

VIII. EVALUATION OF THE YEAR'S WORK

The Extension Program in Orange county during 1961 was outstanding in many respects. Among some of the most important of these is Orange 4-H and Baby Beef Show and Sale, when every entry showed improvement over previous years in care and management, and The Orange Area Pig Show and Sale, which demonstrated excellent management and planning. Those two events grossed \$13,000.

The Orange County Dairy Club members' winnings in the local Fair, the Fredericksburg Fair, and being the most outstanding at the Northern Virginia Dairy Show. Also should be mentioned is the Junior Commercial Broiler Contest with 155,000 birds.

In adult work is the Wool Marketing Program in cooperation with other counties in assisting Wool Growers in their acute marketing problems.

The change made in telephone communication, which went into effect during the year, is a mile post in bringing the communities closer together.

The bringing together of two highly sensitive and rival communities to discuss school consiladation will mean great benefit in the betterment of community life.

9. The Agent judged the Madison County Baby Beef Show.
10. The Agent attended and assisted with the State 4-H Short Course.
11. The Agent attended the Bankers Agricultural Credit Conference at Natural Bridge.
12. The Agent attended the Institute of Rural Affairs.
13. The Agent served as a core-staff member at the New Agent's Training Conference at Blacksburg.
14. The Agent assisted with Feeder Calf Inspection and the Feeder Calf Sale in Orange County.

26. All Clubs observed National 4-H Sunday and National 4-H Club Week.

G. Other Activities of the Assistant Agent

1. The Agent acted as show manager for the Orange Area Market Hog Show and Sale, which involved seven counties. The duties of the manager is directing the setting up of all committees, contracting buyers and sponsors, writing and printing the show catalog, setting up the banquet, securing the judge, auctioneers, and setting up livestock market to properly pen all entries and also keeping records on the entire function.
2. The Agent was show manager of the Orange County Baby Beef Show and Sale, which involves both the 4-H and F.F.A. in Orange County. The duties are generally the same as for the Market Hog Show.
3. The Agent served on the Virginia New Agent's Training Committee.
4. The Agent was assistant director for the 4-H Summer Camp at Holladay Lake for Orange-Madison-Greene and Louisa Counties.
5. The Agent assisted with the supervision of the 4-H Club members attending the Virginia Poultry Federation Convention.
6. The Agent served as an assistant manager of the Orange County School Fair.
7. The Agent judged the Livestock section at the Greene County Fair.
8. The Agent attended the Annual Agent's Conference at Blacksburg.

11. The Orange county 4-H Livestock Judging team participated in the District Judging Contest, even though they were not eligible as a team.
12. Eighty-five club members and parents attended the Baby Beef Banquet sponsored by the National Bank of Orange.
13. One hundred and forty club members, parents, and guests attended the Orange Area Market and Hog Show Banquet, sponsored by the Citizens Office of the Peoples National Bank.
14. Club members exhibited at the Orange County School Fair.
15. Club members exhibited at the Northern Virginia Dairy Show.
16. Club members exhibited at the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair.
17. Club members exhibited at the Atlantic Rural Exposition.
18. The Senior 4-H Club entered a float in the Orange County High School Homecoming Parade.
19. The 4-H Clubs set-up an award exhibit at the Achievement Program.
20. The Baby Beef Club held a Showing and Fitting School.
21. The Dairy Club held a Showing and Fitting School.
22. Club members gave demonstrations in all phases of club work.
23. Club members planted a forestry demonstration plot.
24. One club member attended the Virginia State Poultry Federation meeting in Richmond.
25. Eighty-five club members and leaders attended the Annual 4-H Club Picnic sponsored by the 4-H County Council

At the Northern Virginia Dairy Show, Orange 4-H Club members won The Junior Showman Award; the Junior Fitting Award, and the Senior Fitting Award. In the Jersey class, they won all first places except one. The Agent will not list their winnings at the Fredericksburg Fair or at the Atlantic Rural Exposition, but they did as well in these as the two listed. The Dairy exhibitors won over \$1400 in premiums. The Dairy committee was also responsible for the success of the Dairy Project in Orange County.

F. Club Activities

1. Twenty-five club members attended the 4-H Club camp at Holladay Lake.
2. Two club members attended the State 4-H Short Course in Blacksburg.
3. Two club members attended the All Star Conference at Blacksburg.
4. Three club members entered Achievement Records in the State Contest.
5. Three Achievement records won blue awards.
6. Two club members won State awards.
7. One club member won a National Award
8. Twenty-nine club members participated in the Share-the-Fun Program with about 150 people in attendance.
9. The Annual Achievement Program was held with County medals being presented in all phases of 4-H Club work. About 150 people attended this function.
10. The Senior 4-H Club gave a 4-H Program at a Grange meeting.

