

The Subject-Numeric System of classifying and filing set up in the Virginia Agricultural Extension offices was very servicable for retaining current information of the various fields. The systematical working of this system was excellent.

The amount and quality of circular materials used in communication was increased after the receipt of a new mimeograph machine in May. This was one way used in getting information to rural families, professional workers, business establishments, ministers, and other people not directly associated with the Extension program.

Appreciation for cooperation of the office personnel, rural leaders, 4-H Club sponsors, County Board of Supervisors, cooperating agencies, supervisors from the state office and assisting specialists who came to the county during the year is here recognized.

"Psychology For Extension Workers" - This course was designed primarily for Extension workers who have had no more than an introductory course in psychology. This course helped to develop an understanding of some of the principles of human behavior as a basis for improving Extension instruction, and to develop the ability to apply the principles in Extension programs. Consideration was given to relevant contributions from the fields of educational, industrial, business, and social psychology.

#### SUMMARY

The shifting of farm population to a rural non-farm status and the increase in size of the farm operations is placing a strain upon decision-making by farmers. There is an increased importance of the application of scientific agricultural research by those who will remain on the farm and make a profit. The cost of machinery and other capital outlay must be fully utilized, if they are to be an asset rather than a liability when the farm records are tabulated.

Attempts were made to give as many management facts and trends as possible which produced alternatives for the individual farmer to make his decision. Much of this valuable information was received from the Extension specialists and other areas of research.

Farm income is being subsidized by off-farm employment and varying sources of farm income was derived from diversified agricultural enterprises. With the increased demand by the markets for increased quantity and quality of products, the specialized producers in a few production areas appeared to have fared better profit-wise than the ones that over-diversified and did not produce a profitable quantity in any given area.

#### Tidewater Fair Association

The Fifty-first Annual Tidewater Fair was held in Suffolk in October. This Fair Association was organized in 1910 which was four years before the employment of a Negro Extension Agent in Nansemond. According to the records, some of the first work of the Extension agent was to assist farmers in the development of the Fair. One of the buildings bears the name of the first agent.

Through the years, this Fair has operated and in some cases has not kept up with the times in the areas of exhibits. Assistance was given by the professional agricultural workers of the area in revising the catalogue. This was done with collected information from other Fairs in operation. Educational and industrial exhibits were included.

#### EXTENSION EDUCATION - TRAINING

#### Professional Improvement

The Extension Summer School for Extension workers at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York was attended, July 10-28, 1961. The two courses taken for three semester hours of graduate credit were:

"Program Development in Extension Education"- This course dealt with the educational fundamental/principles of learning which help people to learn and the teacher to teach as they apply to the program development process. It included application of these principles in the process of involving people, formulating programs, teaching objectives, deciding upon Extension teaching methods, and evaluating progress and results of Extension teaching. Participants were given opportunities to discuss related problems in their own field of Extension work.

#### Family and Community Improvement Institute

Farmers and homemakers throughout the state attended the Family and Community Improvement Institute at Virginia State College, July 11 - 13. The five-session conference consisted of addresses, discussions, and group meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Demiel, Mrs. Hannah Hunt, and the local home agent represented Nansemond County.

#### COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

#### Nansemond Credit Union

The state chartered Nansemond Credit Union obtains its membership from the city of Suffolk and county members within a two-mile radius. This Credit Union has a membership of 700 and shares are sold for five dollars each. There is a life insurance that will match all shares purchased up to \$2000. Members may use shares as collateral to borrow amounts above \$600. Loans up to \$600 are made on job security and pay record status. The organization paid 3% dividends in 1960.

#### Nansemond Cooperative Association

Three years ago, a group of local leaders decided to organize a Cooperative (Service Station and Garage), and after an extensive educational program, the station was opened in October, 1960. There are 200 share holders who purchased shares at \$10.00 each. A member is limited to 100 shares. The present membership embodies individuals from Suffolk and all sections of the county. Share holders will receive dividends on their shares, and patrons will receive a patronage refund. Reduction of one cent per gallon is made on purchases made by automobiles bearing the bumper sticker, "Everyone Can Shop Co-op." These stickers are reserved for members.

