS, FURNISHINGS & EQUIPMENT . . . . .	24.
XVIII	HEALTH, FAMILY LIFE & SAFETY . . . . .	25.
XIX	CONCLUSION . . . . .	26.

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

A. G. BIRDSALL

**Name**

COUNTY

**Title**

**Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



1958

GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA

**County**