7. Forestry Establishment

Thirty-six 4-H Club members set out 14,000 pine seedlings during the year's planting season. The Unionville 4-H Club planted another one-acre forestry demonstration plot in addition to the one they set out the year before. Thirteen members completed the Introductory to Forestry Project.

8. Wild Life

Twenty-seven boys carried on a special wild life and nature study project. The conservation of wild life was taught in one club meeting to all 4-H Club members.

9. Safety

Safety was stressed in all 4-H Club work, and one meeting of each club was taken up by safety demonstrations.

10. Dairy

The Dairy Project members were very active during the past year. The increase in dairy activities was brought on by the Dairy Club which met each month during the year. 4-H Club members enrolled in the Dairy Project exhibited in the Orange County School Fair; The Northern Virginia Dairy Show; The Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair; and The Atlantic Rural Exposition. The amount of ribbons the Dairy boys and girls won at the different shows will speak for how hard they worked in the past year. At the Orange County School Fair, out of seven classes they won 4 firsts, 5 seconds, 3 thirds, and 1 fourth. They also exhibited the Grand Champion of the show; the Reserve Champion, and won the Showing and Fitting Class.

This project was publicized in the following publications: The Orange Review, Richmond Times Dispatch, The Charlottesville Daily Progress, and The National Hog Farmer.

b. Breeding Hogs

Three new 4-H members are added each year through the Sears Roebuck and Company Pig Chain. All of the boys except three in the Market Hog Project produced their own pigs.

4. Rural Electrification

Two clubs carried Electricity as a club project, and 82 members completed. Representatives of the Virginia Electric and Power Company gave demonstrations to the members. A summer Electric Club was formed, and eleven members carried this to a completion.

5. Tractor Maintenance

This project was interrupted by many large snows, so the nineteen boys enrolled in this completed the project at their individual farms and homes. Three of the most outstanding members attended a dinner meeting at Warrenton.

6. Garden

Seventeen 4-H Club members carried out the Garden Project, and each took soil samples for proper liming and fertilizing practices.

One member won \$50 and a trip to the Virginia State Poultry Federation Conference which was held in Richmond. One member sent Achievement Records to Blacksburg and won a Blue award. Four members continued their 100 broiler project and sold their broilers at premium prices. The egg producers project is not significant in size because most of them have small flocks. The Poultry committee is recommending they go out of business. News of the 4-H Poultry activities were publicized in the following publications: The Orange Review, The Richmond Times Dispatch, The Richmond News Leader, the Charlottesville Daily Progress, The Cooperative Farmer, Hints for Tomorrow's Poultryman, and The Poultryman, which is a National publication.

### 3. Swine

a. The Market Hog Project is the strongest of the swine projects and is highlighted by the Orange Area Market Hog Show and Sale. This year's hog show was one of the most successful in its 23-year history, according to the Swine committee. Orange county exhibitors were extremely successful in that they won the Grand Champion Single honor, Grand Champion Pen, and Reserve Champion Pen honors. Jim Morton of the Unionville 4-H Club exhibited the Grand Champion Single. This was his third year in exhibiting a Grand Champion. The two previous years before this year's show, he exhibited the Grand Champion Pens of three.

For the show there were 41 consignors showing 140 hogs, which sold for an average per c.w.t. of \$20.58, bringing a total of \$6,075.

A summary of awards won by 4-H exhibitors was as follows:

Exhibited Grand Champion; Reserve Grand Champion - first place, Senior Showing and Fitting; placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, Angus Class; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Hereford Class; and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, Junior Animal Husbandry Award; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Hereford Breed Award; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, Angus Breed Award.

The 4-H Beef Club members did well at the Orange County Fair by exhibiting the Grand Champion and winning the Fitting and Showing Contest.

There are six club members who carried the Beef-Heifer and Calf project. Two members are carrying Beef Herd Projects.

News of the 4-H Beef activities appeared in the following publications: The Orange Review; The Richmond Times Dispatch; The Richmond News Leader; and The Charlottesville Daily Progress.

## 2. Poultry

The Junior Broiler Growers Contest was discontinued by the Poultry committee because they felt that not enough members were being reached in accord with the time and expense involved to carry out the project. The committee fully endorsed the Junior Commercial Broiler Contest. Orange county 4-H Poultry Producers grew out a total of 155,100 birds for this contest. Orange county places second, fifth, sixth, and ninth in the State.