## ADULT ACTIVITIES

### Farmers' Conference

Forty-three farmers and homemakers attended the Annual Conference on the afternoon of February 23 in Holland Community. The purpose of the meeting was to carry out an Extension Service function which is " . . . . To aid in diffusing among people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same . . ." --Smith-Lever Act.

"Trends in Home Furnishings" were discussed by Mrs. Geneva J. Myster, Home Economics staff member of Virginia State College. Mrs. Myster discussed the present day trend in home furnishings and showed samples of rugs, pictures, and blending colors.

"The Possibilities of Increasing Swine Production in Eastern Virginia" was discussed by District Agent, S. E. Marshall. On this topic some pertinent facts were presented on the cost of feeder pig production versus market hog sales. Considering the cost of production, it was brought out that feeder pigs could be produced on a small scale with limited capital and labor at a greater profit than 200-pound market hogs. Questions and discussion ensued which indicated an interest by the people in attendance.

### County Tour

The annual County Tour was conducted in July which covered three sections of the county. The demonstrations observed were: Pasture and Field Crop Production, Bath Installation and Yard Beautification, Farm and Home Management unit, Modern Constructed Home, and terminated with refreshments and fellowship.

JUNIOR MARKET HOG SHOW AND SALE

Fifty-five market hogs were exhibited by 18 area participants in the Annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale at the Tidewater Fair Ground in Suffolk on Tuesday, October 3. The animals were weighed, graded, and placed in weight groups ranging from 180 to 240 pounds.

The grades, sale prices, and premiums for the animals were as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Price - cwt.</u>	<u>Total Sale Price</u>	<u>Premiums</u>
Grand Champion Pen (3)	\$32.00	\$ 230.40	\$ 15.00
Reserve Champion Pen (3)	28.00	182.12	12.00
Grand Champion Single	35.00	82.25	12.00
Reserve Champion Single	28.00	59.13	10.00
17 - U.S. I	20.25	720.01	101.00
13 - U.S. II	20.00	528.20	
1 - Medium	18.50	34.70	
14.- Lightweight	18.25	403.40	
1 - Overweight	18.25	46.53	
	Totals	\$2286.74	\$150.00

The Champion singles were sold separately from the U.S. I group for the first time this year. The over-all improvement of the quality of animals exhibited was indicated by the decrease in the number of lightweight hogs from 25 in 1960 to 14 in 1961.

OTHER 4-H CLUB EVENTS

Two 4-H boys represented the 4-H Clubs at the State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College in June. Each member was required to bring back a report.

One boy attended the Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College in August and received training in the conservation of our natural resources. A club period was given for the report from this conference.

impressive. Substantial premiums were awarded and good sale prices received. Attempts will be made to have at least one producer to participate next year with a pen of ten.

#### 4-H CLUBS

There were 12 organized 4-H Clubs in the county in 1961 with 504 boys and 464 girls. The clubs met once a month in the schools for one hour, and 24 teachers and outside leaders assisted with the program. During the summer, special 4-H activities were conducted and emphasis placed on checking home projects through home visits.

The 4-H Club boys were enrolled in 12 different project areas. The project areas were determined by the members according to his age, interest, and available resources for carrying out the project. The older members were encouraged to carry the advanced projects and the younger members' projects selected on a group basis for effective instructional purposes. Individual participation was encouraged of all members and out-of-club assignments were constantly given to be brought in and checked. Parents' assistance was solicited and received. Teaching aids were used in giving project instructions. All members were given project books and available material related to their projects. Record keeping was encouraged.

#### TRACTOR MAINTENANCE CLINIC

Two 4-H boys, one leader, and the farm agent attended a two-day workshop during the State 4-H Tractor Maintenance Clinic at Virginia State College on February 7 and 8. The results of attending this clinic will be used in conducting a 4-H Tractor Program in the county. Three 4-H boys attended the District 4-H Tractor Operator's Contest in Waverly on June 10 to observe the event in planning for participation in 1962.