3. Valuable information and experience was given the Club members through demonstrations. Information was also given by Extension specialists and local leaders.
4. Demonstrations were given by members of special interest clubs.
5. Club members received valuable experience in keeping farm records through their 4-H Project Record Books.

E. Individual Projects

1. Beef

In the field of 4-H Beef Producers, the Baby Beef project was the most successful. The Baby Beef Committee stated that this year's show and sale was the most outstanding in the history of the show. There had been much criticism in the past because of the appearance of the calves. Most of this being that the feet were not properly trimmed. This condition was corrected last year, and it made the show one of the most outstanding in appearance that has ever been held.

Twenty breeders of cattle in the county donated to the Animal Husbandry and Showmanship Awards, which were based on three field scorings of the project - two during the feeding period and one during the show time. In addition to the twenty breeders who were limited to \$10 donations by the Baby Beef committee, two breeders donated a cash award of \$100 to club members doing the best job of Animal Husbandry within the breeds. There were a total of 23 calves exhibited in the show and sale, which grossed \$6,884, with an average price of \$31.80 per c.w.t.

C. Methods

1. Regular 4-H Club meetings were held monthly, special interest club meetings were held with the aid of leaders at different times when they were most needed and helpful. All Club members were visited during the year, and special interest Club members were visited more often when the need arose.
2. Outstanding club events, special interest clubs and outstanding members were given recognition in our local newspaper, two area papers and on radio programs. These two publicity media are most co-operative with 4-H Club work in Orange county.
3. Radio programs and news articles were given throughout the year.
4. Participation in shows and sales by our 4-H boys and girls
5. The County Council was organized to further develop leadership and to assist with the overall county 4-H program.
6. Special interest clubs were organized to develop leadership in many people and to give members an opportunity to receive special instruction.

D. Educational Activities

1. Business meetings and discussions were carried on and conducted by officers and members of the clubs with Agents acting as advisors.
2. Special Club projects and activities were planned by committees, selected by the Club President in each school, for local communities and by the County Council for activities covering the entire county.

VII.

4-H CLUB WORK

A. Organization

There are seven boys 4-H Clubs and seven girls 4-H Clubs organized in the public schools in Orange County. The boys and girls are separated because of the limitation of space.

There are special interest groups that include both boys and girls. These are: The Baby Beef Club; Electric Club; Junior Commercial Broiler Growers; The Dairy Club; and The Market Hog Club. Two other clubs with only boys enrolled are The Tractor Maintenance Club and The Forestry Club. One community club is in its organizational stage, as is the Light-Horse and Pony Club.

The 4-H County Council organized and met three times. The Council worked out and carried on all County-wide 4-H activities.

Five Advisory Committees were organized to guide and aid in the Program throughout the year. These were: The Dairy Committee; The Baby Beef Committee; The Poultry Committee; The Swine Committee; and The Farm Machinery Committee.

B. Goal and Objectives

The objectives of our 4-H Clubs are to assist in developing boys and girls into useful and desirable citizens and to train future leaders.

After one unsuccessful attempt earlier in the year to hold a meeting in the area to discuss consolidation, the P.T.A. of the two areas and school authorities asked the Extension Agent to act as moderator of other public meetings to be planned for discussion on the subject.

This was done with the result that a committee was set up to make a study of the areas, and in consideration of all factors, commenced to make recommendations as to the school site and kind of facility to be constructed. Composition of this committee was voted upon and overwhelmingly passed to be as follows:

One member each to be named by the two P.T.A.'s; one member of the School Board to be named by that Board; and one member of the committee to be a representative from the County Board of Supervisors - to be named by that body. The Superintendent of the Schools is to serve as a resource person or an ex-officio member of the group.

Therefore, members are to meet and select two other members at large, making six voting members, plus an ex-officio member. These six members are to meet and name a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Secretary.

At the request of the Agent, it was agreed in the public meetings that he would not be asked to serve on the committee after the permanent Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary had been elected.

As of this report, the last two steps in organization are incomplete.

E. Poultry

Poultry producers in general are probably leading the trend in agriculture in confining its numbers to fewer each year, and Orange is not an exception in this area. For this and other reasons, a four County Poultry Committee has been formed and is responsible for assisting extension workers in formulating a program of work in poultry.

This procedure has worked well in holding two area schools during the year with outstanding people on the two-day program.