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1961</u>
Farm owners	48	47
Farms purchased		3
No. acres in farms	3065	3132
Tractors operated	1	10
New homes	1	19
Houses painted	9	25
Lawns established	2	25
Baths	1	6
Telephones	0	11

The above and other improvements by families will note progress to a degree in this community. This community has been the recipient of some of the top ten annual prizes in the State Community Improvement Contest since 1951.

As a result of a decision made in January by the families of Corinth Chapel Community, the interior of the dining room building of the community church was painted before the quarterly meeting on April 19. The fund for purchasing the paint was derived from second prize money received in the State Community Improvement Contest last year. The painting was done by volunteer members of the Community Club.

#### EVENTS

##### Virginia Market Hog Show and Sale

The second annual Virginia Market Hog Show and Sale was attended in Courtland on August 9 to observe the exhibiting of animals, hear an address on "Why More Hogs Should Be Produced in Virginia," and to receive information for farmers who would like to participate in the future. The hogs exhibited ranged from one to ten animals with a total of sixteen animals from any one exhibitor. The sixteen animals were exhibited in lots as follows: a single; pens of two, three and ten. The uniformity of the pens of ten were quite

at the basement window will give further reduction.

2. Stock shelter with two weeks supply of water, pre-cooked foods, battery radio, flash light, first-aid kits, blankets, and waste cans.
3. A structure with 3 feet of earth above will provide best protection.
4. A shelter with 3 feet of earth protection can be constructed with materials available on the farm.
5. Protect livestock from fallout by using any shelter available for livestock and feed.
6. Help your nation -
  - by protecting your family
  - by aiding people from stricken areas
  - by producing food

Rural families were given this information as illustrated under the direction of the director of the office of Civil Defense Mobilization.

#### SOCIOLOGY

##### Community Improvement

The Community Improvement Program has been conducted in the Corinth Chapel Community since 1951. The areas of improvement in which the program is carried out includes: Farm buildings and machinery, farm development, home development, family food supply, family life development, health, Extension organizations and other organizations. During the past 10 years the following changes were noted:

34  
72

enrolled in the Veterans Institutional On-The-Farm Training Program and requested Extension Program assistance.

Of the nine families enrolled in the program, four were owners and full time employed on the farm. The other five were employed off the farm and conducted some part-time enterprises.

Continued assistance was given these families with emphasis on records, budgeting, planning approaches toward their long time goals.

J. F. Boone - age 33, wife and one minor child, continued to show progress with the operation of a filling station, 10 acres of truck crops and 30 hogs. Mr. Boone works part time as a carpenter and is interested in increasing <sup>his</sup> farm enterprise. During 1961, he became a member of the 4-H Leaders' Association to serve as project leader for 4-H members in his community.

Fletcher Walden - age 39, wife and infant, purchased a 100-acre farm in 1959 that contained a dwelling and out buildings. Mr. Walden is a contractor and works his farm during off hours with some hired labor. During 1961, a county tour terminated at his home at which time his farming operations were observed. This family raises and conserves most of the family's food supply.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

##### Civil Defense

A Rural Civil Defense exhibit was assembled and mounted in the office which states that radioactive fallout can reach all farms resulting from nuclear attack. Six pictures with short explanations showed rural families some safety steps for survival

1. House basement will reduce fallout exposure about 10%. Sandbags at

As a result of a report issued by the State ACS office which stated that Virginia peanut farmers under-planted 3,094 acres of their peanut allotment in 1959 with an income loss of \$625,708, farmers were informed of the value of premeasuring their peanut land in their production management.

The county ASC office reported that the average yield of peanuts per acre had decreased in the county each year during 1958, 1959, and 1960.

Production management practices were discussed with emphasis on proper fertilization, and recommended practices for root worm control.

The possibilities for increased swine production was discussed with emphasis on quality animals to meet grading demands and the potentials of feeder pig production by small acreage farmers.

The operation requirements of farm machinery in relation to the purchase cost was explained to help farmers realize if they were taking full advantage of their machinery in their operations.

Alternatives were discussed for evaluating the Feed Grain Program which would serve as an aid in figuring costs and returns per acre for individual farms.

Meetings, farm visits, circulars, and visual aids were used in getting this information across to farmers.

#### FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

The farm and home development approach with selected families began in the county in 1955. At that time, bench marks were established and farm plans made with the families. Special assistance was given these families in identifying alternatives and making decisions toward developing their farm and home unit. During 1957, three additional families were added who were previously

brought out showing what type of animals will produce the various types. A tour was made of the entire plant where meat cutting and processing were observed.

It was interesting to note that 1,500 hogs were butchered daily with only 2% coming from the local area of eastern Virginia. Most of the hogs were shipped in from the western states. This fact was constantly brought to the attention of county producers and potential producers for future farm planning.

#### Swine - Feeder Pigs

The small acreage farmers that did not have sufficient feed to produce hogs to market weight at a low cost was shown the possibilities of raising feeder pigs. The effect of the information in livestock planning will be observed in 1962.

#### Beef Cattle

Beef cattle production is limited to families with large acreage with a few others having dairy cows bred for feed calf sales.

Willie Peele of Lummis Community has made substantial progress in establishing a beef herd which consists of twenty animals, permanent pasture and supplementary cover crop grazing is contained in his feeding program.

### ECONOMICS

#### Farm Management

The business of farming appears to have increased in management problems among farmers in the county as compared to previous years. Problems affecting the farmers were discussed and alternatives given in helping them to arrive at decisions.

## HORTICULTURE

### Garden - Truck Crops

Special efforts were made to increase the number and size of gardens being raised by part-time farmers and non-farm families. Parents of 4-H members with garden projects were requested to assist and encourage the members with their projects. Families that raise more than their home needs have access to the local markets.

The purchase of deep freezers is providing a conserving place for vegetables stored to be used by the families in off seasons. The canning process was also utilized.

### Landscaping

There has been a definite increase in the number of individuals who requested assistance in establishing lawns and other areas of landscaping. Several soil samples were brought in to have tested and recommended lawn establishment assistance given. Requests for program participation were received and assistance given to local garden clubs. Through these clubs more information was given to a large number of individuals. Three local nurseries were the source from which trees and shrubs were obtained after maps of their landscape plans were made.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

### Swine - Market Hogs

An all-day meeting of Farm agents was attended at the Gwaltney Packing Company in Smithfield in January to observe the types of animals that meet market demands. The carcasses of some animals were observed with points

Negro operators. Therefore, the 30 to 40 percent of the total cooperators in the Feed Grain Program represented about 6 to 12 percent above the percentage for Negro operators.

#### Winter Cover Crops

Most farmers seeded some type of cover crop during the fall. In many cases the seeds were sown ~~before~~ on peanut land before digging and the digging process covered the seeds. The major crops seeded were Italian ryegrass, winter oats, crimson clover and abruzzi rye. These crops are seeded to aid in preventing leaching and to supplement the grain and hay ration for livestock during the winter. Early grazing is usually available when the crops are planted after peanuts are harvested.

#### Pasture

Two new pasture demonstrations were conducted by George Langston of Whaleyville Community and Worsley Randall of Myrtle Community. Soil samples were taken, recommended amount of lime applied, and seeding recommendations followed. This was the first time these two farmers have attempted to produce permanent pastures. Close assistance was given in attempting to develop this cheap source of livestock feed.

#### Sweet Potatoes

Commercial sweet potato production as a supplementary cash crop has been increasing during recent years. Some farmers are utilizing tobacco barns for curing and storage and others have constructed log curing houses. The potatoes are used for home needs and sales at local markets. A few large growers truck their crop to the Richmond market. Assistance was given in grading to meet market demands for top prices.

1. Soybean yield reduction was noted on one farm in Virginia after three years of continuous planting in an infested field.
2. Living cyst in the soil will adhere to farm machinery which can be removed with compressed air.
3. Living cyst are found on peanut bags and harvest baskets which requires chemicals or heat to exterminate.
4. Living cyst have been found adhering to sweet potatoes, cucumbers, and watermelons from infested fields. At present, only washing with water will remove these cysts.
5. Continued work is being done to produce effective chemical controls and resistance varieties.