F. Rural Development

It was reported last year that considerable work had been done in making surveys and working with telephone officials in establishing "extended area calling" between Gordonsville and Orange. This was put into effect in April 1961.

The organized group was known as the Gordonsville Telephone Improvement Committee. This committee solicited and obtained the backing of many organizations in the Gordonsville-Orange Area. Included in this group were: Lions Clubs, Ruritan Clubs, Retail Merchants, Banks of the two areas, Town Councils, Board of Supervisors, The Local Press, and in the end, the support of 996 Gordonsville subscribers out of a total 1008.

About mid 1961, the question of consolidating the two primary schools of Barboursville and Gordonsville was brought before the people of the two areas.

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#### C. Dairy Cattle

The two special programs in working with dairymen during the year were in the area of Mastitis Control in cooperation with the Virginia Dairy Industry and Forage Evaluation and Testing. Although the forage testing is not fully under way in the county as of this date, the dairy group in its demand for such a program has helped considerably in implementing the program.

#### D. Sheep

Since the United Wool Growers Association met with financial failures in late 1960, it became necessary to assist growers in setting up a new system of wool marketing in a very short period of time. After several area and local meetings during the early part of the year, a satisfactory marketing arrangement was worked out with local boards of direction, representing growers, took the responsibility of submitting wool for sale and accepting or rejecting prices offered.

In cooperation with V. P. I., the Extension Agent, with grower's requests, set up a "beginners" program for Sheep Producers by holding an afternoon session on a local farm. This is the beginning of a series of meetings to be planned to cover any and all phases of the Sheep Business that growers might want. This county-wide meeting with growers was well attended and included care of breeding ewes, care and docking lambs, parasites, both external and internal, with a demonstration on Hoof Trimming. Follow-up meetings are currently being planned.

This indicates that the program continues to serve the small producer, many with one or two family cows, as well as a few larger producers.

There are two definite Extension Programs in effect in the county aimed at general improvement of the Beef Cattle Business. One - the organized Feeder Calf Sales, the other - the B.C.I.A. Program. Considerable time was devoted to working with the Feeder Calf Committee, made up in part of four other surrounding counties, with a total membership of 124. Sixty-eight being from Orange county. These one hundred and twenty-four producers, marketed through the producers, organized sales this year of 1890 calves. This represents about 10% increase over the previous year.

It should be pointed out that producers are now completely responsible for all rules and regulations and in the conduct of the business of the organization. This is in contrast to its operation some ten years ago when the Extension Agent was very largely responsible.

The B.C.I.A. Program has stimulated considerable interest in the county and the demand for tested sires continues to increase.

In cooperation with the Feeder Calf Committee and a local beef producer, an afternoon-evening program was held to discuss the many advantages of the B.C.I.A. Program as well as the problems involved. This event, which was attended by some 180 producers and their wives, added much additional interest in the Virginia B.C.I.A. Additional producers in the county have already joined the program for next year while others have purchased B.C.I.A. bulls to head their commercial herds.

The insecticide heptachlor, which is under quite strict control, is approved on a year-to-year basis. Frequently not more than 30 to 40 days notice is given for its application. In order that growers and dealers can have the maximum notice of the approved time for application, the Agents have worked very closely with dealers and growers in getting this information to these groups. Letters, radio-news releases, and telephones were all used in getting farmers and dealers notified. This method has worked well over the past several years, with the result that little or no heptachlor fertilizer is left on dealers hands and all farmers supplied with their needs.

In order to keep a close check on the effectiveness of heptachlor's use on Alfalfa, the Agent visited sixteen alfalfa producers from mid-April to the first of May. The results varied from excellent to fair and/or spotted control. In each case where near maximum application was made, the control was excellent. Where minimum or less poundage was used, the control was less effective. It was also noted particularly when spreader trucks were used, some stripping occurred in effectiveness. The occurrence of this was most serious immediately behind the truck, indicating that the driver could not observe from his mirror the spreading in this area.

#### A. Beef Cattle

The Bangs Vaccination Program continued in operation serving both Dairy and Beef interests through the county. One hundred and fifty-three farmers requesting the vaccination of 678 calves or an average of less than five calves per farm.

Each year the Agent has prepared a sectional recommended variety list from the State list. In 1961, however, the Extension Agronomy Department of V. P. I. prepared a special circular for each of several production areas of the State. This approach met with excellent approval by farmers and others. The Department is to be complimented upon the fine job done with this publication.