Farmers were advised that the increase of living cysts could affect the movement of other farm commodities to out-of-state markets from pressures by areas that <sup>produced</sup> the major portion of the national soybean crop.

#### CORN - FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

Corn is produced for fattening hogs and commercial grain sale. Corn producers were faced with the decision of whether to raise their full allotted corn acreage or sign up to cooperate in the 1961 Feed Grain Program and receive payment for acreage left out of production.

May 19, 1961 was the deadline date for farmers to decide if they would or would not cooperate in the 1961 Feed Grain Program. Meetings, circular letters, and farm visits were used to present the facts upon which each farmer was to arrive at his own decision. According to the records of the local ASC office, between 30 and 40 per cent of the total participating number were Negro farmers. The total number of farms in the county in 1959 was 1,317 of which 24% were

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Yield Per Acre</u>
1958	2240 pounds
1959	1964 pounds
1960	1621 pounds

It was realized that the weather and other contributing factors could cause an average yield decrease in various years, but producers were advised to ask themselves if they were following proper fertilization and production practices. They were advised to obtain soil samples of land on which crops are planted preceding the peanut crop in order that corrective fertilizer could be applied in the rotation. When the rains permitted sample-taking, several farmers brought in samples and some assistance was given in obtaining samples from the fields.

Producers have indicated that the year was fair for raising peanuts and the fall harvest weather was excellent. Several farmers utilized the services of the harvesting combine and others dug and stacked their crop to be thrashed later.

The result of the average yield for the county is not known at the time of this report.

#### Soybeans

Soybeans have taken the number two spot behind peanuts as a major crop in the county. The soybean cyst nematode control has produced one of the major production problems.

An informal meeting was attended at the county courthouse in December, 1960 at which time information was given by various specialists on the problem and effects of the nematode as it affects Nansemond County. This information was relayed to the farmers throughout the county. Some points brought out were:

#### 4-H Leaders' Association

Thirty adult leaders who have assisted 4-H members with their projects in the past were formally organized into a Leaders' Association in August to better serve with sponsoring and giving 4-H members project assistance. A fund raising activity was conducted by the association on November 10 and a program held at which 4-H members gave reports on their projects which gave the association members a broader view of 4-H project work.

The Association is a member of the State Association and the county president has been elected treasurer of the State organization.

#### 4-H Junior Council

The 4-H Junior Council is composed of the officers of the 12 clubs in the county which aids in planning and carrying out 4-H activities. This council works out plans on different projects that involves all the members and helps to conduct an achievement day program in March.

Special training was given this group on how to conduct 4-H meetings and their duties and responsibilities as officers. This council planned and assisted with National 4-H Club Week celebration and Rural Life Sunday.

### MAJOR AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES - 1961

#### Agronomy

##### Peanuts

Peanut production accounts for a large percentage of the cash income on most farms in the county. An annual decrease in the average yield per acre of peanuts produced in Nansemond County came to light in the Annual Report released by the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office in March. This report showed an annual decrease in average yields as follows:

with organized leadership in their respective communities to carry farm and home improving demonstrations. These problem committees and enterprise demonstrators were utilized to enable more people to effectively participate in the Extension program.

#### Community Improvement Club

Corinth Chapel Community Club consists of leaders who assisted 93 families in its three neighborhoods to carry out the required farm and home improvement demonstrations for competition in the State Improvement Contest. Each year, this community is scored to determine improvements made during the calendar year. Third prize was received this year for improvements made in the 1960 State Contest.

#### Agronomy Committee

The Agronomy Committee is composed of six members which are rotated each year, with the two older position members being replaced with two new members. A survey of agronomy problems is made and the most important ones form a bench mark for action. These members follow and encourage others to have their soil tested, use the proper kind and amounts of seeds and fertilizers, and follow other production and marketing practices.

#### Forestry Committee

Plans and assistance in carrying out forestry practices among farmers and 4-H members are given by this three-man committee. Special assistance was given in woodland management and new forest establishment. These members are contact points for 4-H members desiring assistance with their 4-H forestry projects.

at the Ship Yards, Naval Base and other government installations. This increased income brought into the county has produced a great demand for improved housing and other family and community services. Civic groups have been organized by the people in several communities that stress civic responsibilities of government participation, home improvement and beautification, and other affairs of the communities.

Several family members have found time and funds available to take advantage of evening classes held at Norfolk Division - Virginia State College, which offers training above high school in clerical work, hair dressing, and other self-improving courses.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

##### County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board consists of 34 key leaders from the five magisterial districts in the county and serves as a planning and sponsoring aid in carrying out the Extension Program. This board conducts regular quarterly meetings with additional called meetings as program-sponsoring requires.

In January, the board made plans for a Farmers' Conference on February 23; County Tour, July 27; participation in the Tidewater Fair, October 3-7; and an annual fund-raising activity in November. Out-of-county representation was assured for the Family and Community Institute at Virginia State College, July 11-13; State Family Award Program - Mecklenburg County, May 11; and the State Advisory Board Meeting in Surry County, September 6-7.

In helping to work with more people through Extension teaching, this core of leaders assisted in analyzing problems, establishing goals and assisted

## COUNTY SITUATION

Nansemond County is located in the Tidewater section of eastern Virginia. The 1959 census of Agriculture shows that there were 998 farms in Nansemond County compared to 1,311 farms in the county in 1954. Of the 998 farms, 319 farms were operated by Negroes in 1959 as compared to 436 farms operated by Negroes in 1954. The definition of a farm was defined as "each place operated as a unit of 10 acres or more from which the sale of agricultural products totaled \$50 or more, as well as each place operated as a unit of less than 10 acres from which the sale of agricultural products totaled \$250.00 was counted as a farm."

Nansemond is a leading peanut producing county in Virginia and Suffolk, the county seat, is called the "World's Largest Peanut Market." Soybeans became the second largest crop during the past year. Other crops being produced are corn, tobacco, cotton, wheat, and truck crops. Sales from crops account for 70.7 per cent of the total value of farm products sold and live-stock products account for 27.7 per cent.

In 1959, Nansemond's population was 25,238 of which 65.5 per cent (16,490) were Negroes. The total farm population was 7,281 being 28.8 per cent of the total for the county. This indicates an estimated 12,000 Negro non-farm people.

The part-time and non-farm family members are employed at several local industrial concerns such as: peanut factories, vegetable cannery, lumber and woodworking mills, fish and oyster houses, basket factories, brick factory, and fertilizer plant utilizing local materials. Several men commute daily by private bus and automobiles to Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Newport News to work

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
County Situation.....	1 - 2
County Organizations.....	2 - 4
Major Agricultural Enterprises - 1961	
Peanuts.....	4 - 5
Soybeans.....	4 - 6
Corn.....	6 - 7
Winter cover crops.....	7
Pasture.....	7
Sweet Potatoes.....	7
Horticulture	
Garden - Truck Crops .....	8
Landscaping .....	8
Animal Husbandry	
Swine - Market Hogs.....	8 - 9
Swine - Feeder Pigs .....	9
Beef Cattle.....	9
Economics	
Farm Management.....	9 - 10
Farm and Home Development.....	10 - 11
Health and Safety	
Civil Defense.....	11 - 12
Sociology	
Community Improvement.....	12 - 13
Events	
Virginia Market Hog Show & Sale.....	13 - 14
4-H Clubs .....	14
Tractor Maintenance Clinic.....	14
Junior Market Hog Show and Sale.....	15
Other 4-H Club Events.....	15
Adult Activities	
Farmers' Conference.....	16
County Tour.....	16
Family and Community Insitute.....	17
Cooperation with local Agencies	
Nansemond Credit Union.....	17
Nansemond Cooperative Association.....	17
Tidewater Fair Association.....	18
Extension Education-Training	
Professional Improvement.....	18 - 19
Summary.....	19 - 20

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK**

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

H. F. Lancaster

**Name**

Local Farm

**Agent**

**Title**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



**1961**

Nansemond

**County**