A large number of them were distributed through office calls, letter inquires, feed-seed and fertilizer dealers, farm implement dealers, banks and other agencies working with farm people.

a. Soil Sampling

Considerable office time was devoted to recommendations on the use of lime and fertilizer as a result of Soil Tests. This includes soil samples submitted by Extension Agents, S.C.S., and A. S. C. The A. S. C. County Committee requires all program participationists, requiring fertilizer, to submit soil samples to County Extension Agents for recommendations.

(2) Alfalfa Production

Orange County has some of the best land in the State for Alfalfa production. This occurs in a rather narrow belt and lying in a south-west, north-east direction across the county. Here, this crop has proven to be the most valuable hay crop and is grown quite extensively.

## VI. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### A. Agronomy

#### 1. Soil Survey

A progressive soil survey in the county is ending its second year of progress. It was previously reported that this is an Extension sponsored program with the endorsement of all special interest rural groups. Special note should be made here, both rural and urban groups were organized through Extension efforts setting up a specialized interest group. This group has worked very closely together through the whole program.

To date, over 100,000 acres has been completed and two area meetings and field trips were conducted to teach farmers and others how a soil survey is made, its importance and uses. These were well attended by both rural and urban people.

Since Orange county is in the process of consolidating two of its elementary schools and the sight most likely to be selected is an area where previous trouble has been experienced in building foundations, the local school board and others have become extremely interested in the soil survey.

#### 2. Crops

(1) Farmers of the county generally depended heavily on varieties of field crops as recommended by the Extension Service. This is in evidence by the large number of requests for this information by farmers, seed and feeding dealers, and to some degree, by farm machinery dealers.

Two hundred of this has been in milk cows and the remainder in beef cattle. The number of swine has increased slightly; this is apparently due to relatively more desirable prices for swine in 1959 as compared with 1954. The number of sheep continued to decline, which has been the trend for a number of years. For example; the number of ewes has decreased from 2,131 in 1954 to 1,939 in 1961. In turkeys, there has been almost a 50% decrease since 1954.

Corn for all purposes has decreased in acreage from 8,476 in 1954 to 7,136 in 1959. The decrease in corn acreage has been about equally divided between acres harvested for grain and acres cut for silage. However, there has been a substantial increase in both the total number of bushels harvested for grain and the total number of tons of silage harvested. This increase has come about largely by increased yield per acre in both instances. This trend is also true in small grains.

Acres of all hay has increased from 13,000 in 1954 to 17,000 in 1959. All of this increase has been attributed to an increased acreage of grass and legume-grass mixture for hay. Here again there has been about 30% increase in acreage with almost a 50% increase in tons of hay harvested.

#### V. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

There has been no real change in the main County Extension Program in the way it is developed and executed over the past years. In brief, the County Extension Program is conducted through the use of Extension sponsored leaders throughout the county. These are organized into special interest committees, and where any program may be of interest to more than one special interest group, then these groups are called in to a joint meeting in developing the County Extension Program.

#### IV. COUNTY STATISTICS AND AGRICULTURE

Orange is a small county located in the northern part of the Piedmont Plateau. It has a total area of 355 square miles and a population of 12,756, which is only one more than shown in the 1950 Census. About two-thirds of the population is white and one-third Negro.

The topography is mostly rolling, ranging from 200 to 500 feet above sea level. There are elevations of nearly 1,200 feet in the southwest mountain ridge, which crosses Orange county.

Winter temperatures average about 35° and summer about 76°. The free-frost growing season is about 190 days--extending from April 15 to October 21. The annual precipitation averages about 41 inches.

The soils of the county are quite typical of those that occur throughout the Piedmont. Predominantly the soils are well-drained and quite productive. On most of the cultivated land a crop rotation of corn, small grain, and grass-and-legume mixtures is practiced. Also there is a wide belt of soil well adapted to Alfalfa production, which is in a longer rotation.

Orange county has a well-balanced agriculture. The main sources of income being derived from dairying, beef cattle, and poultry.

Permanent pasture land has decreased approximately 1800 acres since 1954. Improved pasture, on the other hand, has increased from approximately 8,000 acres in 1954 to 14,800 in 1961. The number of cattle and calves on farms since 1954 has increased approximately 1200.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
of  
EXTENSION WORK  
in  
ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

December 1, 1960 to November 30, 1961

JOHN C. ESTES, COUNTY AGENT  
AUSTIN L. SHEPHERD, ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT  
PATRICIA E. PIERCE, SECRETARY

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

JOHN C. ESTES

**Name**

COUNTY

**Title**

**Agent**

AUSTIN L. SHEPHERD

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



1961

ORANGE

County